



**JANUARY 2024**

### FDLE POST-BASIC ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS

Members of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force were asked, by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, to serve as Subject Matter Experts as they begin to create an animal cruelty investigations curriculum for law enforcement officers.



The new course, which will be part of the FDLE's Post-Basic Curriculum, will teach law enforcement officers from around the state to identify and investigate cases of animal mistreatment.



Sheriff Carmine Marceno and the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force are both honored to be asked to participate in such an important curriculum-creation workshop and pleased to see a

growing interest in investigating and prosecuting the abuse of animals.

### LIEUTENANT HOPE ON A MISSION...

As Ambassador for the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force, Lieutenant Hope spends each day traveling the county and advocating for animal rights and protection.



Much like a canine version of "Miss America," our furry envoy travels everywhere... schools, community events, public gatherings...to remind us of the importance of reporting abuse, to share the mission of the LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force and in her personal effort to lick the face of everyone in Lee County.



# BUNNY fest




## A RABBIT ADOPTION EVENT

Join the Lee County Sheriff's Office as we host a bunny adoption event on behalf of the Southwest Florida House Rabbit Rescue.

**FREE PIZZA LUNCH**

**ARTS & CRAFTS**

**WHERE:** Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Center at Miromar Outlets, 10801 Corkscrew Road, Suite 190, in Estero

**WHEN:** Presidents' Day, Monday, February 19, 2024  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

 Pizza generously donated by Luigi's Pizza & Pasta

## 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 4-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 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.

## (The Loss of a Limb...continued)

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 3 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 spoke-dog for stopping animal abuse and neglect.*

## 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**





## 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:** "Dr. Davis, a neighbor has been trying to encourage me to switch my dogs' diet to raw-food. The internet has positive and negative opinions. How do you feel about a raw-food diet?"

**Dr. Megan Davis DVM cVMA:** "Raw food diets typically consist of some kind of animal protein such as poultry or beef that has not been through any kind of cooking or pasteurization. This leaves the meals at high risk of bacterial overgrowth by organisms such as salmonella,

campylobacter, e coli and listeria.

These food borne bacteria can cause serious illness in both pets and their owners. The risk is high enough that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American Animal Hospital

Association (AAHA), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) all have position statements against offering raw food.

The most common symptoms are diarrhea (with or without blood), lethargy and fever. The diarrhea typically results in severe dehydration requiring hospitalization. As illness progresses the animal can become septic and may even pass away. Diagnosis is typically made via PCR testing of the stool but often times cultures also need to be performed as antibiotic resistance can be common.

The most common argument for a raw food is that it is a more natural diet for our companion animals. But our modern dog breeds are very far removed from their wolf ancestors! There is little, if any, peer-reviewed research that shows health benefits to a raw diet, but there are

## (Dr. Davis...continued)

plenty that discuss its risks.

It is important to know that adult animals may not show signs of illness from pathogenic bacteria but could still shed the organisms and make a human very sick. This transmission can occur not only via contact with fecal matter but something as seemingly benign as a dog licking a child. This risk is especially high for the elderly and immunocompromised.



If you decide to continue to offer a raw food diet the following precautions should be taken:

- Practice appropriate hand hygiene after handling raw pet food or the bowls or countertops it touched
- Clean and disinfect surfaces the food touched
- Throw out whatever your pet doesn't immediately eat
- Wash your hands after touching your pet
- Do not let your pet lick you

The risks and precautions also apply to freeze dried raw diets and treats, not just raw meat purchased from the grocery store."



# OUR PLANET. THEIRS TOO.

## MAXWELL STILL LOOKING FOR LOVING HOME

It has been a while since we posted Maxwell's photo in search of a forever home...which means he has been in shelter care for some time...

As a result of the passing of his owner, Maxwell has found himself sheltered and uncertain of his future.

It is difficult to imagine what a senior dog must be thinking, having lived with someone for so long, only to find himself in an animal shelter with so many other dogs.

Maxwell deserves a safe and loving home and we are hopeful that by posting his photo and story, we are able to accomplish this.

Please come out to the Animal Refuge Center located at 10811 Old Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers or, please call 239-731-3535 for additional information.

Let's work to find this sweet boy a forever home!



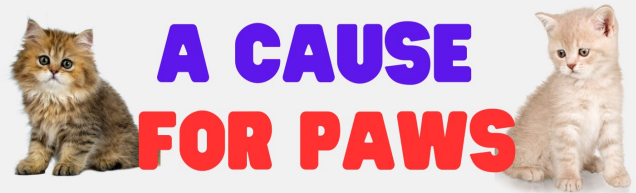
## ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRY QR CODE

With a quick scan of the new Animal Abuse Registry QR code, shelter staff, animal rescues and interested citizens can identify those convicted, in Lee County, of having abused an animal.

"We are grateful to the LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force



for implementing this very important tool that will help prevent us from putting one of our treasured animals into the hands of an abuser. The registry is easy to use and we have easily included it in our adoption application process," stated Liz McCauley, Cape Coral Animal Shelter Executive Director.



Join the Lee County Sheriff's Office Cape Harbour Community Outreach Center as we serve as a collection point for donated supplies for shelter cats and kittens residing at



Much-needed supplies include clumping litter, wee-wee pads, Friskies brand CANNED cat food, trash bags, paper towels, laundry soap, bleach, Dawn dishwashing liquid, cat toys, cat treats and disinfectant wipes.

Donations will be accepted until February 14, 2024 and can be dropped off at 5828 Cape Harbour Drive, Suite 100, in Cape Coral.



**LAST CHANCE  
TO REGISTER!**

## Annual Homeowners Association Presidents Council

February 6th, 2024

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall  
13350 FSW Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33919

**All HOA Board Members &  
Residents Welcome!**

**Complimentary Food and  
Beverages will be provided**

**9:30am-11:00am HOA Expo**  
Lee County Sheriff's Office Assets  
and HOA Vendor Displays

**11:00am-12:00pm Forum**  
- Applying New Technology  
- Community Policing Strategies  
- Question & Answer with  
Sheriff Carmine Marceno



**Limited Seating  
Register TODAY!**

[www.sherifflee.org/hoapresidentscouncil](http://www.sherifflee.org/hoapresidentscouncil)  
239-477-1CRU



## PARROT FOOD RECALL

### Urgent Voluntary Recall of D&D Commodities Ltd. 3-D PetProducts Premium Parrot Food Due to Potential Salmonella Contamination

Greeley, CO – D&D Commodities Ltd. is voluntarily recalling one lot of 3-D® Pet Products Premium Parrot Food, 4 lb. jar, UPC 719195135045, Lot Number 102525G, due to potential Salmonella contamination.

The product affected by this recall announcement is the 4 -pound container with UPC code 719195135045 and Lot Number 102525G.

#### Company Announcement:

The recall notification is being issued based on a single manufacturing batch wherein a sample with the Lot Number 102525G and UPC 719195135045 had a positive result for Salmonella in a random sample test collected by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on November 30, 2023. The 3-D® Pet Product Premium Parrot Food was originally manufactured on October 25, 2023. D&D Commodities Ltd. is taking immediate action to remove the product from retail distribution centers and to fully investigate the cause.

Salmonella can affect animals eating the products and there is a risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Healthy people exposed to Salmonella should monitor themselves for some or all the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping, and fever. Rarely, Salmonella can result in more serious ailments, including arterial infections, endocarditis, arthritis, muscle pain, eye irritation, and urinary tract symptoms. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have only decreased appetite, fever, and abdominal pain. Infected but otherwise healthy pets can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your

## (Parrot Food Recall...continued)

pet has consumed the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

The affected parrot food product is packaged in clear plastic jars and was distributed to retailers and distributors in the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

Retailers who received the affected parrot food product have been contacted and asked to pull the product from their inventory and shelves.



Consumers who have purchased the recalled parrot food product should return it to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact D&D Commodities Ltd. at 1-218-991-8015, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm CST.

D&D Commodities Ltd. has chosen to issue a voluntary recall of this product and is committed to providing high -quality, safe products for wild and domesticated birds and the people who love them. The company is committed to following strict protocols to ensure the safety of all who handle our products.

As mentioned, it is important that you contact your veterinarian should you pet display any aforementioned symptoms or appear thin, have pasted vents and/or swollen eyelids.

### EVERY ANIMAL MATTERS...

Thriving in wooded and swampy areas of Southwest Florida, the Bobcat, a nocturnal hunter, is rarely seen or encountered in populated areas.



They den in areas brimming with dense shrubs and Saw Palmetto.

As urban development continues to infringe upon their “safe” areas, the number of encounters with humans continues to increase.

Unfortunately, injuries and fatalities to these magnificent cats occur as they are forced to interact with vehicular traffic.

Deputy Lopez, while on patrol, discovered an injured Bobcat in the roadway.

The animal was subsequently transported to a local animal hospital and is recovering nicely!

Sheriff Carmine Marceno and the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force ask drivers to be cognizant of wildlife potentially crossing our county's roadways.

For additional information regarding Bobcats in Florida, please visit <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mammals/land/bobcat/>.



### HEY, ERIC!

Oh...this guy is a cutieeeee!

Reportedly, Eric is looking for true love and, when you are accepted into his social circle, prepare to issue belly rubs and snuggles.



If you need a buddy to curl up with on the couch...to watch Netflix with...Eric is your man!

Eric is residing at the Cape Coral

Animal Shelter located at 325 SW 2nd Street in Cape Coral. For additional information, please call 239-573-2002.

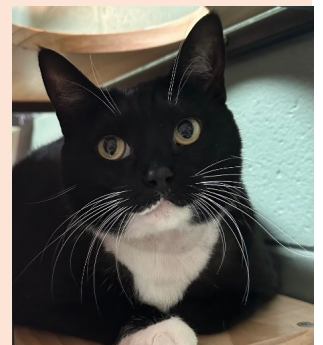
### SASSY, BUT CLASSY...

Meet “Sassy!”

This senior lady (eight-years of age) is a gentle, tranquil soul, looking for a safe and loving place to call home.

Reportedly very “low-maintenance,” this sweetie will be the perfect addition to a calm and kind-hearted family.

Sassy is residing at the Cattysack Café located at 9902 Gulf Coast Mail Street, Suite D-140, in Gulf Coast Town Center. Reservations are recommended. Please visit [cattysackcafe.com](http://cattysackcafe.com) for additional information and for reservations to meet.



“When you look at animals like Lt. Hope, you can now only see her joy. She is a completely different dog! Her story reminds us that even the most vulnerable animals can be helped.”

- Sheriff Carmine Marceno

