



### KICK YOUR DOG, GO FOR A RIDE...

Often, one need not delve too deeply to gather significant information regarding an individual's character.

Their actions speak volumes about who they are, their upbringing and where they are headed.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office, Lee County Domestic Animal Services and the LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force responded immediately to a call for service regarding the



abuse and mistreatment of a pit bull terrier on the grounds of Coastal Village on Three Oaks Parkway in Estero.

Deputies gained possession of video depicting the suspect, Beckham McLeod, twisting and stomping on his dog's neck, kicking him in the face and dragging him.

McLeod, and his dog, "King," were located within minutes and questioned about the recorded event.

Beckham McLeod (DOB 08-21-2003) was subsequently arrested and charged with felony animal abuse.

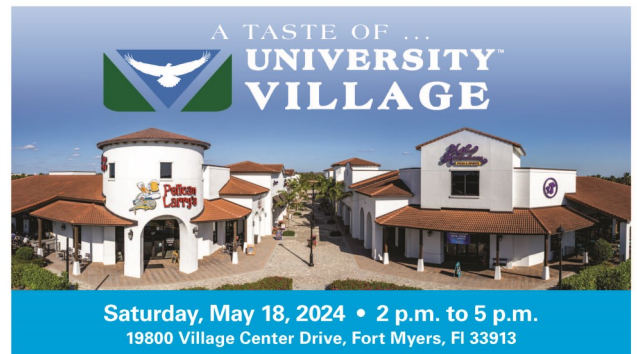
"See it...say it...make the call."



APRIL 2024

### JOIN US AS WE COLLECT ANIMAL SHELTER SUPPLIES FOR LEE COUNTY'S HOMELESS PETS!

Ensuring that the county's animal shelters have the materials that they need to appropriately care for our homeless pet population is one of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force's priorities.



**PRIZES! GIVEAWAYS! MUSIC! ADOPTABLE DOGS!**  
Enjoy food from 15 restaurants!



#### Lee County Sheriff's Office Assets

Bomb Squad Truck • Armored Swat Vehicle  
Animal Cruelty Task Force • Robot-dog  
and much more!

#### Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Adoptable Dogs On-Site



#### Help Us Fill The LCSO Marine Unit Trailer!

Please Help Us By Bringing Animal Shelter Supplies.  
Dog/Cat Toys, Cleaning Supplies, Beds, Crates, Leashes,  
Harnesses, Potty Pads, Bleach, Dog/Cat Treats

DOZENS OF LEE COUNTY NOT-FOR-PROFIT AGENCIES ON-HAND



Come out to the University Village Shops, located at 19800 Village Center Drive, and join in on the fun!

Bring shelter supplies with you!!

## DOG SHOT IN NECK, SUSPECT ARRESTED



As the result of domestic issues and anger toward his fiancée, 41-year-old Farhad Deihim elected to take his anger out on his family canine.

Deihim, upon learning that his fiancée wished to end their relationship, fired a 9mm round into the neck of "Louie," in an effort to gain his fiancée's attention.

The round entered Louie's neck region and exited through his snout. Surveillance video shows the suspect fire the shot, followed by the sound of a yelping dog.

Lee County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched in reference to a disturbance involving a firearm. Reportedly, the suspect was in possession of a firearm and threatening to shoot everyone inside of the Lehigh Acres home. At the time, those residents were his two children.

Upon arrival, Deihim surrendered to LCSO deputies and was taken into custody.

Farhad Deihim (DOB 07-08-1982) is charged with felonious animal cruelty, at this time, and may face additional charges, if applicable.

Louie, a pit-bull mix, was immediately taken to Lee County Domestic Animal Services for treatment. According to the attending veterinarian, Louie will make a full recovery and not suffer any complications.

"We will absolutely protect those that cannot protect themselves...children, the elderly and animals," stated Sheriff Carmine Marceno. "I say it time and time again. You abuse an animal in Lee County and you will go to jail. You will be charged to the fullest extent of the law."





**Q&A with Dr. Wendy Perra, DVM:  
Brachycephalic Canines**

Dr. Wendy Perra received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University in 2000. She is a veterinarian in Labelle, Florida, who has been working with the Lee County and Hendry County Sheriff's Office canine units for the nearly two decades.

**Question:** "Is it true that flat-faced dogs, such as Pugs and Bulldogs, are prone to breathing problems?"

**Dr. Wendy Perry, DVM:** "Dogs that have shortened skull bones creating a flat-faced appearance are known as brachycephalic breeds. This group includes a wide array of favorites including Pugs, Bulldogs, Boston Terriers and many more.

While most of these dogs are fun-loving family members, they are not good bed mates due to their snoring. Will this upper airway conformation predispose your fur baby to respiratory problems?

The simple answer is yes.



Brachycephalic breeds often have a partial airway obstruction caused by narrowed nostrils, elongated soft palate, everted sacules in the larynx and an

underdeveloped trachea. These congenital conditions result in a decreased circumference of the upper airways and redundant tissues around the back of the throat.

The result is snoring, loud breathing, frequent panting, chronic coughing and/or gagging creating difficulty swallowing, all of which are exacerbated by warm and humid weather. Obesity complicates the problem further. These dogs are often reluctant to do much exercise simply because they cannot meet their oxygen needs.

It is important to note that not every brachycephalic dog will demonstrate these problems. But for the ones that do, surgical correction is the best option to improve their quality of life. In addition, managing their weight as well as any seasonal allergies that can cause havoc in the upper airways is critical. When they experience any

**(Brachycephalic Canines...continued)**

illness that has an effect on the respiratory system, the symptoms are amplified and can even lead to fainting, pulmonary edema or aspiration pneumonia.



So, if you are privileged to have a flat-faced Fido, call your veterinarian at the first signs of any unusual respiratory issues."

**ZERO TOLERANCE. ZERO EXCUSES.**



**ABUSE AN ANIMAL IN LEE COUNTY...GO TO JAIL.**



**PRIOR TO  
TRANSFERRING  
OWNERSHIP OF AN  
ANIMAL, PLEASE TAKE  
A MOMENT TO CHECK  
LEE COUNTY'S ANIMAL  
ABUSE REGISTRY.**

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CRIME STOPPERS AND THE ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE

Those who reside in Lee County are likely aware of the incredible work done by Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers here in our corner of the state.

Their contributions toward helping to resolve unsolved crimes are prodigious and lauded.

Tipsters, wishing to remain anonymous when reporting criminal activity, have shared critical information and continue to reach out to the tip hotline to provide law enforcement with missing pieces.

In 2023, Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers has paid out over \$66,000 to tipsters, helped clear 361 cases and their information has led to 215 arrests.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force sat down with Trish Route, Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers Manager, to learn more about efforts being made to attract tips regarding the abuse and mistreatment of our county's animals.

**ACTF:** As you know, eliminating animal abuse in Lee County is one of our sheriff's top priorities. What efforts have been made, by Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers, to inform the public of their ability to report animal-related crimes through the Crime Stoppers tip lines?

**Trish Route:** "Sadly, we continue to see cases of animal abuse and it's heartbreaking. Crime Stoppers continually strives to educate the community that they have the power to make a difference by reporting suspected animal abuse. We have done, and continue to do, billboard campaigns, social media campaigns and we seize any opportunity to talk to the community about how they can help by taking action. We want to ensure that folks know that they have a mechanism to report this information, completely anonymously, and in return, they can get a cash reward. But the biggest win of reporting tips on animal abuse is that it can save an animal's life.

**ACTF:** We're aware that Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers pays out significant amounts of reward money to individuals that call in tips to the hotline. Is this also true for reports of animal abuse and mistreatment?

**Trish Route:** "Absolutely! We treat animal abuse cases with the highest of regard and are anxious to pay out tips that

## (SWFL Crime Stoppers...continued)

have successful outcomes. The great thing to add about that is that all of the money that we pay out in rewards is not paid using taxpayers money! We use criminals' money to put more criminals behind bars. Essentially, felons have to pay a \$20 fine when they're found guilty and we get about \$16 of that back in the form of a grant, which is what we use to fund the program. So residents can feel even better about the whole process knowing that their tips are making a difference, and it's not costing taxpayers a dime."



**ACTF:** How does an individual with information differentiate tips that are appropriate for Crime Stoppers as opposed to the types of neglect and maltreatment calls normally made to Lee County Domestic

Animal Services?

**Trish Route:** "They're really the same. We take in tips on anything ranging from neglect or mistreatment to abuse. No tip is too small to report to us! We then immediately send those tips to the Animal Cruelty Task Force, as well as Domestic Animal Services. The main difference is that when tips are reported to DAS, people's names and personal information is typically listed on paperwork. With Crime Stoppers, it is completely anonymous and the caller/tipster is never known by anyone – from start to finish. So it's the easiest way to report information about abuse and not have to get 'involved' with anything that follows. And, there's that cash reward of up to \$3,000! Our goal is to ensure that residents know that we are here for them 24/7 to report any kind of information that can help an animal. Together, as a community, we can work together to protect our beloved four legged friends!"



## FAT CAT?

Your feline's weight is a matter that you should take rather seriously...

A recent study, with a reportedly large sample size, indicated that overweight cats, in the United States, outnumber cats at healthy/appropriate weight.



While studies involving American citizens reveal similar results, it is no surprise that our cats follow suit.

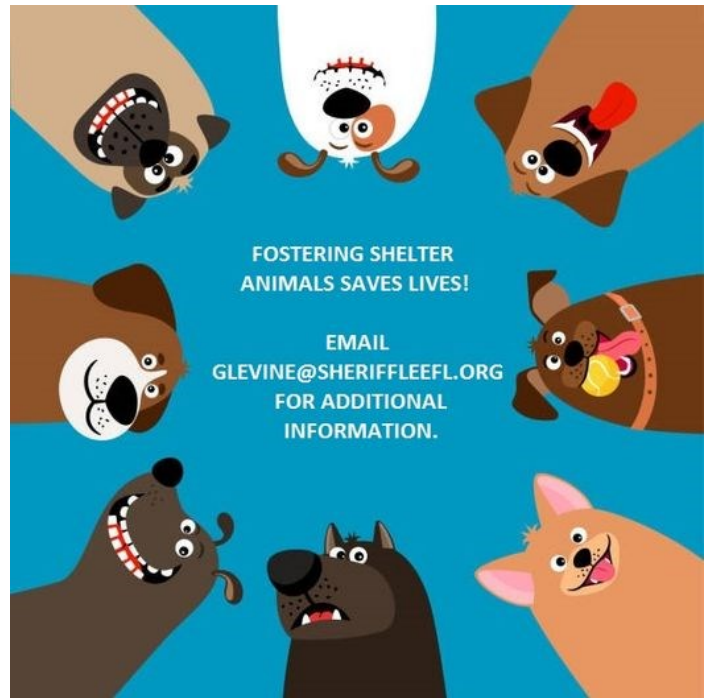
According to numerous veterinarians who were involved in the studies, just a few additional pounds could put your feline at risk of serious health conditions such as arthritis, Type 2 Diabetes, Cancer, urinary bladder stones and can shorten their life expectancy.

Unfortunately, many of the cats that we see on television, on social media and in our everyday lives are overweight. As a result, our understanding of what "normal" feline weight looks like may be a bit skewed.



If you believe that your cat may be overweight, please discuss the matter with your veterinarian

and seek recommendations regarding meal content and volume.



## A HOME FOR LIBERTY...

This handsome 4-year-old Siberian Husky mix is so deserving of a safe and loving home. He has already spent the majority of his young life in shelter care and needs to be loved and cared for.

Are you the one to provide a forever home for this beautiful, furry fellow? Do you know someone who is able to? Let's work to find a loving home for Liberty!



Please visit Liberty at the Animal Refuge Center located at 18011 Old Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers, or call 239-731-3535 for additional information.

## 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



## TEACHING YOUNG CHILDREN TO RESPECT ANIMALS

From the earliest ages, it is supremely valuable to teach young children to respect and to appreciate animals, to respect their boundaries and to develop empathy for other living things.



A study done by Roxanne D. Hawkins, Joanne M. Williams and Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals depicts a link between the caring for pets/

compassion toward animals and prosocial/humane behavior.

Additionally, studies have shown that childhood compassion for animals tends to lead children toward greater community service, a willingness to help others and a desire to protect the environment.



When children are taught the importance of kindness and respect for animals, they are far less likely to participate in animal neglect, abuse and/or



abandonment.

Studies have shown that children who learn patience and kindness towards animals tend

to be more self-confident, maintain a higher level of self-esteem and learn and understand the value of trusting relationships.

Lastly, pets teach children critical life-lessons regarding birth, death, illness, injuries and grieving.

## YO, BRUNO!

Bruno, a twelve-year-old Boxer-mix, is in need of a safe and loving home.

Bruno is gentle, loving and craves affection.

Senior animals are frequently overlooked at shelters and wind up spending their remaining years without a home.



Good with children, there is no reason for Bruno to still be sheltered.

Do you have a loving home to share? Would a beautiful, gentle companion make your home complete?

Please...stop by the Gulf Coast Humane Society, located at

2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers, and spend a bit of time with this friendly fella.

## SAY HELLO TO CINNAMON...

"Cinnamon," a two-year-old Rex, was brought to the Southwest Florida House Rabbit Rescue from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Wildlife Hospital.



Reportedly, this young furbaby adores human interaction, is extremely calm and would make an excellent addition to most families.

Rex rabbits are medium-sized and generally weigh between seven and ten pounds. They are known to be highly social animals. They are extremely friendly and docile and have velvety fur.

For additional information regarding Cinnamon or any of their other rabbits, please visit [www.respectforrabbits.org](http://www.respectforrabbits.org), call 410-382-2433 or email [swflrabbits@gmail.com](mailto:swflrabbits@gmail.com).



## HOMEMADE CARROT AND PEANUT BUTTER TREATS

Many of us are extremely cautious when it comes to selecting treats for our dogs. Concerns regarding the country in which the treats are manufactured and/or the origin of ingredients used make purchasing canine goodies a bit challenging.

For these and other reasons, it is always comforting to feed our dogs treats made at home from wholesome ingredients.

We came across a recipe...baked a batch...and our dogs absolutely loved them!

Let's begin with the carrots. Either boil two large, fresh carrots (until tender), thaw frozen carrots or use canned carrots...all will work well. Cut them into small chunks, if not already diced.

Two cups of oats are required...one-minute, instant or old-fashioned oats will all work.

One-half cup of natural peanut butter is the final ingredient. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DO NOT USE PEANUT BUTTER CONTAINING XYLITOL. BE ADVISED THAT WOOD SUGAR, BIRCH SUGAR AND BIRCH BARK EXTRACT ARE ALTERNATE NAMES FOR XYLITOL AND ARE TOXIC TO YOUR DOG.

Preheat your oven to 300 degrees.

Line a baking tray with parchment paper or aluminum foil.

Using a food processor, mix the three ingredients until the mixture becomes dough. Add oats if mixture is too wet; add peanut butter if too dry.

Flatten into cookies and bake for 35 minutes. Let cool.

# SPEAK UP.



# THEY CAN'T.

## THE PROBLEM WITH GLUE TRAPS...

Glue traps have been used for many decades as a means of trapping unwanted rodents. They are manufactured by numerous pest-control companies in a host of price categories.

Sadly, these devices have ensnared local wildlife, especially birds, here in Southwest Florida.

Small animals and birds, in an effort to



free themselves, worsen their situations resulting in serious injury and/or death.

Should you find an animal affixed to a glue trap, please take it to a local wildlife rehabber as soon as possible.

Apply flour to the untouched portion of the glue so the trapped animal's circumstances don't worsen.

**“Our Animal Cruelty Task Force is unstoppable and has proven successful time and time again. Thanks to ACTF, people who commit heinous acts of cruelty are put in jail where they can't hurt another animal.”**

**- Sheriff Carmine Marceno**

