



**TWO ARRESTED IN NORTH FORT MYERS
BESTIALITY INVESTIGATION**

"I am disgusted by the actions of these two North Fort Myers residents. I will not tolerate any kind of abuse in Lee County," said Sheriff Carmine Marceno. "I stand by my guarantee to protect those who cannot protect themselves, and put criminals behind bars."

The Lee County Sheriff's Office executed a residential search warrant and learned of incidents of sexual contact between Samantha White and her male Labrador.

Samantha Lee White (DOB 03-03-1997) was arrested and charged with Sexual Contact with an Animal and taken into custody.



During the investigation, detectives discovered that Samantha's husband, John White, video recorded intercourse between his wife and the family pet.



John Wesley White II (DOB 05-01-1995) was subsequently charged with Film/Possession of Image/Video of Animal Sexual Activity and also taken into custody.

Both husband and wife have scheduled court hearings on March 18, 2024 in front of the Honorable Judge Bruce E. Kyle.

FEBRUARY 2024

**"REUNITE" SCENT KIT, K9 REMINGTON COMBINE
TO LOCATE MISSING WOMAN**

The "Reunite" program is a community-based collaborative between United Way and law enforcement agencies in Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties. It is offered free of charge for children and vulnerable adults who may be prone to wandering or becoming lost.

When a 42-year-old women was reported missing to the Fort Myers Police Department, LCSO K9 Deputy First Class, Robert Elwell, responded with his Bloodhound, Remington.

Using the "Scent Evidence K9" kit previously provided to the family, K9 Remington established a track from the address on Starnes Avenue and worked north crossing over Michigan Avenue and located the missing individual.

The Reunite kit, which can retain human scent for up to ten years, is an incredible tool that can only be obtained by enrolling in the Reunite program.

Enrollment in the program, as mentioned, is free and dramatically reduces search time

during stressful moments following the disappearance of a missing individual. For additional information, please email ReUnite@UnitedWayLee.org or call 239-433-7583.



Q&A WITH DR. MEGAN DAVIS, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL OPERATIONS AT CAPE CORAL ANIMAL SHELTER

Dr. Megan Davis joined the Cape Coral Animal Shelter as Director of Medical Operations in April of 2022 and oversees the veterinary care for patients at the shelter's veterinary clinic as well as their shelter animals.

Monthly, Dr. Davis kindly takes time out of her busy day to answer questions emailed to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force.

Question: "How can I tell if my dog has heartworms? Are there early signs?"

Dr. Megan Davis DVM cVMA: "Heartworms are prevalent here in southwest Florida. If your dog is not on heartworm prevention then they are at risk of contracting this serious disease. *It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito!*

In the early stages of heartworm disease there may be no external signs of illness and the infection may only be discovered on routine blood testing. However the longer



the dog is positive the more symptoms they will develop. In advanced stages heartworms are fatal.

The first symptom is often a chronic cough. It may be mild, and more bothersome to the owner than the dog, but unlike kennel cough it won't go away. The cough may be more noticeable after periods of activity. Over time the cough becomes more severe and the animal may even cough up blood-tinged fluid.

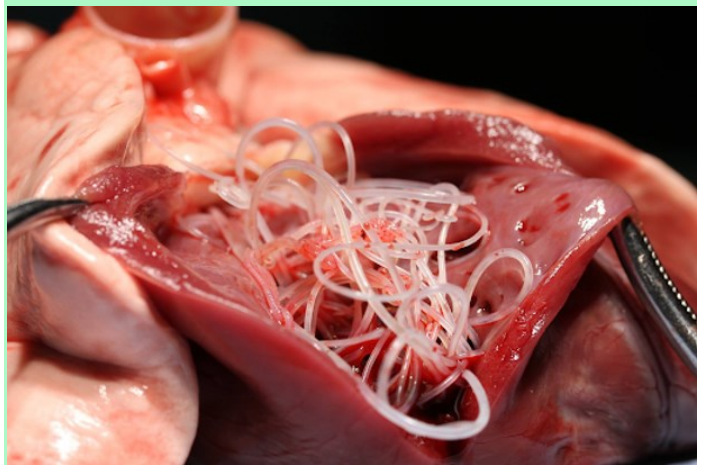
As heartworm disease progresses the dog may become lethargic. They tire easily and are more reluctant to go on walks or play. Basic day to day activities can result in panting or heavier breaths. Their appetite can start to decrease and they will often lose weight.

Eventually untreated heartworm disease will result in heart failure. One of the classic signs of right sided heart failure secondary to heartworms is a large build up of fluid in the abdomen (ascites). These dogs often have visible spines and ribs but large 'pot bellies.' Cardiac medications will be needed and the heart damage is permanent but with treatment these dogs can still survive and have good

(Dr. Davis...continued)

quality of life.

Dogs with large burdens of heartworms are at risk of Caval Syndrome. This occurs when the heartworms form a blockage that prevents normal blood flow through the heart. The dogs gums will be very pale, their breathing labored and they eventually collapse. Their urine will appear bloody or brown. Aside from euthanasia the only option is emergency surgery to remove the blockage of worms. Surgery has an approximately 50% survival rate and once stabilized the dogs will still need to receive melarsomine treatment injections to kill the remaining worms.



Thankfully there are many options for heartworm prevention. All help control intestinal parasites such as roundworms and hookworms but there are also options that include flea and/or tick prevention as well as additional parasite coverage.

ProHeart12. This is an injection administered by your veterinarian. It provides 12 months of heartworm protection meaning no monthly pills or topicals at home. There is also an older version called ProHeart6 which lasts 6 months.

Heartgard Plus. A once a month chew given at home for heartworm prevention. Similar generic brands include TriHeart Plus and IverHart Plus. This is the most basic and cost effective product.

Sentinel. A once a month tablet. This product does not kill adult fleas but it prevents eggs from hatching. I often call it "flea birth control." If your dog picks up a flea it will stop them from getting infested but will not be

(Dr. Davis...continued)

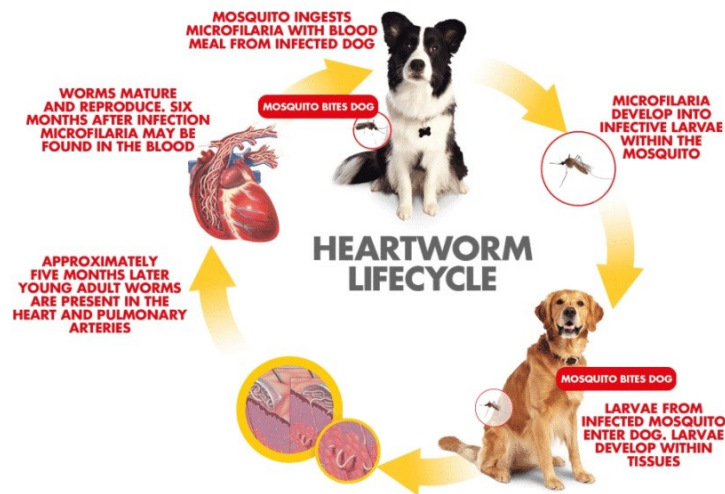
particularly effective for an active flea problem. Sentinel also controls/treats whipworms and Sentinel Spectrum also covers tapeworms. Generics of Sentinel include Milbeheart and MilbeGuard.

Trifexis. On the market for over a decade this was the first oral product to combine heartworm prevention and flea treatment/ prevention. Given monthly. It also covers roundworms, hookworms and whipworms.

Advantage multi. Once a month topical for heartworm, fleas, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms. Also treats sarcoptic mange. Generic brands are Barrier, Imoxi and Midamox.

Revolution. Similar to Advantage Multi but Revolution also treats ear mites and 1 species of tick. Generics include Revolt and Selarid.

Simparica Trio and Nexgard Plus. These are the most comprehensive parasite protection products available. Once a month pills that cover heartworm, fleas, all tick species, hookworms and roundworms. Also very effective for both demodectic and sarcoptic mange (off label use). Generic versions of these products are not available.



So there are prevention options for every dog, lifestyle and budget! What's important is that your dog be on some kind of heartworm prevention year round!

HUGE TURNOUT AT "BUNNY FEST"

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Center at Miromar Outlets was certainly hoppin'.

Southwest Florida House Rabbit Rescue brought a fluffle of bunnies and well over one hundred guests, children, store staff and tourists came to play with them!



Arts & crafts tables were set up and children created rabbit-related works of art including bunny masks.



The smiling faces illuminated the room as children sat inside the rabbit pens and handled the furry fellas.

Lunch was generously provided by Luigi's Pizza É Pasta and LCSO staff served up freshly-popped corn to the children.

For additional information regarding Southwest Florida House Rabbit Rescue, please visit their Facebook page or visit their website at respectforrabbits.org/.



ONGOING COLLECTION OF ANIMAL SHELTER SUPPLIES

Despite all of the incredible donations of cleaning supplies, paper towels, pet food, dog and cat toys...there never seems to be enough to go around.

There are a significant number of shelters and rescues, here in Lee County, that do remarkable work and they all exhaust these supplies rather quickly.



Anyone wishing to donate paper towels, disinfectant, disinfectant wipes, trash bags (13 gallon and 55 gallon), mops, buckets, squeegees, bleach, sponges, scrub pads, laundry detergent, Dawn dishwashing liquid, dog and cat toys (especially toys for "heavy chewers"), harnesses, potty/wee-wee pads, dog and cat treats (unopened,



please), puppy/kitten replacement milk, cat litter, litter boxes, leashes, pet-grooming supplies, large Nylabones, Kong toys, Isopropyl alcohol, Hydrogen peroxide, garden hoses and spray nozzles, baby bottles with 0-3 month nipples, pet crates (any size), stainless steel food and water bowls, nylon brooms, cat scratch pads, cat towers, latex and non-latex gloves, home-improvement store gift cards, distilled water and hand sanitizer can drop them off at the Lee County Sheriff's Office Miromar Outlets Community Outreach Center located at 10801 Corkscrew Road (Miromar Outlets), Suite 190, in Estero.



These items will be collected, on an ongoing basis, at this location. Any assistance is enormously appreciated!!



CINNAMON LOOKING FOR A HOME

Cinnamon recently participated in our "Bunny Fest" and was a huge hit with the children and our guests.

She is a two-year-old Rex, clearly enjoyed all of the attention and is a very calm, friendly furry girl.

Rabbits make wonderful pets and quickly become part of the family!



For additional information regarding Cinnamon or any of the other rabbits at Southwest Florida House Rabbit Rescue, please visit their Facebook page, their website respectforrabbits.org, call 410-382-2433 or email swflrabbits@gmail.com.

REPORT ANIMAL ABUSE ANONYMOUSLY...

Crime doesn't pay, but we do! Call with your tips.

SWFL CRIME STOPPERS

1-800-780-TIPS (8477)

ANONYMOUS · CASH REWARDS



“CARMINE’S CANINES: THE LIEUTENANT HOPE STORY”


The Lee County Sheriff’s Office Animal Cruelty Task Force visited Buckingham Exceptional Student Center, in Fort Myers, for a special reading of the new book, “Carmine’s Canines: The Lieutenant Hope Story.”



Of course, finding new friends, Lieutenant Hope made certain to lick *everyone’s* face before, during and after the event.



MARION COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE K9, LEO, SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES

The LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force were incredibly saddened to learn that Marion County Sheriff’s Office K9, Leo, succumbed to injuries received pursuing a suspect. 



I’M BLUE...

No...this isn’t a depression-related matter. “Blue” is my name. Gaze into my pastel eyes and you will surely understand.

I’m a ten-year-old Husky Ibizan Hound mix and I’m in search of a safe and loving home of my own.

My prey drive is strong...being a Husky...so, a home without cats is kind of a must. I do get along well with other dogs.

If you are looking for unconditional love and don’t mind



my energetic personality, please come out to the Gulf Coast Humane Society, located at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers, and see if we’re a match.

I’d love to meet you!

For additional information, please call 239-332-0364.

CAT DECLAWING ABOUT TO BE BANNED IN THIRD STATE

Having passed unanimously through the Massachusetts Senate, legislation to ban the declawing of cats will likely soon be enacted across the Commonwealth.



Only New York and Maryland have passed such legislation, however, individual

cities in California, Pennsylvania and Washington have already banned the practice of onychectomy within city limits.

Other states are introducing similar bills to end this practice and we are extremely hopeful to see the practice banned throughout the fifty states.

IF YOU ABUSE AN ANIMAL IN LEE COUNTY...



YOU WILL GO TO JAIL.

THE LOSS OF A LIMB

Dr. Sharon Powell
Edison Park Animal Hospital

Appointed by Governor DeSantis to the Board of Veterinary Medicine and winner of the 2023 FVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award, Dr. Sharon Powell is a veterinary wealth of knowledge and friend of the LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force.

“Limb amputation sounds like a scary and life-changing event. But for animals with debilitating and painful disease or trauma of the leg, amputation can sometimes be the best decision for the quality of life and pain relief.

Compared to human limb amputation, pets have a much easier time with recovery post-surgery. Pets also are more accepting of the loss of a limb. The quicker recovery can be attributed, in part, to the difference in anatomy between people and four-legged animals. Dogs and cats carry 60% of their weight on their front limbs but they still do very well adapting to a new gait when a front limb is amputated.

Pets adjust quickly to redistributing their force to three legs. In people, partial limb amputations are more common, and prosthetic limbs are more often required to regain normal or near-normal function. In pets, prosthesis is rarely necessary, however, in today's world of 3-D printing machines and with advancements made in veterinary prosthetic devices, for some animals prosthetics can be manufactured for an animal if it is

(The Loss of a Limb...continued)

necessary for them to continue living a normal life. This is true not only for household pets but for zoo inhabitants, as well.

Most of us have heard the story of “Winter” the bottle-nose dolphin who was fitted with a prosthetic tail after she lost her tail to an injury. Winter not only survived but thrived becoming an ambassador for the capabilities of prosthetics in the animal world.

Cats are nimble and agile by nature which contributes to them adjusting quickly and generally smaller dogs have an easier time adjusting to a limb amputation compared with large dogs. One reason for larger breed dogs having a little bit more difficulty adjusting is that these larger breeds may also have concurrent joint, bone or neurological conditions causing pain or discomfort even before a limb amputation. Thankfully, there are wonderful new pain medications and management in the veterinarian's arsenal to alleviate pain and discomfort post-surgery.

For most pets, the quality of life improves after limb amputation because the source of pain and discomfort is removed. In many cases, the pet is already used to shifting its weight to three limbs because the affected limb was too painful to walk on. Most pets do remarkably well with only three legs and the quality of life greatly improves once they are no longer in pain.

The stories of animals with amputated limbs inspire awe and admiration. These animals show us where animals can overcome physical challenges and live happy, fulfilling lives.”



This article was inspired by the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force and their very own Lieutenant Hope, a canine survivor of animal abuse and limb amputation. She is the

epitome of unconditional love and overcoming adversities to contribute to our community as a spokes-dog for stopping animal abuse and neglect.

“A CAUSE FOR PAWS”

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Cape Harbour Community Outreach Center has been working diligently to assist the Helping Paws Animal Sanctuary, a no-kill shelter caring for homeless cats and kittens in St. James City.

Almost 200 healthy cats and kittens, as well as special needs, FIV and FELV cats, enjoy cage-free living at the sanctuary.



A recent food/supply drive was held at the outreach center and residents, guests and visitors generously donated to the cause.

MEET “BOGART”

Hello! I'm Bogart and, frankly, my dear, I'm looking for a safe and loving home.



Of all of the cat joints, in all the towns, I'm living at the Cape Coral Animal Shelter located at 325 SW 2nd Avenue in Cape Coral.

It's a lovely place...why not stop by and visit?

For additional information, please call 239-573-2002.

I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship!

SPEAK UP.



THEY CAN'T.

“I will not tolerate violence of any kind in Lee County, especially when it's directed toward an innocent animal. We must protect those who cannot protect themselves.”

- Sheriff Carmine Marceno

