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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS' DAY EVENT**

**FORT MYERS, Fla. – August 10, 2016** – Gulf Coast Humane Society (GCHS) is proud to announce they will be participating in the International Homeless Animals' Day located downtown Fort Myers, on Hendry Street between Bay Street and Edwards Drive on August 20th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This event is held nationally to shed light on pet overpopulation and the spay/neuter solution.

GCHS along with other rescue organizations will be holding a candlelight vigil to raise awareness about the epidemic. Candles with bags will be available to the public prior to the event for a donation.

"This initiative has become a large focus for GCHS. Educating the public about this will help to alleviate pet overpopulation and our goal is to bring awareness on the importance so we don't have to continue with these events in the future," stated Jennifer Galloway, Executive Director of GCHS.

Gulf Coast Humane Society opened a full time spay and neuter surgery clinic in August 2015 and completed training at the Humane Alliance Spay/Neuter Specialist class in Asheville, NC this year. The clinic has performed over 3,100 surgeries since opening and developed a Trap, Neuter, Release program to help with the overpopulation issue.

International Homeless Animals Day is a worldwide ISAR conceived and implemented consciousness-raising memorial to the countless dogs and cats that have fallen victim to overpopulation the previous year, at which countless adoptions are arranged and spay/neuter procedures are performed.

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 offers a full array of affordable services six days a week and the Spay/Neuter clinic is open four days a week. Both services are open to the public.

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).