

MEDIA CONTACT:

Robin Griffiths

Development Director
Gulf Coast Humane Society
239-332-0364 ext. 319
developmentdirector@gulfcoasthumanesociety.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

GCHS UPDATE ON AALIYAH AND INDIE
Memorial and Adoption to be held this Saturday

FORT MYERS, Fla. – Aug. 6, 2015 – Gulf Coast Humane Society (GHCS) announced today that a memorial will be held for Aaliyah on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., while Independence (Indie) will be adopted into his forever home at noon.

Aaliyah was first brought to GCHS on June 6 after being found in a wooded area in the Montura neighborhood of Clewiston. There were black encircling lines around her muzzle and neck, as though a ligature had been placed to keep her muzzle closed and then was wrapped around her neck to aid in dragging her behind a vehicle. Aaliyah had extreme injuries to all four paws, lacerations on her rear legs and other related injuries. The extent of the injuries was severe, with multiple bone fractures, shredded front paws and a ripped underbelly. Due to these traumatic injuries, veterinarians determined the most humane course of action was to euthanize her. The memorial for Aaliyah will honor her life and remember all those that fall victim to animal abuse. During the memorial, the Rainbow Bridge poem will be read and a permanent marker will be placed on the GCHS property. The memorial is open to the public.

Indie was severely injured when he came to GCHS due to allegedly being used as a bait dog in dog fighting. He has been in recovery since July and will officially be adopted by his foster parent Michelle Rosner at noon this Saturday at the GCHS. Rosner is a certified veterinary technician and teacher at Heritage Institute in the vet tech program. One of her students is also a volunteer at GCHS and brought Indie to her attention since she has had several years experience in emergency medicine. Rosner was able to bring Indie to work with her and Heritage Institute has been 100% supportive.

“I thought it would be great for Indie’s recovery to be able to come to class every day and get the love, attention, and socialization from my students and coworkers. I decided to adopt him for several reasons. When his sutures came out he got to meet my dogs. It was love at first sight and incredible to see how happy he was playing with them. I have fallen in love with the goofball and plan on going to events with Indie in the future. He is the perfect poster child to stop dog fighting. I would love to do as much public education with him as possible. Each day we see more of his personality. He is still filled with love after all he’s been through. I am extremely excited to make him a permanent part of my pack,” said Rosner.

“We are so happy to have Indie find his forever home as he continues to heal from emotional, physical abuse and neglect. Having the memorial for Aaliyah and adoption for Indie the same day give the full

spectrum of how important it is to report to Crime Stoppers any suspected abuse or dog fighting,” stated Jennifer Galloway, Executive Director for GCHS.

GCHS was able to provide medical care for Indie because of the Second Chance Fund. Information on the Second Chance Fund can be found on the GCHS website -

<http://www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org/second-chance-fund.html>.

Gulf Coast Humane Society, located at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers, was established as the first non-profit animal welfare organization in southwest Florida in 1947. The 501(c)3 mission is to rescue, provide safe refuge and compassionate care, and find forever homes for abandoned and neglected animals in the area. GCHS only takes in owner surrendered and transfers from other shelters and rescue groups with a high success rate of adoptions. Their veterinary clinic is open to the public and offers a full array of affordable services six days a week. For more information about the events with the Gulf Coast Humane Society call 239-332-0364 or visit www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org.