

## Registration Begins for Hurricane Pet Shelter

The 2010 Hurricane Season is approaching and it is time for pet owners to reregister their pets for the Collier County Emergency Pet Shelter. Pets must be reregistered from last year in order to qualify for sheltering, and new pets are also welcome to register.

**Hurricane season officially begins June 1; Registration for the Emergency Pet Shelter begins May 1.**

Shelter registrations last from the time registered through Hurricane Season's end which is Nov. 30.

The Collier County Emergency Pet Shelter is located at North Collier Regional Park located at 15000 Livingston Rd. The shelter is an adjacency shelter, which means pet owners and pets will be sheltered separately within the park and pets cannot be dropped off.

The Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) determines if the shelter should be activated based on mandatory evacuations and storm surge vulnerability.

Pre-registered pet owners will be notified by an automated call system once the shelter opens if they are located in a mandatory evacuation zone or live in manufactured housing. The shelter holds 75 pets, cats and dogs only.

Owners are required to provide care for their pets prior to and post storm. DAS staff and trained volunteers are, however, available to feed and care for the pets during the storm.

While DAS will have emergency supplies on hand, owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to provide crates, food, medications, supplies and water for their pets.

Registrations will be suspended if there is a Tropical Storm and/or Hurricane Watch issued for Collier County.

Pets in the shelter **MUST BE UP TO DATE** on vaccinations with a printed copy of the vaccinations available for inspection.

If you have questions about registration, please call DAS at (239) 252-PETS (7387).

Visit <http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=1877> to register your pet(s) online.

COLLIER COUNTY



# C r i t t e r T a l k

Collier County Domestic Animal Services

Issue 2 (April - June 2010)

## Removing Chains from Dogs • Written by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

A dog tethered outside, left alone, is not an unusual picture in Southwest Florida, but Domestic Animal Services (DAS) and Dogs Deserve Better are trying to improve the picture for dogs.

On January 26, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners and Domestic Animal Services (DAS) made sweeping changes to the Animal Control Ordinance enacting for the first time regulations for the containment of dogs.

As of May 1, 2010, a dog may only be chained or tethered outside if there is supervision and a number of safety precautions are met.

Dogs Deserve Better is a national non-profit organization with local representation and is working closely with DAS to educate dog owners about the new regulations. The organization is known for taking pets off chains by providing owners with training to fix their pets' issues so that the dogs can move inside with the family.

After attending the Commission meeting to support the new chaining regulations, Belen Brisco with Dogs Deserve Better headed to Immokalee to make donations to pet owners. While in Immokalee, Briscoe said she noticed Gracie, a Labrador Retriever, outdoors chained without supervision, so she and her volunteer Teri Licastro, decided to make a stop at the house.

Brisco said. "As soon as we came into contact with the dog's owner, Juanita, we asked if she knew how dangerous leaving a dog unmonitored outside was and surprisingly she answered yes."

Belen and Teri became curious. Juanita explained that she had previously had two dogs in a pen outside and found the two dead



*Photo of dog owners Olivia, holding Chihuahua Lola, Juanita with black Lab puppy Gracie and Dogs Deserve Better representative Belen Briscoe  
Photo Credit: Dogs Deserve Better*

one morning. She believes someone poisoned them.

They were beautiful dogs. One was a boxer and the other a lab mix like Gracie," Juanita explained. "After that, it always made me worry about Gracie at night, so I always checked on her by looking out the window during the night."

Juanita commented that she had put Gracie outside because she would come home to Gracie's bathroom mess and the dog liked to jump too much. (page 2)



Public Services Division  
Domestic Animal Services

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## Calendar of Events

<p><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.</p>	<p>Third Tuesday each month 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>DAS Volunteer Training:</b> You will learn about the DAS facility and functions to begin volunteering. Call (239) 252-8657 for volunteer information.</p>	<p>Saturday May 15, June 12 July 17, Aug 14 10 a.m.-12 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Unleashed</b> is a benefit event for the DAS Donation Trust Fund featuring a variety show with amateur and professional dancers including DAS's staff! \$5 entry donation requested or the donation of needed shelter items such as gently used towels, cat litter, litter pans etc.</p> <p>Location: Golden Gate Community Center at 4701 Golden Gate Parkway. Need directions? Call (239) 252-4180.</p>	<p>Saturday, May 8 1 p.m.</p>

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## Chaining - continued

Gracie is a six-month-old puppy that jumps like most puppies to express excitement. Jumping is a top complaint for many dog owners.

Juanita was relieved to find out that Dogs Deserve Better was extending a helping hand.

Brisco said, "We opened the conversation and offered to help minimize Gracie's jumping by suggesting a leashed walk each day for the puppy, and we showed the family how to crate train the puppy for housebreaking."

Juanita said, "I told my daughter, if they are willing to help us, then we are going to do whatever we can to help our animals."

As a single mom, Juanita had not yet found the money to spend on spaying little Gracie, so Dogs Deserve Better paid for Gracie's spay surgery. Spaying or neutering an animal can quickly improve a pet's behavior by naturally calming it down. So, Juanita moved Gracie indoors.

Dogs that live indoors are not only happier, they are safer. Keeping an animal outdoors without supervision in Southwest Florida can be quite dangerous, because of the heat.

Dogs inside with a family generally have better behavior, because they have constant human socialization. Gracie is the perfect example of a pet with normal behavior issues that were easily resolved to make her a more suitable indoor companion. She now happily lives indoors.

"She is very happy," said Juanita. "She is able to do



what she wants and lie down on the couch. She is cleaner now, because we bathe and brush her more since she is indoors."

Juanita said she realizes now that taking the chain off Gracie gave the dog her freedom back. "It made me sad that a human being, me, could do that to her."

**What would Juanita tell other dog owners currently chaining their dog?**

**"There are other options and there is help. I didn't have the knowledge but now I know I can. I know I can do this not just for Gracie but for any animal by telling others they too can bring their pets in the house."**

DAS would like to thank Juanita and her daughter and Dogs Deserve Better for sharing this important story.

DAS hopes other pet owners tethering or chaining dogs will change their way of caring for their dogs by following Juanita's fantastic example.

**To reach Dogs Deserve Better, call (239) 247-2080.**

## Rules of Tethering

### The dog

- is in visual range of the responsible party, who is located outside with the dog
- is not outside during a period of extreme weather
- has access to water, shelter, and dry ground
- is at least six months of age and is not sick or injured

### The tether

- is connected to a buckle-type collar or harness at least one inch wide made of nylon or leather
- is at least five times the length of the dog's body
- terminates at both ends with a swivel
- does not weigh more than 1/8 of the dog's weight
- is free of tangles
- prevents injury, strangulation, or entanglement

**For specific ordinance questions, please contact DAS by calling (239) 252-PETS (7387) or visit us online at [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com).**

## Celebrate Volunteers • written by DAS Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Drew

A big thank you goes to all volunteers!

While most news during tough times tends to focus on the negative, a new report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that despite hardship, volunteer rates remained strong during 2009.

At Domestic Animal Services (DAS), this statement couldn't be more accurate. In 2009, a total of 996 volunteers gave 6,936 hours of service giving up their own time to help animals at the shelter.

2009 volunteer hours at DAS increased by 35 percent over 2008. Trends are already predicting an even bigger percent increase for the 2010 year at DAS.

In a press release "Volunteering Up Amid Tough Economic Times," Stephen Goldsmith, board chair of the Corporation for National and Community Service said, "We're seeing a compassion boom across this country, where communities are banding together and neighbors are reaching out in service to others. It is truly the generosity of the American spirit at its best. The need is great, the momentum

## New TNR Program Takes Off • written by DAS Director Amanda Townsend

The two hissing orange kittens that came into DAS on April 6, 2010 would have normally been considered unadoptable due to their observed behaviors as ferals. The two would have been euthanized.

But thanks to the efforts of a local feral cat caregiver and Collier Community Cat Coalition, these kittens were given a second chance.

Why? Because the kittens each had a tipped ear, an indication that a caregiver had trapped, vaccinated, and surgically sterilized them, then returned them to their feral cat colony. When a Good Samaritan then trapped them and turned them over to DAS as strays, shelter staff was able to identify them as



is strong, and potential is unlimited for ushering in a new era of service in America."

So what does a compassion boom look like? The following is a list of highlights in volunteer successes. 1.5 million more Americans say they volunteered between September 2008 and September 2009 than during the previous year.

The total number of people who reported volunteering was 63.4 million, about 26 percent of the population, compared to 61.8 million in 2008.

Volunteer rates for women increased from 29.4 percent to 30.1 percent. People with full-time jobs

managed ferals, and members of the Cat Coalition reclaimed them immediately.

The partnership between the Cat Coalition and DAS was formalized by the Board of County Commissioners on January 26. The Animal Control Ordinance was revised to accommodate Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), but only when the colony is registered with the Coalition, which has agreed to manage the TNR program for the County.

Since then, the Coalition has reclaimed four ear-tipped cats impounded by DAS and resolved two community complaints regarding feral cat colonies. "We're very excited that our partnership with the Coalition has started so strong," said DAS Director Amanda Townsend. "They've been willing to meet

showed nearly a one percent increase in volunteerism.

Volunteer rates increased by 1.2 percent

among men, and it was found that individuals between the ages of 35 and 54 are more likely to volunteer.

From April 18 to 24, it was National Volunteer Week and the Board of County Commissioners recognized volunteers from dozens of organizations at the board's April 13 meeting as pictured above.

The county's own Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) helps grow volunteerism in addition to volunteer coordinators like me who are constantly securing new, excited people to help serve the community.

This community has proven its motivation to help others, so thank you for being great neighbors.

every challenge. Nothing makes us happier than seeing a cat that previously would have had no hope of adoption leave the shelter alive."

DAS and the Coalition urge community members who care for or about cats to attend Coalition meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Collier Government Services Center on Orange Blossom Drive. They also strongly urge anyone feeding or managing a feral cat colony to register it with the Coalition. Doing so will ensure compliance, and also guarantee that the next ear-tipped, feral kitty that arrives at DAS will go right back to its colony where it belongs

For more information, contact DAS or the Cat Coalition at 825-4093.