



Growing Families One Pet at a Time

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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CONTROVERIAL PET ADOPTION PROMOTIONS

In recent weeks, there has been wide spread media coverage about a national website that promotes pet adoptions by counting down the clock until that pet would be euthanized if the animal is not adopted.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) is encouraging people to adopt animals because they are ready and able rather than adopting in reaction to websites that may not be accurately showcasing animals. Some of DAS's animals were recently posted on a "countdown" website. Staff asked that the animals be removed from the site, because all of the animals posted had been adopted by local residents.

DAS does not put a time limit on animals for adoptions. Some members of the public have begun contacting DAS as the result of local discussions about websites that are showcasing animals with countdown clocks. Through television programming, advertising and volunteerism, DAS successfully markets more than 2,000 animals a year to homes.

It is unfortunate that euthanasia is necessary as a result of limited shelter spaces throughout the country. Part of the solution is to keep pets from becoming lost. Responsible pet ownership includes containing and leashing pets so they do not end up lost at a shelter such as DAS.

Owners may assist in reducing pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering their pets, which eliminates the opportunity to create more homeless animals in the future.

DAS and several local veterinarians are hosting Spay/Neuter Day on Nov. 7 to provide reduced cost spay and neuter surgeries to make it affordable for pet owners. The cost ranges between \$50 and \$75. To register a pet for Spay/Neuter Day contact DAS at (239) 252-PETS (7387). Pets must be registered by Monday, Nov. 5.

Domestic Animal Services and staff plan to educate the public about responsible pet ownership, shelter operation and how they can help the homeless pet population at this year's

Howl-A-Day Jubilee Pet Festival to be held at Veterans Community Park Nov. 17 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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