

## Lost Pets May Return Home Free - Read On!

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) cares for more than 6,000 animals each year, many of which are lost pets picked up as strays. An updated fee policy adopted by the Board of County Commissioners will now make it easier for owners to claim their beloved lost pets.

You are now able to take your lost pet home FREE if it has a current county pet license and is claimed by the end of the next business day after impoundment.

This change is part of the new fee policy adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in late 2009 that went into effect January 2010. The information with the pet's license serves as proof of ownership.

Prior to the fee policy changes, owners claiming lost pets had to pay an impoundment fee plus a daily boarding fee without exception. Impound fees vary from \$25 to \$115; boarding fees are \$10 per day at the shelter.

With the shelter's new policy, impound fees and boarding fees will only apply to unlicensed pets and to licensed pets not claimed by the second day of impoundment.

It is important to be aware that Collier County requires mandatory spay/neuter and micro chipping at the owner's expense for reclaimed cats and dogs, and these rules will continue to apply.

It is more important than ever to license your cats and dogs with Collier County DAS, not only because it is the law, but because it will assist with the goal of reconnecting families with lost animals.

**A county license is a free ride home for a lost pet and may also now save pet owners money.**

Other fee changes include an increased cost to license unaltered cats or dogs older than one year. The license fee will increase from \$30 to \$60, but owners will receive

a refund of \$50 if they have their pet spayed or neutered within 30 days.

DAS encourages pet owners to make use of the new independent nonprofit Collier Spay Neuter Clinic, which offers high-quality, low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to the general public. In some instances, getting your pet fixed may be less expensive than licensing it at the unaltered rate.

For more information about DAS's fees and policies, the public may visit [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com). For shelter statistics, visit <http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=2686>. Each month the number of pets received and their outcomes are posted online.

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Collier County Domestic Animal Services

## Reunited and It Feels So Good! • Written by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

Frances is a special dog, one dedicated to her owner, but when the New Year's Eve fireworks started, she ran from her downtown Naples home near the Pier. Her owner, Edith Kling, was terribly upset and worried, and feeling helpless.

Edith has been blind for 20 years. She has a degenerative eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa, which caused her to go blind. Since that time, Edith has had a seeing eye dog at her side.

"It was getting really, really terrible minute by minute. You have no idea, when you're blind, the attachment you have for your dog. It was terrible," said Edith.

Animal Control Officer Kurt Zeitler found Frances not long after she left her home, but it took a few days and a lot of community help to locate her at DAS.

"Frances is mom's third guide dog. Seeing eye dogs are truly priceless," said Edith's son Stephen Kling.

Edith's children, who live in New York, used the Internet to locate a local animal group to help find Frances. Her son Stephen sent an email to the group who then sent an email to hundreds and so the call for help spread.

Meanwhile, DAS had scanned Frances' micro chip ID that provided the number to a New York guide dog school, but with the holidays a response was delayed.

"We received calls and a few emails about Frances and were happy to know her owners were going to be reunited with her, especially since she is so important to Mrs. Kling," said DAS Director Amanda Townsend.

By Monday, Jan. 6, the Klings had Frances back at home with them after several email recipients reported to Edith that her pet might be at DAS.



Photo of Edith Kling with her guide dog Frances. Photo Credit: June Fox.

"My father told us you all [at DAS] treated Frances with great tenderness and care, and we would like all who participated to be recognized," said Edith's daughter Debra Kling.

It's been said many times that it takes a village to raise a child, and in this case it took the community to help a beloved guide dog return home.

"It's nice to see a pet go home where it belongs," said Townsend.

## 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. Call (239) 252-8657 for volunteer information.	Saturday March 13 April 10 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
<b>Off-site Adoptions:</b> For Footed Friends located at Pine Ridge and Livingston. For Footed Friends is a natural pet food store.	Saturday, Jan. 16 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
<b>Mardi Paws</b> is an event on Third Street South behind Tommy Bahamas for pet lovers to bring their four legged friends, shop with vendors and adopt! Benefits the Collier Spay Neuter Clinic, a partner of DAS's.	Sunday, Jan. 24 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
<b>Smooch-A-Pooch Kiss-A-Kitty Adoption Fair:</b> This Valentine's Week event is geared towards finding you a kissable pet to take home. Visitors may also tour the DAS facilities and learn about the shelter.	Saturday, Feb. 13 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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**Collier County**

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Domestic Animal Services

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(239) 252-PETS (7387)  
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## Volunteer for a Disney Day • by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

Disney is offering a free day at one of its parks if you volunteer for a day.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) invites you to volunteer at its Naples shelter where hundreds of animals need friends to keep them company.

By becoming a volunteer at DAS, you will be able to help place lost and homeless pets with new families. It is one of the most rewarding volunteer experiences you could have.

To take advantage of this opportunity, volunteers must be eight years or older and must sign up to participate at [www.disneyparks.com](http://www.disneyparks.com).

Normally, DAS volunteers must be at least 15, but the Department is making an exception for children participating in the Disney promotion from January through Dec. 15, 2010. Once volunteers have registered at Disney's website, they will be contacted by DAS and scheduled for an orientation.

Children under the age of 18 are required to volunteer with a parent.

Kathlene Drew is DAS's volunteer coordinator and manages more than 950 dedicated volunteers, who give of themselves to help the more than 6,000 animals that end up homeless in Collier County each year.

"Last year, volunteers donated 6,936 hours to the shelter, and it is our goal to continue to grow the volunteer program here since their help really makes



Photo of Kathlene Drew, the DAS Volunteer Coordinator.

a difference in finding homes for pets," Drew said.

During 2009, 214 new volunteers became involved with the shelter. Domestic Animal Services is the only open admission shelter in Collier County, which means it takes in lost, stray and surrendered pets.

"Volunteers are vital to the animal shelter along with the hard work of staff, because it requires a lot of effort to care for the one to two hundred animals we have in custody each day," Drew said.

To receive the one-day theme park voucher, Disney registered volunteers must provide at least one day of service.

People interested in becoming a DAS volunteer may attend either of the DAS Volunteer Orientations on March 13 or April 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the 7610 Davis Blvd. Shelter.

Please, remember you must sign up through Disney's website at [www.disneyparks.com](http://www.disneyparks.com) in

order to qualify for the free theme park one-day admission.

For more information about how you can become a volunteer, call Kathy Drew at (239) 252-8657.

### Thanks From DAS

In December of 2009, the Collier County Sheriff's Office hosted a holiday benefit drive for DAS.

Sheriff's Office employees donated several Kuranda beds to the shelter. The beds are important to shelters like DAS, because they are virtually indestructible and can be sanitized very easily.

Kuranda beds are low maintenance, which allows DAS to provide sanitary comfort to the homeless pets in the shelter.

"I am proud of the way the men and women of the Collier County Sheriff's Office and members of our community partnered to benefit Collier County Domestic Animal Services through our Celebrate With A Star Program," said Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk. "DAS performs a critical function in our community and we are always pleased to help."

Thank you CCSO!

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## The Victory Update • written by DAS Customer Jemberly Manjarrez-Kroenung

I adopted "Victory" from DAS in August and thought that you would like to hear how she is doing.

As you can see from the photos... she is VERY SPOILED...also VERY LOVED!!

I think she has managed to have a nap on each and every piece of upholstered furniture that I own and seems to believe she is a lap dog at 70 pounds.

She is very smart and has learned so much since coming home. She loves to give you "Five" and the "High Five!"

She is absolutely adorable and has a great personality, loves to eat carrots, play with her 2 little Maltese sisters...Aspen and Sierra, play in the water hose and go for rides in the car.

We feel so blessed to have her and though we terribly miss Sammie... our 11 year old Newfoundland that we lost this summer...Victory has brought much joy to our home.

Thanks so much for all that you do for these animals!

P.S. Please pass this along to Tammy [Wolny]...she helped us to find Victory and I'm sure would love an update!



### Spoiled? No Way!

If you have a photo of a pet you have adopted from Domestic Animal Services that you would like to share, send it our way. Email the newsletter editor at [camdensmith@colliergov.net](mailto:camdensmith@colliergov.net) and tell us YOUR story.

We would love to hear how our friends are doing!

## Officers Attend Anti-Cruelty School • written by Public Services Division PIO Camden Smith

Collier County Domestic Animal Services will host a Level III national animal cruelty education workshop from Feb. 15 to 19 for animal welfare professionals who will attend from across the United States.

After completing the Level III Animal Cruelty Investigation course, four DAS employees will be Certified Humane Investigators. Those individuals are Animal Control Officer Supervisor Dana Alger, Officers Anita Martindale and Peter Hinkley and DAS Director Amanda Townsend.

The Level III Course is offered by the University of Missouri Law Enforcement Training Institute in cooperation with Code 3 Associates, a private non-profit organization and is 40 hours.



Photo of Animal Control Supervisor Dana Alger during a livestock impound, 2008.

The curriculum includes education about family violence, traveling animal shows, exotic animal investigations, cultural diversity, hoarders of animals, disaster planning and more.

"Enhancing our skills to investigate animal issues will allow us to be more efficient and to have a 'whole picture' view of our cases," said Domestic Animal Services Director Amanda Townsend. "This course also covers ritualistic animal abuse, which has occurred in our area so this is an important topic."

Course participants will review case studies as a practical exercise for improving investigation skills and learn new methods. Level III course participants have already completed Levels I and II. With completion of Level III training, the aforementioned DAS staff will have a total of 120 hours of training and education and will become Certified Humane Investigators.

DAS handles approximately 10,000 calls for service each year.

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