

Growing Families One Pet at a Time

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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March 25, 2008

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GIVE YOUR PET A VOICE – APRIL 8 BEGINS TAG DAY CAMPAIGN

You try your best to protect your pets, but sometimes they accidentally get loose and become lost. Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) reunites hundreds of lost pets with owners each year, but hundreds more are never found by their owners.

"If an animal is wearing a current license ID tag, we can quickly identify its rightful owner, and sometimes return it home without ever having to impound it," Interim Director Amanda Townsend said.

The Board of County Commissioners will read a proclamation at their April 8 meeting to kick off Collier County's participation in American Humane's Every Day Is Tag Day campaign to promote the registration of cats and dogs. American Humane has asked shelters across the country to educate the public about the importance of registering pets during the month of April to improve the rate of pets returned to owners.

<u>Without an ID tag, only 16 percent of dogs and just two percent of cats that go to animal</u> <u>shelters in the United States ever return home to their families</u>, according to American Humane. However, if your pet has a microchip ID and a county license tag, when an Animal Control Officer or stranger finds your animal, your contact information is readily available and you can be called immediately.

By registering a cat or dog, you give your pet a voice and improve its chances of returning safely to you should it become lost. Help your pets by registering your dogs and cats with Collier County Domestic Animal Services today.

Domestic Animal Services' business hours for pet licensing are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about licensing pets or other animal regulations visit <u>www.colliergov.net/pets</u>. **Give your pet a voice. Register your pet**.