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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SHELTER DOGS AND PUBLIC

FORT MYERS, FL. – January 21, 2016 – The Gulf Coast Humane Society (GCHS) is partnering with Mary-Frances Morris of K-Nine Connections Behavioral Dog Training to expand their training and support classes to the public. These public classes will in turn fund a rehabilitation program for the shelter dogs that need a little more to be successful and help them prior to adoption.

“We are thrilled to have Mary Francis on board to develop these classes for our adopters and the public. These classes will provide the funding to help our shelter dogs to ensure they have a successful start once they go on to their new adoptive home,” said GCHS Executive Director, Jennifer Galloway.

“I am very excited to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these shelter dogs that just need a little extra time, understanding and support until they can find their forever home,” stated Morris, Canine Trainer and Behavior Specialist

Classes will begin Sunday, February, 7th, 2016. In keeping with the tradition of GCHS to offer low cost, affordable and quality services, a new class will be offered to all new adopters called “Adoption Support and Training Foundations”. This four week class is designed to go over the main topics that do not usually get addressed in obedience and often results in problems for the new owners. Results from this class should provide the pet owners with more confidence and ready to move onto the next step of obedience. Cost of the class is \$85.

Another class that will be offered is the Puppy Head Start class. This 6 weeks series cost \$150 and are for puppies up to five months old. The class will cover puppy body language, socialization, mouthing, nipping, potty training, how to introduce your puppy to new experiences and obedience foundations.

Beginner Obedience class is a six week class at a cost of \$150. This is a basic training course where the pet owner and their dog build a solid foundation of beginner skills. These skills include sit, down, stay, here, wait at door, leave-it, drop it and take it. This beginning class will teach the dog to listen in a distracting environment.

A Behavior Adjustment Training (B.A.T.) class will also be offered at the rate of \$200 covering a four week period. This beginner’s class is designed for dogs that are reactive on leash to people and or other dogs. These behaviors are all too common today and frustrate many people who what to enjoy a walk with their dog. Pet owners will learn different techniques on how to handle stress levels on walks.

Enrollment and payments will be handled through the Gulf Coast Humane Society website.

Mary Frances Morris has worked in the field of behavior and learning theory for the past 19 years. She is skilled in knowledge and application of multiple dog training techniques and uses behavioral methods to help pet owners reach their goals. Since moving to Lee county area she has worked closely with the local shelters to assist and teach their staff as well as enrich and rehabilitate some of the resident dogs. She helped create the Second Chance Pals program with GCHS that works with the Charlotte County Department of Corrections Work Camp where inmates help teach basic obedience to shelter dogs to give them a better chance at a new home. Morris has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Learning Theory from the University of South Florida; is a Certified Canine Training & Behavior Specialist from the Triple Crown Dog Training Academy; Certified Pet Dog Trainer with the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers; and obtained her Board Certification as an Associate Behavior Analyst.

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.