

Volunteering • Written by Kathy Drew (Volunteer Coordinator)

A volunteer is someone who provides help, performs a service or takes an obligation primarily because they choose to do so. The word is derived from Latin, and translates as "choice" or doing something out of one's own free will.

Volunteering comes in many forms: working with the animals in the local animal shelter, serving food at the local homeless shelter, providing computer technical support to a non-profit organization, acting in a leadership capacity on a charitable organization's board of directors or coordinating the emergency response in the case of a disaster. Around the world, volunteer centers exist to support the voluntary sector and to make a difference in the communities that they serve. According to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, volunteerism helps society and volunteers themselves.

Benefits of volunteering

More than 79 percent of volunteers said that their volunteer activities helped them with their interpersonal skills, such as understanding people better, motivating others, and dealing with difficult situations. Sixty-eight percent of volunteers reported developing better communication skills with 63 percent reporting increased knowledge related to their volunteering.

The effects of volunteering more

The percentage of volunteers who reported gaining specific skills as a result of volunteering increased steadily with the number of hours they contributed. For example, 78 percent who contributed 188 or more hours during 2000 reported gaining communication skills in contrast to more than half of volunteers who contributed 19 hours or less. Similar but less pronounced

patterns have been noted with other skills as well.

Job skills motivation volunteers

Volunteering is often seen as an opportunity to acquire job related skills and improve job opportunities. Nearly one quarter of volunteers said that they volunteered for this reason.

The desire to improve job opportunities is a much more common motivation. At Domestic Animal Services, there are many volunteer jobs including walking dogs, socializing cats, folding towels used to bathe adopted dogs or helping with events. Many volunteers help the animals, which are in great need of finding a forever home.

If you have a love for animals, then becoming a DAS volunteer could be the purrrfect task for you.

Email Kathy Drew to volunteer: kathlenedrew@colliergov.net



Calendar of Events

Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board Discusses business of the shelter in a public forum. Meets at DAS at 7610 Davis Blvd. at 6:30 p.m.	Third Tuesday every month
DAS Volunteer Training: You will learn about the DAS facility and functions to begin volunteering.	Third Saturday each month
You can adopt from DAS by visiting us at For Footed Friends located at Pine Ridge and Livingston. For Footed Friends is a pet store and we visit them monthly	Oct. 18 Dec. 13 Jan. 17, 2009 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Howl-A-Day Jubilee Pet Festival: Holiday shopping, pet games, costume contests, dog agility fun for your pet & more. Location: Veterans Community Park, 1895 Veterans Park Dr. in Naples, FL Call Kathy Drew at (239) 252-8657. Vendors and sponsors welcomed.	Saturday, Nov. 22 12 - 5 p.m.
Smooch-A-Pooch Kiss-A-Kitty Valentine's Adoption Fair: Come fall in love...with the wonderful animals at DAS located at 7610 Davis Blvd.	Feb. 14, 2009 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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C r i t t e r T a l k

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Animal Control Ordinance Changes Adopted • Written by DAS Director Amanda Townsend

As of Oct. 1, 2008 several changes have taken effect in the Animal Control Ordinance, which outlines regulations including Domestic Animal Services' investigation processes and animal care.

The Collier County Board of County Commissioners passed revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance and a new DAS fee policy at their Sept. 9, 2008 meeting to improve the efficiency of dangerous dog investigations and to assist in reducing the homeless pet population in Southwest Florida.



Exceptions to the mandatory spay/neuter rule may be made for breeding animals in good standing or those with health concerns. Waivers are provided if a local licensed veterinarian provides a letter stating that the criteria is met for the waiver.

A \$10 surrender fee now applies to pet owners surrendering their pets at the DAS shelter. This fee does not apply to Good Samaritans who bring in lost animals.

License fees have been raised to \$10 per year for altered animals and animals less than one-year-old. The registration fee is now \$30 per year for unaltered cats and dogs that are older than one year.

Adoption fees are increasing to \$60 for a cat or kitten and \$85 for a dog or puppy. These adoption fees include your new animal's spay or neuter surgery, micro-chip implant and one-year license.

Download the new law at www.collierpets.com and click Laws for Pet Owners.

Highlights of Fee Changes:

All dogs and cats that are reclaimed by their owners after being impounded by DAS are now spayed or neutered before returning home. This is done at the owner's expense.

Spay/neuter fees range from \$50 to \$85. The fees are \$50 for a feline neuter, \$65 for a feline spay, \$75 for a canine neuter and \$85 for a canine spay. The spay/neuter fee is charged in addition to impound and daily boarding fees for lost and reclaimed pets.

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Highlights of Regulation Changes:

The newly revised Animal Control Ordinance has also strengthened dangerous dog regulations.

This was done in an effort to assist DAS in protecting citizens from dogs that have bitten or attacked humans or other domestic animals. In recent months, there have been several reports of bite cases or canine attacks.

In the previous issue of Critter Talk, DAS provided tips for avoiding an attack or how to safely escape.

DAS can also provide presentations to school or civic groups on dog bite prevention.

Should a bite or attack occur, however, the new ordinance gives Domestic Animal Services better enforcement powers to protect citizens.

For example, under the former law DAS could not confiscate and impound an animal under investigation for an attack without the owner's permission to remove it from the home.

With the revisions, DAS now has legal authority to remove an animal from its home if it is under investigation and the pet's owner is unable or unwilling to securely confine the animal.

Additionally, all dangerous dogs as well as impounded animals and adopted pets from

the shelter must be spayed or neutered. This may improve behavioral issues such as roaming or aggression. It will also assist in reducing the growth of homeless animals.

Dangerous dogs must be registered every year and failure to comply with this regulation can cost the pet owner in fines in addition to the potential of permanently losing the animal if they do not comply within the legal time frame.

For a complete copy of the new Animal Control Ordinance and Fee Policy, go to www.collierpets.com.

Howl your way into fun at Domestic Animal Services' Howl-A-Day Jubilee Pet Festival event.

Howl-A-Day Jubilee
Saturday Nov. 22, 2008
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Veterans Community Park
1895 Veterans Park Dr.
(off Immokalee Road)

If you have not attended this event before, you are in for a surprise. More than 5,500 pet owners and their animals came to the 2007 Jubilee.

The 2008 Jubilee offers new attractions including new competitions and an open dog agility fun course for your pooches.

Another addition to the Third Annual Howl-A-Day

Jubilee is adoptions offered by other rescue organizations in the Southwest Florida area. In previous years, only Domestic Animal Services provided pets for adoptions. This is a wonderful benefit for families to increase pet choices and to educate people about the many groups in our area that are helping reduce the homeless pet population.

Despite the current economic times, spending on pets remains steady with slight growth.

This event benefits the DAS Donation Trust Fund, which pays for emergency medical care of pets that come to the DAS shelter. The foundation has helped many pets recover from injuries so that they could then become adoptable pets.



How can you help?

Bring your family, pet or no pet, and purchase raffle tickets to win big prizes.

Raffle tickets and direct donations go directly to the DAS Donation Trust Fund.

Have fun and help animals. More could you ask for?

For more information, call (239) 252-PETS or visit www.collierpets.com today!

Did You Know?

You can WIN exceptional prizes at the Howl-A-Day Jubilee Pet Festival in a silent auction! Some of the items include:

- Key West weekend trip for 2
- Stay at Marco Marriot
- All day boat rental (free!)
- Dinner at several nice restaurants in Naples



Put DAS Pets on YOUR Website

If you have a website such as Myspace, a personal or business website, you can help our pets find homes just by the click of a mouse!

Visit petharbor.com, enter zip code 34104, choose Collier County Domestic Animal Services, click search, click Adoptable pets, click dog or

cat, then search now. At the bottom a Featured Adoptable Pet shows and you can copy the html code and post to your website - it's that easy!



Bad Behaviors - Easy Fixes

Question:

My cat has stopped using its litter box, could there be something wrong with him?

This can happen with even the sweetest, most well behaved cat.

We have four suggestions:

- Make sure the litterbox is always clean or move it to make it more easily accessible
- Purchase a new litterbox or if you have multiple cats make sure no more than three cats use one litter box

- Consult your veterinarian if this an unusual issue, because cats can suffer from urinary tract infections or urinary crystals

Question:

How do I stop my dog from chewing my shoes?

Puppies generally do this for teething and adult dogs often do it to entertain themselves.

- If you see your dog chewing an inappropriate item, you should replace it with an "acceptable" item like a toy or bone and praise him or her when chews that item

- Give your dog a durable and chewable bone to distract him or her or a Kong toy filled with frozen peanut butter

Question:

Can I stop my dog from jumping on me and visitors?

- Gently put your knee up in front of you and this will over time correct the matter
- You may also wish to, as soon as possible when you come home, get down to your pet's level so he or she doesn't feel they have to jump
- Develop a "no jump" command