



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ft. Myers Work Camp, in partnership with the Gulf Coast Humane Society, has initiated a new cell dog program. After many suggestions from staff and inmates, the program has been named "Second Chance Pals". Major Scott Anderson spearheaded this relationship with the Gulf Coast Humane Society.

The Cell Dog Program places homeless shelter dogs in an obedience training program with carefully selected inmates. The dog training program teaches inmates how to obedience train dogs during an intensive 8 to 16 week course. 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 and responsive to voice commands and some hand signals.

On Wednesday April 3, 2013, Bella and Josie were brought to Ft. Myers Work Camp and turned over to their 4 inmate handlers. Bella who is 9 years old and Josie who is 1 ½ years old are both beagle mixed breeds. Major Anderson stated, "We are proud of this partnership that not only helps the inmates, but also provides a service to Lee County. I am expecting to have 5 dogs in training by the end of the year and hope to bring this program to Charlotte CI."



AWO Richard A. Johnson, Lt. Havens, Lt. Ciamillo, Major Anderson, Staff from Gulf Coast Humane Society



Josie and her Inmate Handler



Bella and her Inmate Handler



Bella and Josie in their new home



Bella and Josie in their new home

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