

## DAS Wins One for the Animals!

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) won a victory for the animals in circuit court Monday, May 18 when a jury found Marco Perez of Immokalee guilty of first-degree misdemeanor cruelty to animals.

On July 30, 2008, Animal Control Officer Chris Johnson arrived at 477 N 16th Street in Immokalee at approximately 1:30 pm, and at the trial testified that he found a female pit bull dog chained to the front of the house. The dog was hot to the touch, had labored breathing and was unresponsive.

The dog's water bowl was out of reach and empty. The dog was transported to the DAS shelter in Naples, where it was examined by Domestic Animal Services' shelter veterinarian Dr. Karen Brown. Dr. Brown testified that even after the 40-minute ride in an air-conditioned vehicle the dog's temperature was 104.8 degrees when it arrived at the shelter and was showing clinical signs of shock.

Based on her observations of the dog's symptoms, Dr. Brown testified at the trial that the dog's prognosis was grave and as a result the dog was humanely euthanized within a few hours of its arrival to DAS.

"We are proud that we could be a voice for an animal that suffered," said Domestic Animal Services Director Amanda Townsend. "We see too many mistreated pets. A little justice goes a long way."

The presiding judge sentenced Perez to 10 days of jail, credit for one previous day served. He was also ordered to six months of probation and given a \$500 fine. Perez was released from jail on Tuesday, May 26.

Domestic Animal Services would like to remind pet owners that although chaining a dog in a yard is not against the law, this method of containment is clearly inadvisable for the reasons evidenced by this case.

Outdoor conditions may quickly deteriorate for a dog tied in a yard with no one supervising. The animal could suffer, and the caretaker could then be charged with criminal neglect.

During the summer especially, the safest place for a dog is in the house. If a dog must be left outdoors, a fenced yard is preferred with shade, ample water and access to food. If fencing is not possible, then a run-line with a swivel to prevent tangling of the line is best. Burying the water bowl halfway in the ground will prevent the dog from tipping it over.

To report animal cruelty or neglect, you may call the Sheriff's Office at (239) 774-4434 or DAS (8AM to 6PM) at (239) 252-7387.

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# Critter Talk

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Issue 3 (July - September 2009)

## DAS Is Birthday Party Hot Spot • Written by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

A new trend is emerging for children's birthday parties...donations to Domestic Animal Services (DAS).

When Marlene Foord began planning a joint birthday party for her three-year-old and five-year-old in March, she had a clever idea. "I thought why not use the party as a way to teach the children about the value of giving," Foord said.

Foord was not so sure her boys Connor and Dillon would think as highly of the idea, but they surprised their mom and embraced it.

"The boys really enjoyed visiting DAS when we delivered all the donations, They got to play with one of the dogs in adoption and



Photo of Connor and Dillon Foord donating presents to Domestic Animal Services Director Amanda Townsend.

really liked cuddling with the cats," Foord said.

The boys and their friends donated an overwhelming supply of pet toys, towels, leashes and even donated cash to the DAS Donation Trust Fund.

"We're thrilled that the community's children are willing to selflessly put animals first," said DAS Director Amanda Townsend. "Developing a strong humane ethic in our youth is the first step to ending the mistreatment of animals and pet overpopulation for good."

Other children in the local community have joined in the growing trend.

More recently, Taylor Kauer and Madelyn Lyon, students of Naples Christian Academy,

held birthday parties where they asked their guests to give supplies to the shelter instead of gifts for them.

"We even have parents calling to rent our large conference room to host birthday parties so that their children and guests may learn about the shelter, how to care for animals and how to give back and help these homeless animals," said DAS Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Drew.

Domestic Animal Services is happy to host tours for the public and, of course, will accommodate birthday parties at its facilities when available.

"I think this reminds us all that there are things bigger than our own needs," Drew said.

The shelter's wish list in addition to funds for the DAS Donation Trust Fund include: 13" by 19" aluminum pans, litter, good condition towels, paper towels, newspapers without advertisement pages and new toys. The shelter also asks for Kuranda Beds, a pet bed that is virtually indestructible.

For more information, please visit DAS's website located at [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com), click GIVE BACK. For facility rental information, call the shelter at (239) 252-PETS.

## 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. Ccall 252-8657 for volunteer information.	Third Saturday each month 10 a.m.
<b>Off-site Adoptions:</b> For Footed Friends located at Pine Ridge and Livingston. For Footed Friends is a natural pet food store.	July 18, Aug. 15 & Sept. 12 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.	November 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.	

Collier County

Public Services Division  
Domestic Animal Services

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## Spay/Neuter Van Donation • by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

In an effort to further support a local group's efforts to open a low-cost spay/neuter clinic, on Saturday, May 9 Domestic Animal Services donated a decommissioned animal control van to the Collier Spay Neuter Clinic (CSNC).

CSNC is now open for business with the help of citizens and many generous donations. The clinic is a high quality, high volume, low-cost spay neuter clinic. It is a non-profit agency that spays and neuters cats and dogs from shelters, rescue groups and private pet owners in all five Southwest Florida counties.

The Collier Spay Neuter Clinic is located at 2544 Northbrooke Plaza Drive near Hodges University in Naples, FL.

As a public shelter, DAS recognizes the importance of spaying and neutering animals.

If most pets were spayed and neutered except for well cared for breeding or show animals, pet overpopulation would eventually decrease. This would allow the demand for pets to equal the supply of available domestic pets, thereby decreasing the need to euthanize healthy, adoptable animals.

"We are anticipating that the Collier Spay Neuter Clinic will be an invaluable partner in achieving the community's goal of ending pet overpopulation, and as such we are very proud to be able to contribute to their start up campaign," said Domestic Animal Services Director Amanda Townsend.

The CSNC is using the donated van to provide a free animal pick up service for pet owners with transportation limitations. This means if you do not have transportation, but need your pet spayed or neutered, CSNC can handle the pick up and drop off for you.

Although the clinic is located off Immokalee Road in Collier County, the clinic will pick pets



Photo of CSNC Board Member Kelly Fox (left), DAS Director Amanda Townsend (center) with CSNC President Pallas Diaz, May 9, 2009

up in Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties as well. Pet pick up is a free service.

"The van is equipped with climate controls and stainless steel animal cages, which will keep pets safe and sanitary during transportation," explained Townsend.

"We are extremely excited and grateful for this van donation from Domestic Animal Services," said Pallas Diaz, President of Collier Spay Neuter Clinic. "We are looking forward to future collaborations to help put an end to the pet overpopulation crisis in our community."

Domestic Animal Services spays and neuters all cats and dogs adopted or reclaimed from its facilities, however does not offer spay and neuter services to the general public's animals. CSNC will help fill a gap within the community to aid those pet owners who want to be responsible but may not be able to afford \$200 or more for surgery for their pet.

The Collier Spay Neuter Clinic is made possible by community donations, a PetSmart Charities grant, and a grant from the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation.

The clinic opened the first of July and is scheduling appointments.

For more information, please call (239) 514-SNIP (7647). You may also visit CSNC online at [www.collierspayneuter.org](http://www.collierspayneuter.org).

## Art Contest Benefits DAS • written by DAS Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Drew

It is always a pleasure to showcase the many selfless people who help Domestic Animal Services such as Donn Garby. This past March, Donn introduced himself as an East Naples Middle School student who wanted to help homeless animals and DAS.

During his visit, Donn said most of his schoolmates owned or loved pets and he wanted to do something to help the homeless animals at DAS, so we discussed potential fundraiser ideas.

A few days later, East Naples Middle School teacher Nancy Stone called and expressed her support for Donn's ideas. Nancy came up with the idea for East Naples Middle School to host an art contest in which students and teachers could enter pictures of their own pets in a contest for a fee that would go directly to the DAS Donation Trust Fund.

Donn organized the art contest and promoted the event throughout his school and community. The art contest began on April 13. Students entered their pet pictures for a \$2 entry fee, and then also paid 25 cents

to vote on everyone's submissions. The contest boasted more than 40 entries, which were displayed for the students and faculty to vote for their favorite.

East Naples Middle School leadership displayed the photo submissions until Friday, April 25 at which point DAS agreed to display the photos for the general public at the shelter.

Donn's efforts with the help of his teacher, Nancy Stone, helped raise \$615 for the trust fund. All of us at DAS commend Donn for his motivation to help animals.

One person can truly make a difference in the community. A big thank you goes out to the students and faculty of East Naples Middle School for their efforts. It is a thrill to see the young residents in Collier County getting involved in the community and making a difference.

Since the photo contest, Donn has become one of the many great DAS volunteers, and I know he will be making a difference in whatever he chooses to accomplish in life.



If your organization or child's school is interested in hosting an art contest or any event to benefit the DAS Donation Trust Fund, contact Kathy Drew the Volunteer Coordinator at (239) 252-8657.

## Donation Trust Fund Information

*The DAS Donation Trust Fund pays for emergency medical care for animals in Domestic Animal Services' custody.*

- The Board of County Commissioners created the trust fund in 2005
- Many pets are helped by this trust fund each year by donations like yours
- Tax deductible donations
- Shop online and donate just by making everyday purchases, visit [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com)
- Include the DAS Donation Trust Fund in your estate planning to leave a legacy

How to donate:

Make checks payable to:  
DAS Donation Trust Fund  
Mail to:  
7610 Davis Blvd.  
Naples, FL 34104

## Poker Run Helps Homeless Pets • written by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

Bikers gather for fun and help raise more than \$2,600 for the DAS Donation Trust Fund.

The poker run's primary sponsor was For Footed Friends Pet Store, one location where DAS hosts off-site adoptions for pets. The poker run was held on Sunday, March 15.

"The poker run had more than 100 riders show up for our good cause and it was a beautiful day to get out on our bikes," said DAS Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Drew.

Stops included a tour of the Domestic Animal Services shelter, Iron Rhino Saloon, Everglades Motorcycle Service and then Naples Harley-Davidson and Hooters Restaurant.

Funds raised through the Poker Run event were donated directly



to the DAS Donation Trust Fund, which helps pay for shelter animals' emergency medical needs.

For Footed Friends charged \$15 per bike or vehicle to participate in the poker run. That fee covered one poker hand, and many participants

purchased additional poker hands for \$5 for a chance to win a prize at the end.

"We wanted to raise awareness about the needs of Domestic Animal Services and help promote business for local retailers," said Eric Brix owner of For Footed Friends Pet Store.

Sponsors were For Footed Friends, Colonial Bank, Naples Harley-Davidson, Hooters Restaurant, Everglades Motorcycle Services, the Iron Rhino Saloon, Collier County Domestic Animal Services and Anytime Fitness.