

LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Cell Dog Director
Luna



ACTF Rescue Cat
Elsa



Deputy Chance



Deputy Shenzi



ACTF Ambassador
Lieutenant Hope



K-9 Kyla

Animal Cruelty Task Force NEWSLETTER

LOUIE, SHOT IN HIS FACE, FINDS FOREVER LOVE

Following a brutal act of violence where Louie was shot in his snout in Lehigh Acres, the canine has recovered and has found his forever family.

Louie, now "Frankie," recovered fully from the bullet that entered his face and exited his neck.



Nearly immediately, two Lee County Sheriff's Office staff members came forward and insisted upon making the dog a part of their family.

Detective Justin Gallant and Communications Supervisor Kristin Berzins formally adopted this sweet fellow.

Frankie joined the family's three other pooches and, reportedly, fit in seamlessly.

They say that things happen for a reason. While the act that brought us to this point is unacceptable and inexcusable, Frankie will experience nothing but true love for the remainder of his life!

MAY 2024

HANGIN' OUT WITH HOPE

The photos are often the same. Lieutenant Hope, lying on the floor, surrounded by children.

For the Animal Cruelty Task Force, this image never grows old and is never taken for granted.

All of the children have seen dogs before. Most of the



children have petted and patted a canine in their lifetime.

So, why is it that the eyes of the children, in every classroom and every venue, light up upon her

entry into the room?

Clearly, Hope brings hope.

Hope, while unable to speak, speaks volumes regarding perseverance.

Hope demonstrates the value of life to all living

things. Hope's message is potent and purposeful.

In addition to teaching our children the importance of



respect for all living beings, she shares a message about the will to go forward despite injury, about overcoming adversity and, mostly, about the value of love.

“BUTT SCOOTING: MY, OH MY!”

By Alice Jeromin, B.S. Pharmacy, DVM, DACVD

Yes, the unmentionable in the room...when you have a house full of company and the dog makes his/her entrance and proceeds to scoot on the carpet!

Fellow dog lovers are not surprised but non-dog people are sometimes horrified.

So, what's the deal with butt scooting?

Here are a few thoughts: anal glands are located at 4:00 and 8:00 inside the rectum and secrete an odiferous substance normally when the dog has a bowel movement. Sometimes when the dog is relaxed or even nervous, this liquid will leak out and once you smell it, you know what it is!



Some dogs need more fiber in their diet so that the stool is bulkier and puts pressure on these glands to empty during a bowel movement.

Unfortunately, infection and rupture of the anal glands can occur if the small tube that empties them becomes obstructed. Your veterinarian may flush these anal glands with a topical antibiotic/steroid combination.

Other reasons for scooting include a foreign body stuck in the rectal area, environmental or food allergy, a yeast dermatitis, or sadly, sometimes a tumor in that area (anal sac adenocarcinoma).

Whichever differential is possible, it is important to have your veterinarian perform a rectal exam on the dog to help rule out some of the possibilities. It is certainly the best place to start in determining why the “forbidden” scooting is occurring!

Don't be shy...be sure to occasionally check under the tail to be sure things are ok in that area!

BETTY...

Oh, we really need to find a safe and loving home for our girl, "Betty!"

This five-year-old sweetie is housetrained, good with children and loves toys! She loves car rides and leisurely walks.

Betty is approximately 70 pounds, has lost her left eye and is full of love.



Please share this post. Betty has been at Gulf Coast Humane Society for far too long. Stop by...meet this young lady.

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

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.**

BLUE GREEN ALGAE POISONING AND YOUR CANINE

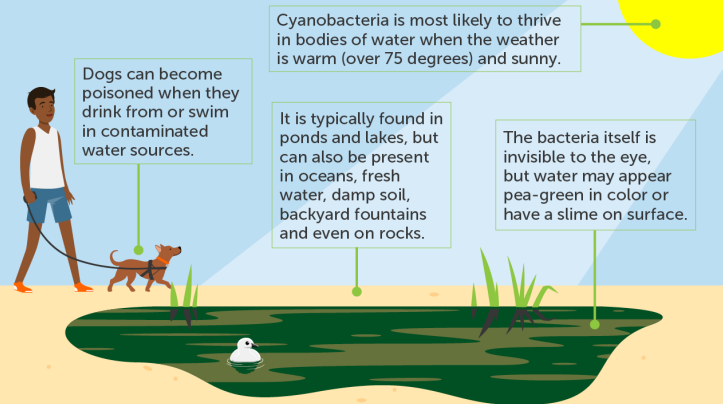
Dr. Meghan Davis DVM cVMA

Blue green algae is actually a bacteria called Cyanobacteria. In large quantities it clumps together giving the appearance of algae. The bacteria produces a toxin which is dangerous to humans and other animals, including dogs.

It is found in rivers, ponds and even backyard pools; any stagnant fresh water. The water may appear green or have slime or foam on the surface. Blooms are most common in hot weather with no recent rains.

Watch Out for Blue Green Algae!

It's summer and warm weather conditions promote the growth of **cyanobacteria** that can make your pet seriously sick! Here's what to watch out for if your pet will be around bodies of water this season.



ASPCA
Animal Poison
Control Center
(888) 426-4435

If your pet is exposed to blue green algae signs may develop in as little as a few minutes or may take up to 12 hours to arise. Your pet may present with signs such as drooling, disorientation, weakness, vomiting, panting, collapse, seizures, respiratory failure and even death.

For more information, please visit aspca.org/apcc

Dogs are exposed by drinking, playing or swimming in the contaminated water. Symptoms can occur very quickly, typically within minutes to hours. Vomiting and diarrhea may occur but usually the symptoms are more serious, including weakness/collapse, pale gums, difficulty breathing, disorientation or seizures. The toxins can also attack the liver and may result in liver failure.

If you believe your dog has come in contact with Cyanobacteria then bath them in clean water as soon as possible. If they are showing symptoms then immediately seek veterinary care.

There is no specific antidote for blue green algae poisoning. Treatment involves hospitalization with IV fluids to flush the toxins, and medications to address whatever symptoms the dog is having (oxygen support, liver protectants,

(Blue Green Algae...continued)

anti-convulsants). The sooner treatment is started then the better chance of survival, but unfortunately fatality rates can be high.



Avoiding contact is the best preventive measure. Use a leash when walking near ponds or lakes. Don't allow dogs to

drink or swim in water with visible abnormalities. And if planning a trip to a specific body of water then check for health department alerts.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection collects and analyzes algal bloom samples in our area to determine if they are toxin producing. To report a bloom to DEP, call the toll-free hotline at 855-305-3903

"NIMBLE," FIRST MIXED-BREED DOG TO WIN AT WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW

The Westminster Masters Agility Championship was added to the dog show event list back in 2013 and allows "non-purebred" canines to enter the competition.



Photo Amy Kuperinsky | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Called, "All-American dogs," in lieu of mutts or mixed-breed, non-pedigree dogs have been allowed to compete.

This year, "Nimble," a six-year-old Border Collie-Papillon mix, completed the difficult agility course in 28.76 seconds becoming the very first mixed-breed canine to win.

A TASTE OF UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

Our friends at the University Village Shops jumped at the opportunity to help the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force collect much-needed animal shelter supplies.



The event, "A Taste of University Village," brought together Lee County Domestic Animal Services and a host of community not-for-profit agencies for this wonderful

and important purpose.

The day was a scorcher... nevertheless, caring individuals came out, withstood the brutal heat, and helped us collect a surprisingly large volume of dog/cat food, cleaning supplies, pet beds...you name it!



Extra special thanks to San Carlos Fire Department, Lee County Domestic Animal Services, Lee County Mosquito Control, Lee County Hyacinth Control District, SWFL Crime

Stoppers, Miromar Outlets, Gulf Coast Memory Care, Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force, Skillets at University Village, Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Park Royal Behavioral Health Services, Tacos & Tequila Cantina Estero,



University Village Shops and Superior Builders Group, Inc. for working diligently, in the heat, to make this happen!



The incredible generosity speaks volumes about the kindness of

Lee County residents and their love for the homeless animals in the care of our hardworking local shelters.



MEET "ZEST!"

This handsome fellow is, reportedly, a lover of toys! Wands, bells, feathers...you name it...Zest loves it!

Spunky and active, Zest is a typical two-year-old Tabby looking for fun...so much so, that he may not get along with other cats.

Nevertheless, this guy is deserving of a loving home and, hopefully, we can help make that happen!



Zest is residing at the Gulf Coast Humane Society located at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers. Stop by and meet him!

WALKING WITH YOUR DOG OR SCROLLING ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

We get it. Many of us take advantage of each and every opportunity to reach into our pocket, remove our phone and wander off into cyberspace.

Waiting for a bus, on our lunchbreak, at a red light...it has become instinctive to "catch up" on the day's events and social media happenings.

But what about during our walks with our furry friends?

While walk-time is their opportunity to catch up on what is happening in their environment, we are often tugging and directing them with our heads buried in our electronic devices.

In addition to denying them their much-needed opportunities to sniff and discover, many of us place our canines at risk by not carefully observing their surroundings and potential hazards.



Consider keeping your phone holstered and joining in on your pup's outdoor adventures.

CANE/BUFO TOAD SEASON

Dr. Sharon Powell DVM

Fort Myers is known for its lush landscapes and abundant wildlife and is home to a variety of amphibian species, including the Bufo toad (aka Cane toad or Marine toad). These toads pose a significant threat to pets. Bufo toads are an invasive species and are poisonous to most animals that try to bite or consume them. Bufo toads are not protected in Florida and can be removed from private property and humanely killed year-round. Captured Bufo toads may not be relocated and released. If you come into contact with a Bufo toad,



thoroughly wash your hands. Always wear latex, rubber or nitrile gloves if you must handle a Bufo toad.

Bufo toads can be identified by the distinctive warty skin, triangular parotid glands that are located on the sides of their head. These glands secrete a white toxic substance (Bufotoxin) when the toad is threatened. If an animal licks or bites a Bufo, the toxin enters their system rapidly, leading to severe poisoning. The symptoms include drooling, pawing at the mouth, redness/swelling of the gums, difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, cardiac arrest or death.

Bufo toad exposure is a medical emergency and time is of the essence as life-threatening signs can occur in under 15 minutes. If you suspect your pet has

(Cane toads...continued)

encountered a Bufo toad, begin flushing the mouth with water, keeping your pet's head down to avoid ingesting or aspirating the water then begin to wipe the mouth/tongue/gums with a towel to try to remove or dilute the toxins. Seek veterinary care immediately.

Prevention is the key to protecting your pets. Supervise your pets outside, especially during dusk and dawn when Bufo toads are most active. Remove places where Bufo's can hide. Cut your grass regularly, trim the underside of shrubs, keep branches off the ground, clear away brush piles and remove horticulture debris. Remove food that can attract toads and their prey. Feed pets indoors and do not leave pet food or water bowls outside. Consider leaving off outside lights when possible as they attract flying insects which the toad's prey on.

Bufo toads not only pose a threat to pets but also impact the local ecosystem. They are voracious non-native species that consume a wide range of insects, small animals and native frogs. This can lead to a decline in our local biodiversity.

Take time to educate yourself on identifying Bufo toads. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission has an excellent website regarding Bufo toad identification. Taking the steps above can keep your pets safe from these invasive amphibians.



EAR INFECTIONS

By Alice Jeromin, B.S. Pharmacy, DVM, DACVD

I've mentioned them before and how important it is to have your veterinarian check an ear smear to see what organism is causing the infection (yeast or bacteria).

But... what is really CAUSING the ear infection (otitis)?

The majority of ear infections in the dog are due to underlying food allergy or environmental allergy (atopy).

The otitis will keep recurring if underlying allergies are not addressed and treated. And the longer otitis goes on, the more destruction to the ear canal that results in scarring and possible surgery so prompt treatment is always advised!

There is a myth that floppy eared dogs tend to have more ear infections but that has NOT been proven to be true. In fact, some of the worst ear infections I have seen in practice are in breeds such as German Shepherds and French Bulldogs...both of which have "perky" ears.

As you see in the pictures below, the first is an early start to otitis in a Golden Retriever and the nodular hyperplasia in the second photo is an end stage otitis requiring surgery.



Early on, we need to determine what infectious organism is causing the otitis, address the yeast or bacteria, reduce the inflammation, and find out what the underlying allergy is to prevent this from becoming a surgical problem.

FEEDING A STARVING ANIMAL

We have all seen starving and malnourished animals and, as compassionate people, our first inclination is to provide them with all of the food that they can eat.

This practice, referred to as "Refeeding Syndrome," can prove to be fatal to the hungry animal.

"When the body is starved or malnourished, it undergoes adaptive changes to conserve energy and maintain essential functions," shared Dr. Sharon Powell, DVM, from the Edison Park Animal Hospital. "When food is reintroduced after a period of starvation, particularly carbohydrates, the body transitions from a catabolic to an anabolic state, leading to increased insulin secretion."

While numerous stories and anecdotes have been told regarding "Refeeding Syndrome," one of the most commonly referred to examples involve survivors of the Ebensee Concentration Camp in Austria.



American military personnel liberated the camp on May 6, 1945, and found severely malnourished prisoners. With the best of intentions, survivors were immediately fed rich soups that ultimately killed them.

Introducing food to a starving animal should be done under the supervision of a veterinarian.

"Refeeding a starving animal requires a cautious and gradual approach to prevent the development of Refeeding Syndrome," states Dr. Powell.

With a priority on hydration, these animals must be fed small, frequent meals of easily digestible foods.

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

SWFL CRIME STOPPERS
1-800-780-TIPS (8477)
ANONYMOUS · CASH REWARDS

