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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPAY NEUTER CLINIC COMPLETES HUMANE ALLIANCE TRAINING

FORT MYERS, FL. – May 10 2016 – Gulf Coast Humane Society (GCHS) Spay/Neuter clinical and administration staff completed training at the 150th class of Humane Alliance Spay/Neuter Specialists in Asheville, NC. The staff was the 150th team to be trained during the 150th ASPCA Celebration. GCHS was accepted into their program with the purpose to streamline processes, learn new clinical techniques to perform high quality/high volume surgeries, and develop marketing strategies for expanding services in the five counties area of Southwest Florida.

The spay/neuter surgery center that recently opened at the 2010 Arcadia Street location came to realization due to grants from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, the ASPCA and a private foundation donor.   The clinic is a high quality, low cost, affordable facility to combat the overpopulation of pets in our community. Dr. Thomas Powell, GCHS clinical surgeon, has performed over 22,000 surgeries since coming to Lee County. Since January 2016 the GCHS Spay/Neuter clinic has performed 1,261 surgeries. Currently surgeries are performed Monday through Thursday by appointment. A public assistance program with surgery cost is available through a grant program.

"Pet overpopulation continues in our area and the GCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic will help those in our community who lack affordable, accessible pet care that most of us take for granted. It is projected that Lee County alone has over 645,000 companion pets and nationwide, the percentage of pets living in underserved communities who are not spayed or neutered is estimated at 87%, " said Jennifer Galloway, Executive Director for GCHS.

The GCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic will be holding an open house June 8th from 4-6:30pm for all rescues, private practice veterinary clinics and community partners to share information about the clinic and their services.

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**.