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**For Immediate Release (Photos of Harvey and Bear)

GCHS' Second Chance Fund Making Life Good for Two More Dogs

A pair of Gulf Coast Humane Society shelter dogs are on the road to recovery after having surgery to make a better life for each. The surgeries were made possible by the GCHS' Second Chance Fund, which pays for the procedures and rehabilitation the animals have to go through.

Harvey, a two-year-old American Staffordshire, came into GCHS as a transfer from the Clewiston Animal Services. He was diagnosed with a dislocated ankle, making it very painful for Harvey to walk normal. He was transferred to Specialized Veterinary Services for surgery on Jan. 31, and was back to GCHS that same day to start his rehab.

"We had to partially fuse his ankle (joint), but the prognosis for Harvey is very good," said Dr. Jason Eisele, DACVS, who performed the surgery at SVS. "When the main joint is not involved, like Harvey's, it's always a better prognosis. He should have little to no long-term effects and should be able to run, jump and play normally."

The second dog who underwent surgery at SVS, which was funded by the Second Chance Fund, was Bear, a 10-month old Great Pyrenees, who suffered a deformity in one of his hind legs. He had a laterally luxated patellar, which was dislocated on the outside of his leg.

The deformity caused a severe limp when Bear walked, so the decision was made to perform surgery to correct his walk. His surgery was performed over a month ago at SVS. Since then he has been in foster care during his rehab, in which he is getting used to walking on his fixed leg.

“Bear had more deformity to the joint than normal,” Dr. Eisele said. “Bear won’t need revision surgery, which is good and his implants are holding up well. There will always be a difference from his normal leg and we expect Bear to have a gait for the rest of his life, which won’t be painful. But his knee should be stable for the rest of his life.”

The cost of Harvey’s surgery ranged in the \$1,600 area, while Bear’s cost \$1,400.

“These surgeries could not be performed without the Second Chance Fund,” said GCHS Executive Director, Jennifer Galloway. “It’s a vital fund for these animals who really have nowhere else to turn. It provides them a literal second chance at life. We also give a big thank you to SVS and Dr. Eisele for doing such a great service and work on these animals.”

There is always a need for donations for the Second Chance Fund, because it is used on a normal basis for the animals that come in needing it.

To donate directly to the GCHS Second Chance Fund, go to <http://www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org/second-chance-fund.html>. The link also has other Second Chance Fund stories, which all have turned out well for the recipient.

Or call 239-332-0364 or visit the shelter at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers, 33916.

Harvey is still in need of foster care during his rehab. To offer your foster services to Harvey or any of animal who needs fostering, contact the GCHS Foster Coordinator, Alyssa Dudley, at foster@gulfcoasthumanesociety.org.

About Gulf Coast Humane Society:

Gulf Coast Humane Society is a regional organization dedicated to helping companion pets find their forever homes, no matter how long it takes. GCHS provides an adoption center, spay-neuter and veterinary clinic, as well as education and awareness to the public about the welfare of homeless pets.

GCHS’ mission is to care for companion pets in need by offering safe refuge, providing medical care and facilitating adoptions. GCHS promotes the concept the “Adopt, Don’t Shop” and help educate the community about proper and responsible animal care, while providing quality, affordable veterinary care.

GCHS Veterinary Clinic: 2685 Swamp Cabbage Court, Fort Myers, 33901; Phone: 239-332-2719

GCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic: 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, 33916; Phone: 239-332-1573

GCHS Adoption Center: 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, 33916; Phone: 239-332-0364



