



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED!

Many, if not most of us in Southwest Florida, have endured the wrath of several storms and have been working diligently to regain normalcy.

As was the case following Hurricane Ian, many of our community members stepped up and donated dog food, cat food and cat litter for distribution to those in need.



On behalf of the animals and pet owners who benefitted from these donations, we wholeheartedly thank you. It is your kindness that makes Lee County an extremely special place!

AMAZING ANTIOXIDANTS

By Megan Davis DVM
Suburban Animal Hospital

Antioxidants can strengthen the immune system, reduce inflammation, promote heart health and may even aid in slowing down the aging process. They may be especially helpful in cases of chronic illness.

Colorful fruits and vegetables are often rich in antioxidants. Carrots, bell peppers, spinach, sweet potatoes, blueberries, and cranberries are some of the

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(AMAZING ANTIOXIDANTS...continued)

pet safe options. You can add them to your pets regular diet or offer them as treats.

Many owners are familiar with Coenzyme Q10 use for themselves and are happy to learn that it is a safe product for our pets. It is particularly helpful for animals with cardiovascular problems as well as those receiving chemotherapy. There's even some evidence that CoQ10 can help reduce gingivitis in pets with dental disease!

S-Adenosyl-Methionine (SAME) has anti-oxidant properties and supports brain health as well as aiding liver detoxification. It should be given on an empty stomach for best results. Denosyl is a popular veterinary supplement for this purpose

Curcumin (found in Tumeric) has been shown in numerous studies to have both antioxidant and anti inflammatory properties. It can be added to your dog's food or there are numerous commercially available Tumeric treats.

The FDA does not regulate pet supplements which makes things overwhelming at best and harmful at worst. I recommend looking for products that have the National Animal Supplement Council (NASC) seal as these companies have been vetted for quality control and accurate labeling.

Vitamins and supplements can interfere with each other and with prescription medications so always make sure to check with your vet before starting something new!

MICROBIOMES

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

A pet's gastrointestinal tract (ours, too!) is teeming with living things-bacteria, fungi, viruses and other microorganisms all known as the MICROBIOME.

This gut microbiome communicates with the entire body either directly within the gut or indirectly by influencing other organs in the body. It's needed for healthy digestion, absorption of nutrients, gut fermentation and keeping our "good" bacteria in the right amounts.

This all influences the immune function of the pet as well as energy supplied to other organs. When the microbiome is out of balance (Dysbiosis) with things such as antibiotics, bad diet, diet indiscretions, etc., this can lead to various diseases such as chronic diarrhea, environmental allergies, food allergy, kidney disease, diabetes, obesity and behavioral problems.

It's amazing that keeping your gut flora (microbiome) in check can influence so many other diseases!

Probiotics are living microorganisms that may help restore balance to the gut microbiome when it's out of balance (Dysbiosis). Most pet probiotic supplements contain either Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium, or Enterococcus or combinations of these.

In veterinary medicine there are 3 probiotics that have some evidence-based science behind them: Visbiome Vet, Fortiflora, Provable.

Always consult your veterinarian before starting any supplement or medication to see which may be indicated for your pet. Remember that supplements are not FDA regulated and in one study, 90% of probiotics tested did not have in them what the label claimed! Also, a probiotic indicated for a cat may not be effective in dogs and vice versa.

Studies have shown that when the gut microbiome is maintained, improvement in diabetes control, behavior including anxiety, gastrointestinal health, and allergies improves! This is a newly emerging method of controlling systemic problems and very exciting!



ALWAYS CHECK THE LEE COUNTY ANIMAL ABUSE

REGISTRY BEFORE REHOMING A PET!



MEET LATTE!

Latte is a wonderful and playful Domestic Shorthair with an incredible personality. At times...energetic. Also, snuggly and affectionate. What a combination!

Latte is fostered through the Haven on Earth Animal



League and is looking for a safe and loving forever home.

Would Latte be a great fit in your home?

For additional information, please call 239-410-9983.

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

A HOME FOR LIBERTY...

The Animal Cruelty Task Force has been working diligently to find a home for Liberty...a multi-year resident at the Animal Refuge Center.

This handsome four-year-old Siberian Husky mix is so deserving of a safe and loving home. He has already spent far too much 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 can open their home and their heart to this sweet boy?



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.

BARK @ ARC

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force participated in the First Annual "Bark @ ARC" Halloween event.

Costumed canines paraded past guests and vendors...the Lee County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad and robot were on hand...all to assist an amazing organization!

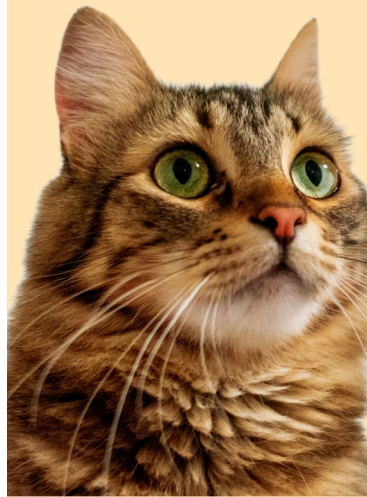
For additional information regarding the Animal Refuge Center, please visit their website at animalrefugecenter.com.



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)



THANK YOU, LEE COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES!

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force, in conjunction with Lee County Domestic Animal Services, held a free microchipping event at the LCSO Community Outreach Center at Miromar Outlets.

Dogs and cats were all scanned for existing microchips and, those needing them, were microchipped at no cost.

Special thanks to Lee County Domestic Animal Services, and their staff, who scanned 58 pets and microchipped 51 of them!



ZERO TOLERANCE. ZERO EXCUSES.



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

LYME DISEASE...WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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

Lyme disease, caused by a bacteria called *Borrelia Burgdorferi*, is what we term a “vector-borne infectious disease.” It is the fastest spreading bug-borne disease in the northern hemisphere!

When a Lyme-disease carrying tick (more often a nymph form of the tick which is the size of a poppy seed) bites a dog, 90% of dogs will not have symptoms. However, weeks or months later the pet may develop a lump usually adjacent to where the tick bite occurred which will then travel to involve other joints. Fever, polyarthritis, and kidney inflammation may occur.

Nephritis (Kidney inflammation) develops in 1-2% of dogs and can be fatal. Rarely will a dog have the typical “bulls-eye” rash that occurs in 80% of human patients. Thankfully we have excellent tick protection products which include collars, Isoxazoline oral and topical products, and spot on treatments.

It is important to use these products all year round since ticks are active at 35 degrees F or higher! I also spray my yard perimeter twice yearly in spring and fall and keep the grass short and leaves raked. Ticks love leaf piles! There are various Lyme disease vaccine products which are administered annually to dogs in high tick areas (which is almost the entire United States!) but since no vaccine is 100% effective, it is important to use tick protection products.

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Labrador Retrievers, and Golden Retrievers seem to be predisposed to Lyme disease, but that maybe perhaps because they’re out and about more. Sadly, in Boxers, a myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) has been seen as a result of Lyme disease.

When a dog or human is bitten by a tick, more often more than one disease is transmitted by the tick. We have all heard of Lyme disease but other infectious bacteria that may be transferred in that bite include: *Bartonella*, *Babesia*, *Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasmosis* or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Bottom line: tick protection for your pets needs to be used all year round! Please see your veterinarian to see which product(s) are best for your pet!



DID YOU KNOW? CANINE HEARING

- Dogs, unlike humans, are capable of maneuvering over 18 muscles in their ears towards the sound in order to maximize reception. The tilt and rotation of the ears allow dogs to determine the exact origin of the sound.
- Unlike humans, who hear in a frequency range of 20 to 20,000 Hz, dogs are capable of hearing in the range from 40 to 60,000 Hz. As a result, sounds that are easily tolerated by the human ear, such as fireworks, are extremely uncomfortable for dogs.
- Having ears atop their heads allows for significantly better hearing. Human ears, both flat and affixed to the sides of our head, limit our hearing abilities.
- Dogs with erect, pointed ears hear better than dogs with floppy ears.
- Dogs can hear sounds independently in each ear... meaning that a dog can listen to you speaking with one ear and hear a sound from outside with the other.



What “rescued” looks like...



Adopt...don't shop!

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.



JOIN THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND LEE COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES FOR

FREE MICROCHIPPING & MICROCHIP INSPECTION

PET OWNERS CAN BE CERTAIN THAT THEIR PET'S MICROCHIP IS UP TO DATE OR RECEIVE FREE MICROCHIPPING, IF NECESSARY!

WHERE: LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER
AT GULF COAST TOWN CENTER
9918 GULF COAST MAIN STREET, SUITE B120,
FORT MYERS

WHEN: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024
FROM 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM



JUST ONE FLEA...

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

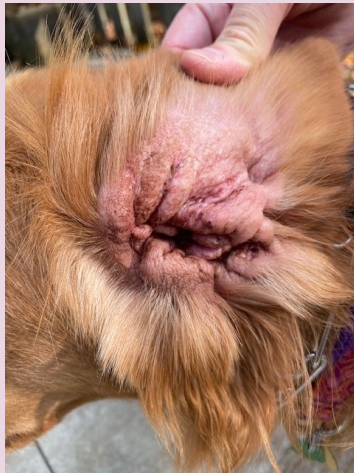
How can one flea cause all of these problems?!

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.

CATS HIDING UNDER HOOD/VEHICLE

While we don't have the frosty weather that often prompts cats to seek warmth beneath the hoods of our cars, even cats in Southwest Florida seek shelter beneath car hoods and beneath the vehicle itself. Cats wedge themselves into small areas near the exhaust system, between the rim and caliper...you name it.

Starting and/or operating your vehicle, when a cat is nestled within your engine



compartment, can cause significant injury/death to the feline.

It is unrealistic to ask drivers to open their car's hood, or for drivers to search the undercarriage, before venturing out. It is, however, reasonable for drivers to tap on their vehicle's hood, with an open hand, to alert hidden felines. While not guaranteed to prompt the cat to leave the vehicle, it is our best chance to alert them of potential danger.