



SEPTEMBER 2024

## ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE ARRESTS MAN FOR THROWING CHIHUAHUA OFF OF BALCONY

"It is always disappointing to learn of an innocent animal abused by an owner they trust. I will continue to do my part to stand up for those who cannot protect themselves," said Sheriff Carmine Marceno. "Violent and abusive behavior towards an animal will NOT be tolerated in Lee County. This suspect will now pay the price for this disgusting crime," said Sheriff Marceno.

A Fort Myers man was arrested for throwing a 3-year-old Chihuahua off a balcony, breaking multiple bones.



On Sunday, September 8th, Lee County Sheriff's Office detectives responded to Blue Pearl Animal Hospital in reference to an injured dog.

Detectives learned a man dropped off 3-year-old Raven, stating she had been thrown off a balcony "like a

## (Chihuahua...continued)

football" by a friend. The man got into a verbal altercation with the veterinarian before leaving Blue Pearl and his dog behind.

Raven suffered from multiple fractures, including a broken leg and a broken mandible.

LCSO detectives worked around the clock and located the owner with the assistance of the Real Time Intelligence Center. The owner was able to provide detectives with information that led us to the suspect Dalton Chad Sousa (DOB 05-01-1994).



Sousa was located and arrested by the Lee County Sheriff's Office. He was charged with Aggravated Animal Cruelty.

Raven is expected to fully recover from the injuries that she received.

## PET FOOD ALLERGIES: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

Could my pet be allergic to their food? How do I know?

Food allergy is an exaggerated response to one or more ingredients in the diet...most often the protein, but occasionally the carbohydrate content. The allergic response results in skin lesions/itching or gastrointestinal signs such as vomiting, stool changes, stomach noises or both. In cats, besides the above-mentioned symptoms, they may also experience conjunctivitis or even breathing problems.

Unfortunately, blood, saliva and hair testing in pets IS NOT RELIABLE for diagnosing food allergies.

The most reliable test is feeding a strict prescription or home cooked (with your veterinarian's guidance) elimination diet for at least 8 weeks. During this time no other foods, treats, rawhides, bones, dental chews or flavored supplements are permitted.

You may see over-the-counter foods purported to be for "allergies," but studies show 80% are contaminated with other proteins and will not suffice for the elimination diet testing. Prescription diets such as Royal Canin's Ultamino, Hill's venison, duck, or rabbit diets, Purina HA or Blue Buffalo's NP or HF diets are guaranteed to not contain extraneous proteins that would negate the diet trial. These are only available via prescription from your veterinarian.

When starting any of these diets it is important to wean the pet slowly onto the diet by mixing increasing amounts daily so that it takes a good week to change over to the prescription diet.

After the 8-week diet trial, if your pet has greatly improved, you may either continue the current prescription diet or offer single protein challenges to determine what your pet was reacting to. This should be done under the guidance of your veterinarian. Some pets react immediately to the offending protein while others can take up to 7-14 days to react.

Remember the BEST AND ONLY test to determine if your pet is food allergic is the prescription elimination diet trial. It is more prudent to put your money into the diet than waste it on skin, hair or saliva testing for food allergies which have NO MERIT!



**ALWAYS CHECK THE LEE COUNTY ANIMAL ABUSE  
REGISTRY BEFORE REHOMING A PET!**



*JOIN US!*





# SPEAK UP

# FOR THE VOICE- LESS



◀ Khaleesi was rescued in Cape Coral after suffering horrific neglect at her former owners hands. She was severely malnourished and couldn't even stand. Today, she is healed and in a loving home. Her former owners were jailed on felony charges. One call made all the difference.

## SWFL CRIME STOPPERS



## STOP DOG FIGHTING AND ANIMAL CRUELTY NOW!

CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT  
**1-800-780-TIPS**  
(8477)

## TO PROTECT ANIMALS WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES.

Paid by CSTF



## DOUBLE-COATED DOG BREEDS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

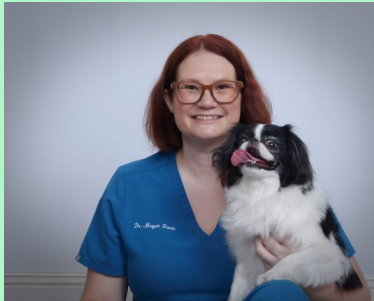
By Dr. Megan Davis DVM  
Suburban Animal Hospital

Double-coated breeds include Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, Huskies, Pomeranians and others. These dogs have an outer layer of long guard hairs and a shorter fluffy undercoat next to the skin. When a dog sheds it is typically from the undercoat, especially during a big seasonal shed.

The topcoat is a protective layer to help repel dirt and water, while the undercoat acts as insulation. This insulating layer traps air and helps keep the dog warm in cool weather and cool during hot summer weather.

Dogs mostly regulate their temperature by panting but they do have some sweat glands on their paw pads. Shaving the whole dog will do little to cool it down and may actually increase the risk of over heating. It definitely increases their risk of sunburn and insect bites.

Professional grooming, on a regular basis, will help strip loose undercoat and reduce shedding. Daily brushing at home is also recommended. Having the fur on the paws and around the paw pads trimmed, as well as clipping the fur on the belly area, are more effective ways to keep the dog cool. A trimmed short "summer cut" will reduce length without sacrificing the undercoat.



There are also cosmetic reasons for not shaving a double coated breed. Shaving removes both the undercoat and topcoat. As the undercoat grows at a faster rate than the top coat it is common for a shaved dog to grow back patchy and with a different fur texture. Some breeds seem especially sensitive to follicle damage from shaving and may end up with Alopecia as a result.

As always there are some exceptions, a double coated dog may have to be shaved if it is severely matted. Dogs with skin conditions (especially "hot spots") may also need to be shaved in order for the skin to heal. It may be

## (Double-coated dogs...continued)

beneficial to shave old dogs who no longer tolerate brushing/grooming as it may be less stressful for them. And, of course, a dog needing surgery will have to be shaved to allow proper sterile preparation of the surgical site.



A close-up photograph of a tabby cat's face. The cat has orange and brown fur with dark stripes and is looking upwards with large green eyes.

**WE NEED  
YOUR SUPPORT!**

**PLEASE "FOLLOW"  
US ON THE  
LEE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
ANIMAL CRUELTY  
FACEBOOK PAGE!**

[FACEBOOK.COM/LCSO.ACTF](https://www.facebook.com/LCSO.ACTF)

The logo for the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force. It features a circular design with a yellow star in the center containing a black paw print. The text "LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE" is written around the top half of the circle, and "ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE" is written around the bottom half. A banner across the star reads "PROTECTING THOSE WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES".

**ZERO TOLERANCE. ZERO EXCUSES.**

The logo for the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force. It features a circular design with a yellow star in the center containing a black paw print. The text "LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE" is written around the top half of the circle, and "ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE" is written around the bottom half. A banner across the star reads "PROTECTING THOSE WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES".

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

## **“ANSWERS” PET FOOD VOLUNTARILY RECALLS LIMITED LOTS OF BEEF AND CHICKEN DOG FOOD**

### **Company Announcement**

Lystn, LLC d.b.a./ANSWERS Pet Food of Fleetwood, PA, is voluntarily withdrawing certain lots of ANSWERS Detailed Beef Formula for Dogs, ANSWERS Straight Beef Formula for Dogs, and ANSWERS Straight Chicken Formula for Dogs out of an abundance of caution after samples collected by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration were reported to have tested positive for the presence of Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes. No illnesses associated with these lots have been confirmed. Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes can affect animals eating the products and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Listeria monocytogenes rarely causes illness in dogs, but it is possible. Dogs can have mild symptoms such as diarrhea and vomiting. Even if a dog is not showing symptoms, it can still be a carrier of the bacteria and spread it to humans. If a dog has consumed a product lot identified below, pet parents are encouraged to consult their veterinarian if symptoms exist.

People can become sick by handling contaminated food or touching surfaces that have been exposed to Listeria monocytogenes. Symptoms in humans may include fever, headache, muscle aches, stiff neck, nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhea, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions. Young children, elderly people, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable to Listeria monocytogenes infections and symptoms can be more severe. Anyone exhibiting symptoms after handling a product lot identified below, should contact their healthcare provider.

Individuals handling pet food can become infected with Salmonella, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with surfaces exposed to such a lot of product being implicated. There are thousands of species of Salmonella, less than a handful are harmful to pets or humans. Healthy people infected with 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 such a product should contact their healthcare providers. Children, the elderly, and individuals with compromised immune systems may be at greater risk of Salmonella infection.

Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets may only exhibit decreased appetite, fever, and abdominal pain. Infected but otherwise healthy pets can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your pet has consumed product lot identified below and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

The lots referenced below were distributed throughout the United States in retail stores and direct online sales. Again, no illnesses associated with these lots have been confirmed.

ANSWERS is notifying the public, distributors, and retail stores regarding this notice.

The products being withdrawn are sold in 4lb half gallon cartons.

**ANSWERS Pet Food Detailed Beef Formula for Dogs/8565540021002 4lb (Half Gallon Carton) Exp. MAY 06, 2026**

**ANSWERS Pet Food Straight Beef Formula for Dogs/856554002072 4lb (Half Gallon Carton) Exp. JAN 31, 2026**

**ANSWERS Pet Food Straight Chicken Formula for Dogs/856554002065 4lb (Half Gallon Carton) Exp. JAN 02, 2026 & MAR 11, 2026**

## **("ANSWERS" PET FOOD VOLUNTARILY RECALLS LIMITED LOTS OF BEEF AND CHICKEN DOG FOOD...continued)**

### **What to Do**

FDA guidelines recommend any product from the listed lots that has not yet been consumed should be thrown out or destroyed in a way that children, pets, and wildlife cannot access it. Areas that may have come in contact with any contaminated food should be sanitized. The FDA recommends that people do not touch potentially contaminated food with bare hands and therefore suggests wearing gloves or using paper towels when placing any contaminated product in a sealed bag to throw out or when handling such food.

If consumers have any of these lots of products in their possession and desire a refund, please submit a receipt and pictures of the product to [info@answerspetfood.com](mailto:info@answerspetfood.com) along with the retailer's information. If you have questions or concerns, please email ANSWERS' Pet Food at [info@answerspetfood.com](mailto:info@answerspetfood.com).



### **For Informational Purpose**

From time-to-time pathogens appear in all types of pet food products and some may be harmful to pets and/or humans. The FDA considers any presence (zero tolerance) of Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes, regardless of origin, quantity, and type, as an adulterant in pet food. In accordance with the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, to date, ANSWERS has not received any quantification data or a completed Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) from the FDA or Center for Veterinarian Medicine for these particular lots of products. ANSWERS is conducting this voluntary withdrawal of these particular lots out of an abundance of caution to protect public health by ensuring timely removal of the implicated product lots from the marketplace. ANSWERS will continue investigating this FDA report pursuing its number one priority to bring healthy, safe, truly raw pet food products to market.

ANSWERS has been and will continue to work with the FDA to ensure that the highest and safest food is provided to your pets and continues to stand by the safety of our food and the unique and innovative way we protect our food with fermentation, probiotics and protective cultures that mitigate pathogens from growing.



## SKUNKING: MORE THAN JUST A STINKY EXPERIENCE

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

Besides the odor that dogs suffer from being “skunked,” did you know that “skunking” can kill some dogs?

Pet Poison Helpline reports that deadly consequences can occur in some dogs. We know that dogs sprayed in the face suffer skin and eye irritation but some dogs will have damage to their red blood cells resulting in the dying off of those cells. Anemia results and something called “Methemoglobinemia” doesn’t allow the red blood cells to carry oxygen which can lead to dying off of the red blood cells. This can show up in your dog as lethargy, their body is cold to the touch, and purple in color from the Methemoglobinemia. This is an emergency situation and you need to get to ER quickly where they will start an IV and use Acetylcysteine to combat the damage.

For dogs lucky enough not to experience the above



deadly consequence, some tips if your dog gets skunked include:

**DO NOT GET THEM WET!** Water seals the skunk oil secretion into the hair follicle and the smell will remain for months.

**DO NOT BRING THEM INTO THE HOUSE,** if possible! Make a paste with baking soda and shampoo and or dish soap. Apply to the pet while DRY and allow to sit on the pet for 30 minutes, then ok to rinse off.

Skunks can spray up to 10 feet and as much as six times in a row!!

## MEOWING @ MIROMAR A CAT & KITTEN ADOPTION EVENT

JOIN THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE  
ANIMAL REFUGE CENTER AS WE TRY TO FIND  
SAFE AND LOVING HOMES FOR HOMELESS  
SHELTER CATS AND KITTENS.



WHERE: LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER AT  
MIROMAR OUTLETS, 10801 CORKSCREW ROAD,  
SUITE 190, ESTERO



WHEN:  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



## CAT FOOD DONATIONS DISTRIBUTED TO H.E.A.L.

Linda Melillo, from Haven on Earth Animal League, stopped by to pick up some of the generously donated cat food.

The work done by H.E.A.L. is nothing short of exceptional and one would be hard-pressed to find a more benevolent and kind group of individuals.

H.E.A.L. is a remarkable and compassionate rescue that has stepped up, on numerous occasions, to assist the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force...for which we are incredibly grateful!

Sincere thanks to those who have generously delivered and sent both wet and dry cat food during our current cat food drive!

For additional information regarding H.E.A.L., please visit [healrescue.com](http://healrescue.com).



### JUST ONE FLEA...

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

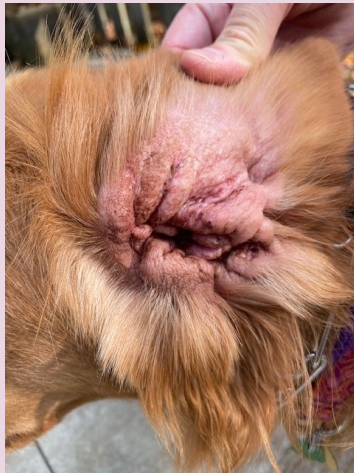
How can one flea cause all of these problems?!

Ask five veterinary dermatologists their opinion on something...almost anything...and you'll get five different answers. One thing that we all agree on is FLEA ALLERGY in dogs shows up as "NAKED BUTT." In dogs, the main area affected with fleas and flea allergy is over the tail head resulting in what is called "naked butt."

Cats, as always, like to do their own thing and "naked butt" can be seen in flea allergy with cats but so can other presentations of allergy such as Miliary Dermatitis, Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex, naked belly, and itching without any lesions. However, in dogs, "naked butt" involves ruling out flea allergy first and foremost.

Shown in the enclosed picture is a Golden Retriever that was relinquished by an owner to rescue. The

owner has cats and "has tried every flea treatment on this dog, so he can't have fleas". I immediately found a flea on him as well as skin infection, greasiness and odor due to his licking, chewing, and biting from his flea allergy. When a pet is flea



allergic, one flea (and rarely is it one flea by the time the owner notices) CAN CAUSE all of these problems. It is the pet's allergy to the flea saliva that causes all the inflammation, itching, and secondary problems such as odor and infection (not to mention affecting other pets in the household and your home!). In severe flea infestations, infection, anemia, and even death can result especially in puppies and kittens. We immediately started him on Bravecto, antibiotics, and a short course of Prednisone for the itching and he was groomed. After one to two days, he'll feel and look like a million bucks and the first day of the rest of his life is awaiting!

What the former owner didn't understand is that ALL the pets in the household need to be treated for fleas

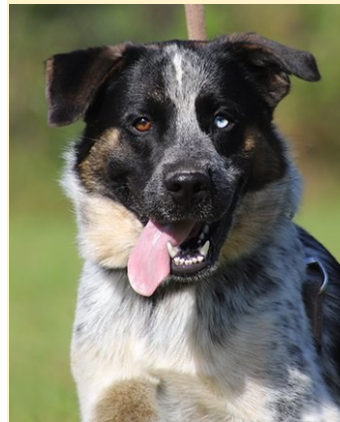
### (JUST ONE FLEA...continued)

regardless if you're not seeing fleas on that particular animal! Cats especially can ingest fleas and flea dirt while grooming so no evidence of fleas may be detected (except tapeworm which emerges from the rectum).

When starting a pet on flea control medications, it is important to ask your veterinarian which product is suitable for your particular pet. Dog labelled flea control products SHOULD NOT be used on cats as deaths can occur. We are fortunate to currently have much safer and more effective flea treatments than we did years ago but consultation with your veterinary professional is always a good idea to individualize treatment for any accompanying disease(s) your pet may have.

### WHY IS OZZIE STILL LOOKING FOR HIS FOREVER HOME?!

Three-year-old Ozzie is a longtime friend of the LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force.



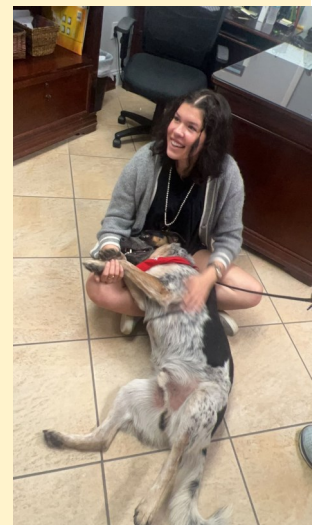
This boy is FILLED with love and affection and so deserves to share that love in a safe and welcoming home.

Ozzie is waiting patiently at the Animal Refuge Center located at 18011 Old Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers.

Are you looking for love? Please stop by and visit this sweetie!

The LCSO Animal Cruelty Task Force won't rest until this furball finds the perfect home! Please help us find Ozzie a wonderful home by sharing his information with others!!

For additional information, please call ARC at 239-731-3535!





## FUR GET ME NOT

A CAT ADOPTION EVENT

JOIN THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE AND HAVEN ON EARTH ANIMAL LEAGUE (HEAL) AS WE TRY TO FIND SAFE AND LOVING HOMES FOR HOMELESS CATS.

WHERE: LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER AT MIROMAR OUTLETS, 10801 CORKSCREW ROAD, SUITE 190, ESTERO

WHEN: WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 2, 2024  
11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM



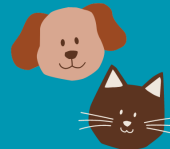
JOIN THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE AND AGRICULTURAL CRIMES UNIT, FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE AND TURTLE TIME FOR

## CREATURES BIG & SMALL



WHERE: MARGARITAVILLE BEACH RESORT  
251 CRESCENT STREET, FORT MYERS BEACH

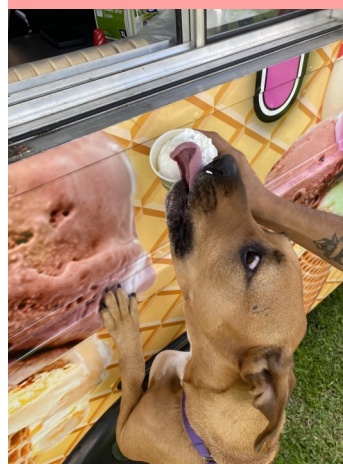
WHEN: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 FROM 9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM



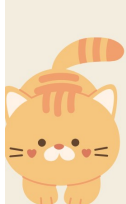
### PUP CUPS FOR EVERYONE!

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was on hand at the United Way Kickoff at Gulf Coast Humane Society.

Scores of adorable, adoptable pooches were treated to pup cups...and it got messy!



## CAT FOOD DRIVE



LOCAL SHELTERS AND RESCUES ARE CURRENTLY IN NEED OF CAT FOOD (WET AND DRY).

PLEASE HELP THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE COLLECT UNOPENED CAT FOOD!

PLEASE DROP OFF DONATED FOOD AT THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER AT MIROMAR OUTLETS, 10801 CORKSCREW ROAD, SUITE 190, ESTERO

