

MEDIA CONTACT:

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE TO GRADUATE FROM THE GULF COAST HUMANE SOCIETY TRAINING PROGRAM

FORT MYERS, FL. – April 8, 2015 – The Gulf Coast Humane Society is proud to announce that the next graduating class from the Second Chance Pals with the Department of Corrections will be held April 13, 2015. Second Chance Pals testing will be held at 10:30 a.m. with graduation to follow at 2575 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers. Pre-registered media and approved guest are welcome to attend.

Cell Dogs and Second Chance Pals programs place homeless shelter dogs in an obedience-training program with carefully selected inmates. The dog training programs teach inmates how to obedience train dogs, using the C.L.A.S.S. Program, during an intensive 8 to 16 week course. The C.L.A.S.S. program promotes positive training and gives the dogs real life skills to become an amazing family member when adopted.

Upon graduation, the dogs are highly adoptable and possess obedience skills such as how to heel, sit, recall, and stay. They are also housed trained, leash trained and responsive to voice commands and some hand signals. Some dogs in the Second Chance Pals program move on to receive more training to become Therapy Dogs.

Gus, a 2 year old terrier mix is an example of the type of success the Second Chance Pals program offers. "he is considered as one of the long-term residents here at GCHS," said Jennifer Galloway, Executive Director at the Gulf Coast Humane Society. "Gus is a big boy but super gentle and loving, plus now he possesses wonderful home manners."

Attending media and guest must submit the attached form to complete a background check. For more information about the Second Chance Pals Program Graduation contact Officer Davis at (239) 332-6915 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or (239) 994-1693 after 3:00 p.m.

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.

