

## Neigh! Neigh!

On Thursday, Sept. 10, DAS rescued an abandoned horse left behind after its owners moved in April according to witnesses.

The 18 year-old, female horse named Gracie was found on its original property located on Nursery Lane. Since the owners left, the North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District purchased the land and kindly allowed DAS to care for Gracie temporarily there.

A Good Samaritan neighbor to the property where the horse was on its own for approximately six months helped care for Gracie. The neighbor personally paid to fix a split hoof for Gracie, and several neighbors pitched in to feed her. Thanks to their efforts, DAS staff reported Gracie was found in fair condition after a neighbor reported her as abandoned realizing her owners were not coming back for her.

On Monday, Sept. 21, DAS Animal Control Officers moved the horse from her old property to the DAS Naples Shelter located at

7610 Davis Blvd. DAS has been continuing care for the horse until she will be auctioned some time between October and November.



"The horse is in great condition," said DAS Director Amanda Townsend. "We plan to use the DAS Donation Trust Fund to pay for dental and hoof care for her so that she will be ready for adoption."

The DAS Donation Trust Fund covered the cost of Gracie's medical needs for tooth work and new hooves. Tax deductible donations support the Donation Trust Fund.

"Gracie has a tattoo inside her lip indicating she was formerly a race horse and we have now confirmed this," said DAS Director Amanda Townsend. "She also has a brand '100' on her which may indicate that a horse has participated in a Pregnant Mare Urine program, producing human hormone replacement pharmaceuticals," Townsend said.

"Gracie has a wonderful demeanor and is so sweet, we plan to prequalify bidders so she has the chance to live out her long life in a happier environment. She deserves it," said Townsend.

To report animal cruelty or neglect, you may call the Sheriff's Office at (239) 774-4434 or DAS (9AM to 6PM) at (239) 252-7387.



# Critter Talk

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

## Pet Crazy in November • Written by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

You walk your dog, kiss your cat and buy them gifts, right? We have the perfect place for you to celebrate your love for animals at this year's Howl-A-Day Jubilee on Saturday, Nov. 21 at Veterans Community Park.

The pet festival boasts pet games, raffles, vendor shopping and many other family-friendly activities between noon and 5 p.m. on Nov. 21.

Each year the weekend before Thanksgiving, the shelter hosts a large pet festival where people adopt animals, show off their own and meet pet-friendly businesses. The pet festival even hosts pet and owner games. The egg walk race



**Pet Festival**  
**Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009**  
**12-5 PM**  
**Veterans Community Park**  
**1895 Veterans Park Dr.**

with owners and their dogs is always entertaining to watch.

Howl-A-Day Jubilee will be hosted jointly by DAS and Collier County Parks and Recreation at Veterans Community Park located at 1895 Veterans Park Dr. off Immokalee Road just east of Goodlette-Frank Road.

"We always try to have different attractions each year and this year festival attendees will be able to bid not only on pet raffle items but new this year there are weekend vacation packages for the raffle," said Gerilynn Waterbury, the 2009 Howl-A-Day Jubilee Committee Chair.

The pet festival raises money through sponsor, vendor and festival attendee donations to pay for specialized and

emergency care of shelter pets without known owners.

This is extremely important because if an animal comes in with a serious injury that it could survive such as a broken leg, the fund will pay to rehabilitate the animal after which it will qualify for adoption.

At this year's event, there will also be a Best of Everything Competition awarding the biggest and smallest pet as well as the best hugger and kisser. Winners will receive a free six month subscription to Fido Friendly Magazine.

Platinum sponsors of the event (\$1000 level) are Animalife Veterinary Center, PetCo and Cherished Pets Cremations. Bronze Sponsors (\$250 level) are Wiggle Butt Inn, Invisible Fence and Canine Connection.

"This event is a wonderful way for DAS to find homes for dogs and cats and to also connect with residents and visitors in a positive atmosphere," said DAS Director Amanda Townsend.

For more information, please visit DAS's website located at [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com),

Contact Gerilynn Waterbury at (239) 252-6968 if you are interested in becoming a vendor.

## Calendar of Events

<b>Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board</b> Discusses business of the shelter in a public forum. Meets at DAS at 7610 Davis Blvd. at 6:30 p.m.	Third Tuesday each month 6:30 p.m.
<b>DAS Volunteer Training:</b> You will learn about the DAS facility and functions to begin volunteering. Call (239) 252-8657 for volunteer information.	Saturday Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Jan. 9, 2010 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
<b>Off-site Adoptions:</b> For Footed Friends located at Pine Ridge and Livingston. For Footed Friends is a natural pet food store.	Oct. 31, Dec. 12 & Jan. 16, 2010 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
<b>Howl-A-Day Jubilee Pet Festival,</b> a DAS Donation Trust fundraiser event - includes fun pet activities, vendors for shopping, pet photos and more! Veterans Community Park at 1895 Veterans Park Dr.	Nov. 21 12-5 p.m.
<b>Let Us Put You on Our Calendar:</b> Looking for a public speaker? DAS staff is available for educational presentations. Call (239) 252-8657 to schedule.	

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**Collier County**  
 Public Services Division  
 Domestic Animal Services  
 7610 Davis Blvd.  
 Naples, FL 34104  
 Hours: Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 (239) 252-PETS (7387)  
 Fax (239) 530-7775  
 www.collierpets.com



## Adoption Isn't Always Easy • by DAS Customer Lisa Gasper

This past spring Doug and I adopted a dog from Collier County Animal Services, however, we had to leave the dog until the next day when it was scheduled to be neutered.

Four hours after we adopted "the dog of our dreams", Gloria [DAS customer service] called us to say the real owners of the dog had appeared at your shelter. She informed us that we had legally adopted the dog and it was up to us whether or not to "unadopt" the dog. We chose to return the dog to its owner. We were really saddened.

Gloria was very helpful in trying to locate another dog to adopt through your shelter. However, we had to return to Ohio and did so without another adoption.

After "unadopting" the Collier County dog, I went online to Petfinders and located a Shih Tzu Maltese mix that appeared to be a match for us. Our references were approved prior to departure from Florida and we were told that someone would do a home visit soon (in Ohio) to determine if we had an adequate environment for the dog....We finally got an email from the foster mother stating that she had taken on a job and would not be able to make a home visit until the end of June or beginning of July....A few weeks later, we got another email from the foster mother stating that she was not going to be able to do the home visit herself...I immediately went online and...found someone in our city to do a courtesy home visit. However, as it turned out, the dog we were waiting to adopt had already been adopted out to another family prior to the email that the foster mother wrote stating that she was having a hard time finding someone to do the home visit. You can imagine our devastation--once again.

I went back online and found "Zee" described as "sweet and lovable". We drove 40 minutes to visit with him. It turns out "Zee" was only the dog's first name. The full name was "Zee mean



Photo of Lisa Gasper with her new dog Toby; Picture of Toby; Photo of Doug Gasper Lisa's husband with their new dog Toby in Ohio.

dog." He was sweet as long as you didn't pick him up....he growled, snapped, and attempted to bite. We left "Zee mean dog" behind.

I next located a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel on Petfinder was being housed at the Summit County Animal Control Shelter, a 25 minute drive for us...Since we were first in line and the two people who had holds [on the dog] didn't show up, we got to adopt "Oliver" (in honor of the "Oliver" that we had to unadopt in Florida.) Oliver was a perfect dog--sweet, housebroken, knew voice commands, good on the leash, good with kids, good with dogs, non-aggressive with the food bowl, etc. However, and this is the part that [you are] not going to believe, the next day we got a phone call from animal services saying that the real owner had shown up. So, after much soul-searching and a little research as to why this happened, we returned Oliver II to his owner.

But, the good ending to the story is that on Saturday, July 11 (my birthday), a rescue group that had been scheduled to do a home visit for the adoption of a Shih Tzu we were interested in adopting, came with "Toby." Before we agreed to the visit, we had them agree to sign a non-disclosure form stating that our information would not be revealed to the family that had surrendered the dog unless there was a court order to do so.

We finally have adopted and Toby is a very, very sweet dog. He stays by my side almost always. He is very small--about 11 pounds. He is almost housebroken. He knows simple voice commands of "come" and "sit". So, that's the ending to our adoption story.

*We commend Lisa for her perseverance in wanting to adopt a shelter dog.*

*Lisa clearly has a huge heart to have had to return two animals when their owners stepped forward, after she had already connected with the dogs.*

*We are glad that she and her husband were able to find the right dog for their family, despite the fact that it came from another shelter.*

*- DAS Director  
Amanda Townsend*

If you are looking to adopt an animal, we encourage you to be persistent and patient. The right pet for you is out there somewhere.

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## Working & Loving Animals • written by DAS Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Drew

MEET Chris Johnson, an Animal Control Officer at Domestic Animal Services who is driven by passion.

Officer Johnson has worked at Domestic Animal Services since 2007. Although he is currently working as an Animal Control Officer, Johnson is also in school earning a degree in business.

Johnson has previously worked in a pet retail store handling reptiles and marine life including coral and tropical fish. So, he comes with unique experience in his role at DAS.

Johnson was born and raised in the state of Wisconsin and moved to the Naples area in 2006. During his off-duty time, he enjoys taking his dog Riley out boating and fishing between his studies. Riley is a golden retriever mix that he adopted from the DAS shelter. In fact, you will find most of us here at DAS have adopted an animal or two from the shelter.

When asked what the most challenging part of the job for an Animal Control Officer Johnson said, "I like educating the public in

such a culturally diverse community on animal related issues concerning their care and helping raise awareness about the regulation of animals in the Animal Control Ordinance."

The opportunity to help animals and to see them rescued from bad situations is what motivates Chris. The added bonus of finding a new home for a homeless animal puts a smile on Chris's face, because he knows it gives homeless pets a second chance.

Once Chris completes his business degree online at Western Governors University, he plans to look at expanding his career options.

DAS currently has 10 Animal Control Officers who respond to complaint calls, investigate animal abuse and neglect and rescue animals from the streets of Collier County.

"He is always ready to work and focused and that makes him one of our invaluable officers," said Animal Control Officer Supervisor Dana Alger. "We have also selected



Chris to work the overnight shift as part of a new scheduling system. We know because he is highly motivated he will be successful."

For more information about the work of DAS, visit the shelter's website at [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com).

## Thank You from Adopting Family • written by DAS Customer Kevin Morgan

We adopted a dog, Pepper, from the pound when I was little and he ended up being the best dog anyone in my family ever had. He lived to be 15, and a few months after he died we started looking for a new "pound puppy".

I looked on Petfinder almost every day for a month trying to find the right dog that was near me. Finally, we found Marley.

He had been returned to the pound [Domestic Animal Services] twice and was basically on his last straw.

When we went to see him the first thing he did was run in circles around us for five minutes. After we adopted him, we found out he had many symptoms of an abused dog. Marley was terrified of



shadows and sounds and wouldn't go near anything.

It was almost impossible to walk him at night since he was terrified of his own shadow and the shadows of trees.

It took a few months of socializing him to get him over his fears. He still sleeps under blankets with us and has to lay as close as possible all of the time.

He is probably the smartest dog I've ever had and learns very very quickly.

We ended up getting a kitten. He [Marley] has pretty much adopted the kitten, and they are inseparable.

*If you wish to share your adoption story with Critter Talk, email DAS's Public Information Coordinator Camden Smith at [camdensmith@colliergov.net](mailto:camdensmith@colliergov.net).*

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