



**JUNE 2024**

**NEGLECTED CANINE DIES; ARREST MADE**

Following a call for service involving an injured canine, the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a home in the Pine Manors section of Fort Myers.

Deputies arrived and discovered a small canine in severe distress.

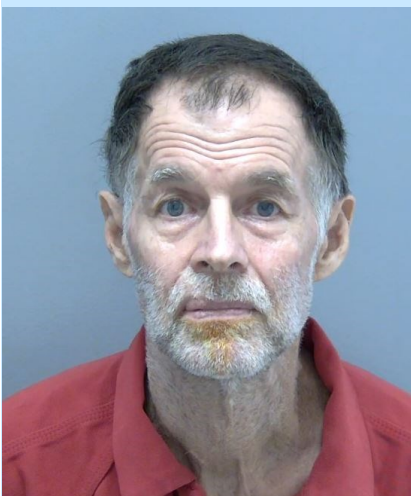
The unnamed dog, one of two owned by Thomas Byers, was barely breathing and had urinated all over itself.

Deputies placed the struggling canine in the rear seat of the air conditioned patrol car in an effort to cool the animal and provide a more comfortable location.

The canine, sadly, passed away shortly thereafter.

It was subsequently determined that Byers left both canines out in a locked kennel, without access to food or water, in direct sunlight. The dogs were left outdoors both day and night.

Witnesses were concerned about the treatment of the animals and contacted law enforcement.



Thomas George Byers (DOB 07-21-1958) was subsequently arrested and charged with Aggravated Animal Cruelty (Third degree felony) and with Abandonment of an Animal, a First degree Misdemeanor.

**"CAT-A-PAWLOOZA" EVENT, AT MIROMAR COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER, RESULTS IN FIVE ADOPTIONS**

Lee County Domestic Animal Services arrived at the Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Center at Miromar Outlets with a van full of cuteness...nine adorable kittens...all available for adoption!

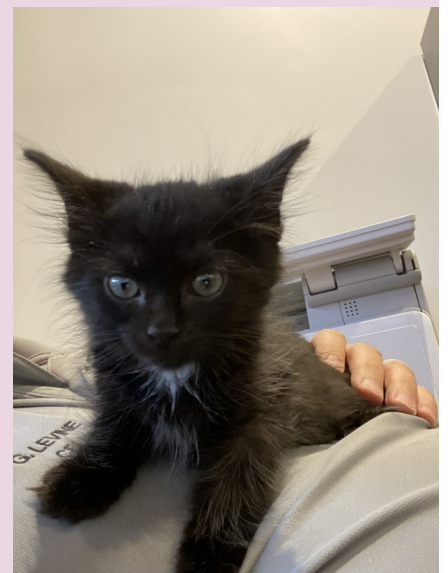


Shoppers, tourists, children and retail store staff stopped by to play with the furry felines and to show their support for the efforts of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force.

During "Kitten Season," all Lee County Shelters are brimming with homeless cats and kittens and the need to find forever homes for these furry folks rises to a high level.

Happily, five of the nine kittens found safe, forever homes as a result of the event!

Thank you to all who came out and supported this fun event!



## "WHAT'S SO HOT ABOUT HOTSPOTS?"

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

Hot spots (pyotraumatic dermatitis, acute moist dermatitis) usually occur at this time of year when the weather gets nice and hot. They are bacterial infections (not contagious because it's the dog's normal skin bacteria) that are produced by the dog scratching at a given area.

They can occur rapidly, sometimes in the matter of a few hours. The most common area is under the ear, on the side of the face with the rectal area or top of the tail a close second in occurrence.

Some predisposing factors such as an ear infection, insect bite, skin mass, or underlying allergy cause the pet to scratch the area and the normal skin bacteria is driven deeper into the skin to which the body reacts with inflammation.

The result is a somewhat large, elliptical shaped area of a crust that oozes serum—it looks uncomfortable and sometimes has an odor.

Heavy coated breeds such as Golden Retrievers, Labs, German Shepherds, Collies, and Bernese Mountain Dogs are predisposed. Hot spots can also



occur in these heavy coated breeds if the dog is not completely dried after bathing. The heavy coat holds in the moisture and allows the bacteria to overgrow.

Treatment includes clipping the hair from the area to allow the skin to "breathe", gently cleaning the lesion with chlorhexidine 2-4%. Topical steroid such as a steroid spray or 1% hydrocortisone is used to reduce the inflammation. In extremely inflamed painful lesions, systemic steroids are used short-term to provide pain relief and reduce inflammation. But most important is to address

## (WHAT'S SO HOT ABOUT HOTSPOTS...continued)

the reason why hot spots occurred—is there an underlying allergy, underlying ear infection, fleas, or was the dog not thoroughly dried after bathing/swimming?

Hot summers are fun for all of us including our pets but be sure and keep an eye out for any area on your dog's body that they



seem to be paying attention to more than usual!!

Don't forget to check on Wednesdays at Speaking of Pets Podcast (as a new podcast drops on Wednesdays). You don't want to miss out on this excellent information!!

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.**

## MEET ANNABELLE...

This young lady definitely needs and deserves a safe and loving home...and, the LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force asks our friends to please share this information with anyone in search of a furry best buddy!



Annabelle is a bundle of affection, companionship and fun and needs to enjoy family life! A cuddler, Annabelle will snuggle and watch TV with you...even the scary movies!



Reportedly a staff favorite, this girl is a smiley sweetheart just waiting to brighten up her forever home.

Please...come out to the Cape Coral Animal Shelter & Veterinary Clinic and meet this princess! You'll thank us later!

## KEEP THE TIPS COMING!

You, too, can be the voice for the voiceless!

Defenseless animals...wildlife, domestic and livestock...are unable to report mistreatment, neglect and/or abuse.

However, you can!

"See it. Say it. Make the call!" It's anonymous!

And did we mention the cash rewards?

1-800-780-8477

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

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



## PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM HEARTWORM

Mosquitoes are capable of spreading heartworm, a parasite that can lead to heart failure, lung disease, organ damage, and potentially fatal outcomes. It is important to fight the bite and keep your pets safe!



Heartworms can only be transmitted to your pet through the bite of an infected mosquito.

MOSQUITOES ARE ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS TO YOUR PETS.

### AVOID PEAK MOSQUITO ACTIVITY

CONSULT WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN TO DETERMINE WHICH PREVENTATIVE HEARTWORM TREATMENT IS RIGHT FOR YOUR PET.

### AVOID PEAK MOSQUITO ACTIVITY

IF POSSIBLE, AVOID HAVING YOUR PETS OUTSIDE DURING TIMES OF PEAK MOSQUITO ACTIVITY (DAWN AND DUSK).

### USE REPELLENTS SAFE FOR YOUR DOG

LEMON EUCALYPTUS OIL IS ONE MOSQUITO REPELLENT THAT IS SAFE FOR BOTH HUMANS AND DOGS.

### DUMP ANY STAGNANT WATER FROM CONTAINERS

ELIMINATE PLACES FOR MOSQUITOES TO GROW AROUND YOUR HOME.

[LCMCD.ORG](http://LCMCD.ORG)

## IS THE PUSH TO SPAY AND NEUTER FALLING ON DEAF EARS?

While we all realize that our nation's shelters and rescues are at or near capacity...while we complain about euthanasia statistics...many still fail to spay or neuter their pets.

Did you know that the lifespan of spayed and neutered dogs and cats is measurably longer than of those animals that are not?

According to the Humane Society of the United States, "the life expectancy of neutered male dogs was 13.8% longer and that of spayed female dogs was 26.3% longer."

Additionally, "spayed female cats (in the study) lived 39% longer and neutered male cats lived 62% longer."

Get it done! Spay or neuter your pet TODAY.

**So you know...  
you're breeding them faster  
than we can save them.**



# NO ANIMAL LEFT BEHIND!

Is your pet prepared for a hurricane or other emergency requiring you to evacuate?



## DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE TO PREPARE:

Make sure all pets are always up to date on vaccines. Shelters/boarding facilities may not allow pets to enter that are not up to date. Required vaccines include:

- **Dogs:** Rabies and DVPP2 (Canine distemper, parvovirus, and adenovirus). Bordetella may be required.
- **Cats:** Rabies and FVRCP (Feline distemper, calicivirus, and rhinotracheitis).
- **Ferrets:** Rabies

Always MICROCHIP your pets and make sure your contact information is updated with the microchip company.

Always carry a current picture of your pet and a picture of you with your pet (for identification).

Practice loading pets in carriers (especially cats).

## WHEN IT'S TIME TO EVACUATE:

Call ahead to your evacuation location to ensure they accept pets.

Check out the website [bringfido.com](http://bringfido.com) for a complete list of all pet-friendly hotels and travel accommodations for pets, INCLUDING a list of pet-friendly shelters during emergencies.

Make sure pets are secured in your vehicle and drive safely.

If you need assistance from others, contact your local human and animal shelters, the ASPCA or [redrover.org](http://redrover.org). Keep in mind, shelters will be full and possibly also evacuating.

Prepare in advance and do everything possible to take your furry friends with you.

## GATHER ALL YOUR PET'S INFO INTO A BIG, ZIP LOCK PLASTIC BAG OR PLASTIC CONTAINER:

Write your pet's name, your name and phone number on the bag/container. Include the following items, using one bag/container per pet:

- Photocopies of Medical Records
- Medication (enough for 14 days)
- Special Medical/Behavioral Instructions
- All Identification numbers, including microchip, license, and rabies tag numbers
- Emergency Contact Information for You
- Emergency Contact Information for your Pet (Veterinary Clinic)
- Emergency Contact Information for Someone Outside the Disaster Area
- A picture of your pet (in case the information gets separated from the pet)
- Food and Water for 7-10 Days—Pop top can or dry food
- Food and Water Bowls (collapsible work well)
- Poop Bags
- Toys and Treats (to keep them occupied)
- (1) Extra Collar/Harness with ID Tags and (1) Extra Leash per pet
- Don't forget about kitty—collars, leashes and ID for them, too!
- Bedding
- Trash Bags
- Disinfectant (for accidents) and dish soap (to wash bowls)
- Pet First Aid Kit
- Pet Carrier/Crates—Preferably airline crates to reduce stress in a shelter. Crate should be big enough for your pet to stand up and lie down comfortably.
- Litter box/litter
- Towels (for pets and for you)

For more information, visit us at: [CapeCoralAnimalShelter.com](http://CapeCoralAnimalShelter.com)

## ENVIRONMENTAL PET ALLERGIES

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

What are some non-drug things I can do to help my allergic pet?

We want to try and avoid medication use whenever we can and with allergy season upon us there are a few things that we can do to help pets with their environmental allergies.

Frequent bathing or rinsing off especially after an extended period of playing outside helps remove the pollen from the haircoat. An entire 10 minute bath is helpful but let's face it...not practical! So simply rinsing off or wiping down the body with a damp cloth is adequate. Pay attention to areas such as the feet, underside of the body such as the groin and armpits, inside the ear flaps, and the face.

Remember allergens are absorbed through the skin in areas of the pet where the hair is sparse...face, ear flaps, under the tail, groin, armpits, and undersides of the feet. No need to soak the feet, either dipping in fresh water or wiping with a damp cloth is sufficient.

Inside the house, keeping windows closed, air conditioning on, and frequent bathing of pet bedding where pollen has fallen off the pet and accumulated is helpful.

Clients ask me what particular shampoos to use and a gentle cleansing shampoo is fine. Special shampoos such as those with phytosphingosine, can help repair the skin barrier or oatmeal and/or pramoxine containing shampoos can help soothe the skin.

For cats no-tear shampoos or Head and Shoulders should be used!

Oral omega-3 supplementation has been proven to help with itching and repairing the defective skin barrier which occurs in dog allergies. Supplements containing omega-3 fatty acids are present in fish oil capsules or in some prescription diets tailored to dogs with

## (ENVIRONMENTAL PET ALLERGIES...continued)

environmental allergies. If using capsules, start at a low dose to avoid stomach upset and slowly workup to the prescribed dose by your veterinarian. Remember omega-3 supplements are not FDA controlled so be sure and consult consumer labs.com or look for the NASC seal which means they have been independently evaluated.

Let's all try and have a mild allergy season this year in spite of the prediction of it being a "bad one!"

