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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRADUATION FROM THE GULF COAST HUMANE SOCIETY TRAINING PROGRAM

FORT MYERS, FL. – Oct. 16, 2015 – The Gulf Coast Humane Society is proud to announce that the next graduating class from the Second Chance Pals with the Charlotte County Department of Corrections Work Camp will be held Oct. 27, 2015 at 9 a.m. at 2575 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers. Pre-registered media and approved guest are welcome to attend.

The Second Chance Pals program places 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 Canine Life and Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) Program, during an intensive 8 to 16 week course. Kelly Legarreta, certified C.L.A.S.S evaluator and instructor said, “This 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 house trained, leash trained as well as responsive to voice commands and hand signals. Some dogs in the Second Chance Pals program move on to receive more training to become Therapy Dogs.

Among the graduating class are the following adoptable pets:

Caesar, a four and one half year-old Shar-Pei mix, is a sweet and loving boy who is currently our longest resident at GCHS. Caesar would do well with someone who is home often for comfort and would do well with a canine sibling. He is smart, learns incredibly quickly and is always eager to please.

Trixie, a three and one half year-old Plott Hound mix has excelled during every obedience skill in the program. She is affectionate; proud of her skills and prefers larger dogs.

Winkie, a four and a half year-old Terrier mix has an incredible story of perseverance. He was found at the end of the road missing one eye and recently blind in the other. He had debilitating separation anxiety. It was feared he would not be able to overcome his anxiety, but through love and patience he has come far. He has learned so many amazing skills through the Second Chance Pals program. His obedience training is so advanced he is used to teach some of the new handlers how to work with other dogs. His blindness is complete but he navigates very easily, and adapts well to new surroundings. Winkie would be amazing as a companion for someone who is home a lot or would like a personal therapy dog.

Attending media and guest must submit the attached form to complete a background check. For more information about the Fort Myers Work Camp or 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. To reach Gulf Coast Humane Society or to learn how to adopt a Second Chance Pals Program dog, call (239) 332-0364 or email:

Info@gulfcoasthumanesociety.org.

