

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **INDIE UPDATE**

**FORT MYERS, FL. – July 7, 2015** – Gulf Coast Humane Society (GCHS) announced that Independence, (Indie), the severely injured dog allegedly used as a bait dog for dog fighting was taken from GCHS to Animal Specialty Hospital of Florida (ASH) today and examined by Kristin Wendelburg, DVM, DACUS. Indie is being observed and preparation is being made for surgery tomorrow. All questions about the surgery should be directed to Brigette Fahl, Marketing Manager with ASH.

“I feel very hopeful about the surgery knowing that this will be a long road for recovery for Indie”, stated Jennifer Galloway, Executive Director, GCHS. “I am also impressed with the Collier County Domestic Animal Services determination to find out what happened in this case. Everyone that meets Indie recognizes he is a sweet dog that is looking for affection.”

After surgery, Indie will be with ASH for twenty four hours then back to GCHS for continual care and fostering. The surgery is estimated to cost between \$3,000 - \$4000 dollars alone in addition to the cost of care to this point and the aftercare that will be needed in the future. Anyone wanting to help with Indie’s recovery is asked to donate to the Second Chance Fund found on the GCHS website - <http://www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org/second-chance-fund.html>.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services is continuing their ongoing investigation and all tips or information pertaining to the case should be directed to them or CrimeStoppers.

The second injured dog found with Indie was brought to GCHS to be treated for continual wound care. The sweet, submissive female has been named Sparkles in keeping with the July 4<sup>th</sup> theme. She has no life threatening injuries but has been started on antibiotics and pain management for three open and deep wounds.

**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](http://www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org).