



VIOLENT ANIMAL ABUSER ARRESTED

Following the discovery of two beheaded felines that had been placed on a mailbox, the Lee County Sheriff's Office began a diligent and determined investigation that resulted in the arrest of the individual responsible.



The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force located and arrested Robert James Luther III and charged

MARCH 2025

(Violent Animal Abuser...continued)

him with committing an act to any animal, which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits two counts of aggravated animal cruelty, which is a violation of the Florida Statute 828.12 (2). Additional charges have been filed for Aggravated Stalking.

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 EDISON MALL
4125 CLEVELAND AVENUE, SUITE 1930
FORT MYERS

WHEN: WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2025
10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

FOOD ALLERGY IN PETS: DISPELLING THE MYTHS

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

A few days ago, I checked a Golden Retriever with skin problems where the owner had a blood test for food allergies performed before seeing me. Please, everyone remember...there is no blood, skin, hair, or saliva test for food allergies in pets that is valid! Please do not spend your money on these tests! There is something about a printed laboratory result that leads people to believe the results, simply because a laboratory offers a test, does not mean it is valid. In fact, when you question the lab about the validity of blood testing for food allergy in pets, you often don't get an answer!

THE ONLY WAY TO DETERMINE IF YOUR DOG OR CAT IS FOOD ALLERGIC IS TO FEED A PRESCRIPTION OR HOME-COOKED HYPOALLERGENIC DIET FOR 8 WEEKS. The definition of a hypoallergenic diet is feeding a protein that your pet has never been exposed to previously. Another option is a protein hydrolysate diet (prescription) which consists of a soy, chicken, or fish protein that has been hydrolyzed or cut down in size so that the body doesn't recognize it as soy, chicken, or fish. If performing a home-cooked diet, it should be done under the supervision of your veterinarian.

Clients think that food dyes or additives are often the culprit for allergies. But it is most commonly the protein source that the pet is allergic to such as beef, chicken, or dairy...but some carbohydrate sources such as wheat and corn contain protein as well.

Another frequent question is about using "limited ingredient" over-the-counter (OTC) diets. Studies show that 80% of them



are contaminated with other proteins so the "limited ingredient" is not solely that protein that is listed on the bag. The difference between "limited ingredient" OTC diets and prescription (Rx) hypoallergenic diets is that the prescription diets have a DNA test during manufacturing and upon completion to be sure they are not contaminated with other proteins. This is why Rx diets tend to cost more than OTC diets...and for good reason!

If your veterinarian has suggested your pet could be food allergic (symptoms can include itching, ear infections, recurrent skin infections, diarrhea, vomiting, belching), and they have started your pet on a prescription diet, please do not give any other foods,

treats, bones, rawhides, pig ears, flavored supplements, or dental chews. One mistake such as a treat given by the mailperson will set the pet back a good 2 weeks!

We want to do this 8-week diet trial correctly and want to only have to do it once! If you have multiple pets, sometimes it's easier to put all the pets on the Rx diet for the 8-week trial so that the affected pet doesn't get any of the other pets' food.

Always consult your veterinarian as to whether your pet could be food allergic and which diet is best for them-they know your pets' history and can make a good recommendation!

SHERIFF CARMINE MARCENO REMINDS YOU...

***Abuse an
Animal?***
You Will Go to Jail!



RECALL

Savage Pet Recalls Savage Cat Food Chicken – Large and Small Boxes Because of Possible Bird Flu Health Risk

Savage Pet of El Cajon, CA is recalling 66 Large Chicken Boxes 84 oz. and 74 Small Chicken Boxes 21 oz. with the lot code/best by date of 11152026 because it has the potential to contain H5N1, also known as bird flu .

People who fed cats the recalled products should watch for symptoms of bird flu, including fever, lethargy, low appetite, reddened or inflamed eyes, discharge from the eyes and nose, difficulty breathing, and neurological signs like tremors, stiff body movements, seizure, lack of coordination, or blindness. People with cats exhibiting these signs after feeding this product should immediately contact their veterinarian.

While no human infections have been identified among people handling raw pet food products, humans can become infected if live virus gets into a person's eyes, nose, or mouth. People should wash their hands while handling raw products and sanitize contact surfaces. People who handled the recalled products should watch for symptoms of bird flu, including eye redness or irritation (conjunctivitis), cough, sore throat, sneezing, runny/stuffy nose, muscle/body aches, headaches, fatigue, fever, trouble breathing, seizures, rash, diarrhea, nausea, and/or vomiting. People exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare provider and local health department.

In February, Savage Pet was made aware of one cat in Colorado who contracted H5N1, got sick and recovered. Colorado State University Laboratory tested sealed packets of Savage Cat Food using PCR testing for H5N1. The PCR test results were "non-negative". The product with "non-negative" PCR results was sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa for virus isolation testing.

The product in question was removed from the market while awaiting final test results. On 02/17/25 every retailer who may have received the lot code in question was contacted and informed to return it for proper destruction.

On 03/06/25 the NVSL virus isolation testing results confirmed the virus to be negative.

On 3/13/2025 Savage Pet was made aware of an additional case in New York of a kitten that was feeding lot 11152026 who contracted avian flu. Further testing is ongoing. To ensure maximum safety we are modifying our market withdrawal to a recall.

The product with lot code/best by date of 11152026 was distributed in November 2024. The boxes are cardboard and contain individual plastic packets inside. The lot code/best by date is stamped on the bottom and on each packet.

Do not feed the recalled product to pets or animals. Do not sell or donate the recalled products. Consumers who have purchased this lot code are urged to immediately return it to their retailer for proper destruction and a full refund.



**WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT!**

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

FACEBOOK.COM/LCSO.ACTF



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!

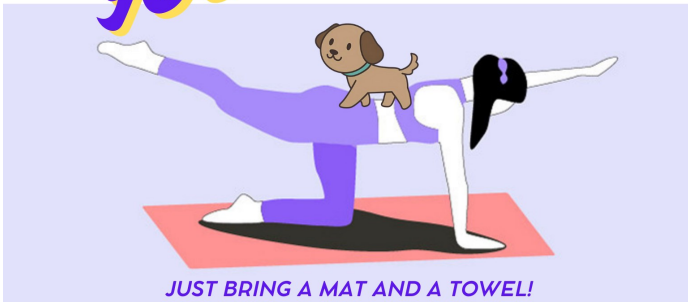
CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT 1-800-780-TIPS (8477)

TO PROTECT ANIMALS WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES.

Paid by CSTF

JOIN THE LEE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
AND THE
GULF COAST HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR

FREE
**DOGGY
YOGA**



JUST BRING A MAT AND A TOWEL!

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



WHEN: TUESDAY,
APRIL 15, 2025
2:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

SPACE IS LIMITED!
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!
EMAIL GLEVINE@SHERIFFLEEFL.ORG

COFFEE AND ICED TEA
GENEROUSLY DONATED
BY
STARBUCKS AT MIROMAR OUTLETS

LEE COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL SERVICES
"WEEKEND WARRIOR" PROGRAM

You'd love to adopt a pet...but travel often.

You'd love to foster a pet...but you're a seasonal resident.

Have you heard of the Lee County Domestic Animal Services "Weekend Warrior" program?

This program allows you to "foster" for a weekend...or for a week...or for however long you wish!

Shelter animals, like people, feel stress and anxiety. A weekend out of the shelter, in a safe and loving environment, does wonders for many of these furry folks.

For additional information regarding the "Weekend Warrior" program, please call 239-533-7387.



COME OUT TO LEE COUNTY DOMESTIC
ANIMAL SERVICES AND SAY HELLO TO RODNEY!

Rodney is only one year and seven months old.

He is available to be fostered through the "Weekend Warrior" program (foster for a weekend, a week, or a lifetime...if you fall in love!).



Rodney is a pit-mix weighing 55 lbs., is as handsome as they come and comes with ProHeart® heartworm treatment...which lasts for one year!

Rodney deserves a safe and loving place to call home. Can you help?

Meet Rodney at Lee County Domestic Animal Services located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers...or call 239-533-7387.

THE ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE AND
THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN

A key component to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force is our ongoing effort to educate our county's children regarding the importance of respect for animals and their obligation to obey statutes and ordinances related to the protection of animals.

In addition to the obvious benefit to our pets, livestock and wildlife, these lessons help to instill important values...empathy for others and compassion for all living things!

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar." -Bradley Millar



"CHECK THE CHIP" MICROCHIPPING EVENT

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force and Lee County Domestic Animal Services worked diligently to meet, greet and microchip dogs and cats at the LCSO Community Outreach Center at Gulf Coast Town Center.

All canines and felines were initially checked to see if they were already microchipped and, if not, they were chipped at no cost.

Pets have an uncanny way of "getting out" and have a far better chance of being returned home when chipped. Please ensure that your pets are all microchipped!



MEET "BENJI"

Benji is a big boy...a male Great Dane mix.

According to staff at the Animal Refuge Center, Benji is a playful, energetic and loving kind of guy...hoping for his forever home.



He needs room to run and frolic and needs lots of love.

Does this sound like your home?

Come out to the Animal Refuge Center, located at 18011 Old Bayshore Road in

North Fort Myers...or call 239-731-3535 for additional information.



ZERO TOLERANCE.

ZERO EXCUSES.

ZERO EXCEPTIONS.



PET BAD BREATH

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

Bad mouth odor in pets IS NOT NORMAL!

Often, it is from dental disease but, more importantly, it can be a sign of an oral tumor. Besides a foul mouth odor, other symptoms of an oral tumor include increased salivation with or without blood, not chewing properly or leaving food in the dish, blood in the food or water bowl, or a visible mass in the oral cavity.

Your veterinarian may want to sample the oral mass, sometimes under sedation, using either a needle for cytology or a surgical biopsy. It is important to know what the mass is...as many are malignant...but benign lesions do exist.

Once your veterinarian determines exactly what the mass is, they will know how wide of an excision is needed to remove it and check nearby lymph nodes or a chest x-ray to see if the tumor has spread (metastasized). Unfortunately, the veterinarian cannot just look at the mass and tell you what it is as several possibilities exist.

The incidence of oral tumors in pets has increased likely due to improved medical care and makes up 6-7% of all cancers in dogs. Sadly, there are more malignant oral tumors than benign. Examples of malignant canine tumors include melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma and fibrosarcoma.

A benign oral mass is an acanthomatous ameloblastoma, formerly called an epulis. Melanoma has the highest potential to metastasize while ameloblastomas tend to locally invade tissues. As with most tumors, early recognition carries a better prognosis as the smaller the mass, the less invasive surgery is needed.

Please see your veterinarian for ANY foul mouth odor or if you do not feel able or comfortable examining your pet's mouth!

