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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S TEAM UP TO PRESENT THE "TRIPLE CROWN" AWARD

FORT MYERS, FL. – January 20, 2015 – The Gulf Coast Humane Society is proud to be presenting this year's Triple Crown Award at the 5th annual *The Fast and The Furriest* 5K run and one mile fun walk on Saturday, April 18. This will be the third year that the Triple Crown Award has been presented to participants who run in all three local humane society races in Lee, Collier and Hendry counties.

"The events are furry fun, family-orientated, and for everyone that loves pets and wants to support any or all of our local three premier no-kill shelters," said Jill McKee, coordinator for the Triple Crown Award. "The races and walks are enjoyed by all from the serious runner to the pet loving walker."

Each year, the humane societies in Lee, Collier, and Hendry Counties host individual 5K race events to promote awareness and raise money for the animals they care for. This year, the first event will be the *Run for the Paws*, hosted by and benefitting The Humane Society Naples on Saturday, Jan. 31. The second race will be *The Swamp Stomp*, hosted by and benefitting The Caloosa Humane Society on Saturday, Feb. 21. While Gulf Coast Humane Society will host and benefit from what will be the third race this year, *The Fast and The Furriest* on Saturday, April 18. Participants are encouraged to bring their furry friends to join with them as they run or walk in the races.

"As a pet related business owner, runner, and supporter of southwest Florida's pet community - along with the local rescues and shelters, I thought the idea of a 'Triple' type award would spread awareness of the shelters and the benefits they bring to each community," said McKee.

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.

