

ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2025

"PACO" UPDATE...

Back in June of 2022, the Lee County Sheriff's Office discovered Paco limping on North Cleveland Avenue in North Fort Myers, Florida.

Paco was found with the dog's muzzle taped and his legs bound together with the same tape. The canine was unsteadily moving about with vehicular traffic whizzing past him in both directions.



Subsequently, Emerito Marquez (DOB 06-14-1997) was arrested and accepted a plea deal for his abusive act (90 days in jail and five years of probation).

With the help of South Florida Mutt Rescue, Paco was placed in one of their foster homes and eventually adopted by his foster parents.

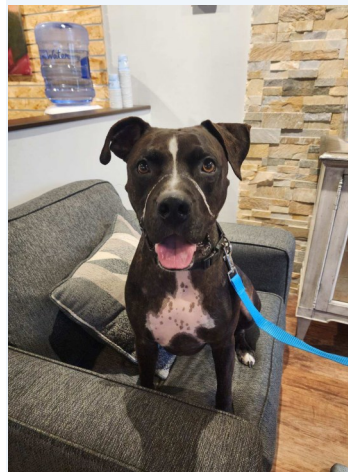
The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force had the absolute pleasure of seeing Paco, now "Saint," three years after his rescue.

Saint is MAGNIFICENT! He is such a happy boy and his parents love him beyond measure! He is full of life, grateful for his new family and fun to be around!

Look into this animal's eyes...before and after. Look closely.

(Paco...continued)

This demonstrates the value and importance of protecting our animals. This is tangible evidence of how we can all come together, in varying capacities, and better the lives of animals who have had the misfortune of having contact with the worst parts of humanity.



We all have the ability to contribute in some capacity. Insist that your local law enforcement agency maintains a "zero-tolerance" policy in regard to animal abuse. Foster/adopt homeless pets in need of a better life. Volunteer at your local animal shelter.

Together, we can turn "Pacos" into "Saints."



ZERO TOLERANCE.

ZERO EXCUSES.

ZERO EXCEPTIONS.



CAT URINATION OUTSIDE OF THE LITTER BOX

Dr. Megan Davis DVM

Suburban Animal Hospital

Cats urinating outside their litter box can be a common complaint from owners. Broadly speaking, we can break the causes down into 3 categories: litter box problems, medical reasons, and behavioral factors

Litter box problems

Is it clean enough? Boxes should be scooped at least daily (ideally twice daily) and fully cleaned/changed weekly.

Are there enough? General rule of thumb is number of cats plus one. So one cat should have two boxes, two cats should have three, etc.



Are they accessible? A multi-story home should have one on each floor. In a multi-cat home, the boxes should be in different locations (ex. not all in the laundry room) so if one cat is guarding a box, the other cat has one elsewhere they can use. Overweight and arthritic cats may struggle to get into a box with high sides.

Did you change something? Cats can be very sensitive to changes in scent or texture. Did you switch fragrance or brand because a different kind was on sale?

Medical reasons

Your vet is likely to start with a urinalysis but may also

recommend bloodwork and/or xrays

Possible medical reasons for undesirable urination include

- Urinary tract infection
- Sterile cystitis
- Urinary crystals
- Bladder stones
- Kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Arthritis



(Cat Urination...continued)

Behavioral factors

Cats are very sensitive to stress and things that seem minor to us can be upsetting to them. Did you recently move? Have you been away on vacation? Did you have visitors stay with you? Is work being done on the house? Is there a new baby? Is there a new stray cat in the neighborhood? Any of these changes in routine can trigger painful inflammatory changes in a cat bladder! They are not urinating outside the box to be spiteful.

Once the cause has been determined, some of my favorite products to help with house soiling are:

- Enzymatic cleaners such as Nature's Miracle
- Pheromone diffusers like Feliway
- Litter box attracts ex. Dr Elsey's Cat Attract litter or additive
- For overweight or senior cats KittyGoHere makes a large box with low sides



KITTENS & COFFEE

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force hosted a "Kittens & Coffee" event at the Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Center at Miromar Outlets.



Lee County Domestic Animal Services

brought ten cuddly and adorable kittens in need of safe and loving forever homes; nine of them were adopted.

Special thanks to Starbucks of Miromar

Outlets for providing coffee and tea for all of our guests!



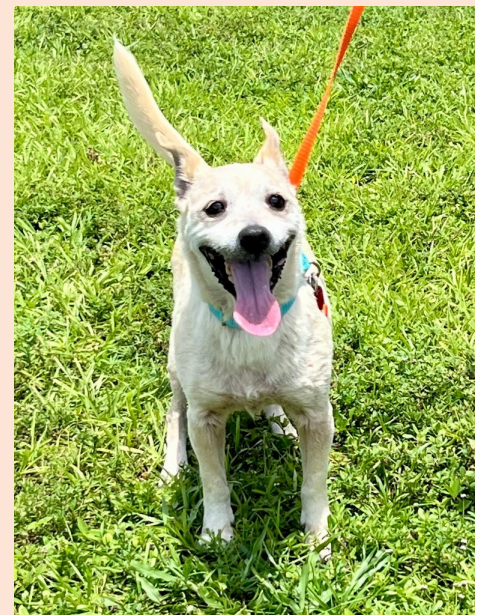
MEET "EVERETT"

This senior pooch is a snuggly guy in search of a safe and loving home.

Loyal and sweet, Everett would benefit from a quiet and relaxed atmosphere where he can be loved and appreciated.

Senior dogs are often ignored...walked past and overlooked by potential adopters.

Come out to the Cape Coral Animal Shelter & Veterinary Clinic, located at 325 SW 2nd Avenue in Cape Coral, and say hello to this sweetie. For additional information, please call 239-573-2002.



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

FOSTERING SHELTER ANIMALS SAVES LIVES

- FOOD PROVIDED
- VETERINARY CARE PROVIDED
- TOYS/SUPPLIES PROVIDED

**YOU PROVIDE
THE LOVE!**

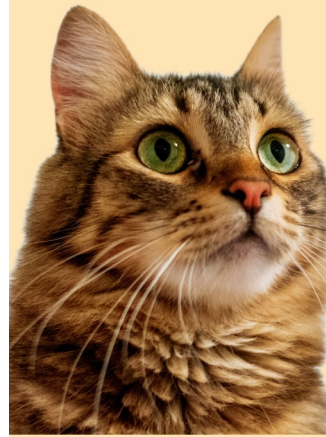


**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE EMAIL GARY LEVINE AT
GLEVINE@SHERIFFLEEFL.ORG**

**WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT!**

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

FACEBOOK.COM/LCSO.ACTF



REHOMING AN ANIMAL?

Always check the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Abuse Registry to ensure that your rehomed pet is not being given to a convicted animal abuser!



Join
the Lee County Sheriff's Office
and the Cape Coral Animal Shelter
for our

"Dine & Donate"

at Ford's Garage - Cape Coral

It's easy!

Just come out for lunch or dinner at Ford's Garage
(Cape Coral location)
and mention

"Cape Coral Animal Shelter Dine & Donate!"

Ford's Garage will generously donate 15% of your check to
the shelter!

Where:

Ford's Garage
1719 Cape Coral Parkway,
Cape Coral

When:

Thursday,
September 18, 2025
All day event
11:00 am to 10:00 pm

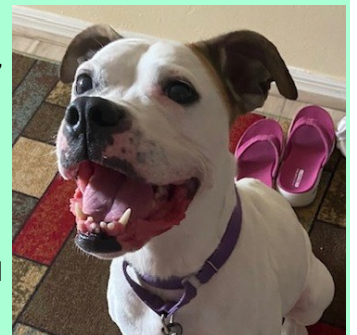


MEET "MARLEY"

Reportedly, this senior fellow has lived a difficult life, full of neglect, and lacking love. According to the shelter, Marley arrived in poor condition having been extremely neglected.

This affectionate and snuggly guy simply wishes to be near you.

An eight-year-old Boxer mix, Marley qualifies for the "Silver Paws VIP Program." If you're 65 or older, the Gulf Coast Humane Society waives the adoption fee and provides free veterinary care through their wellness clinic.



Come out to Gulf Coast Humane Society, located at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers, and meet this furry sweetie. For additional information, please call 239-332-0364.

"It takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal."

-Joaquin Phoenix



THE HORSE-HUMAN BOND: HEALING THROUGH CONNECTION

By Kim Aquedo

Animals and Kids Rescue

For centuries, horses and humans have shared a remarkable bond. More than companions, horses have an extraordinary ability to connect with people on an emotional level, often reaching places where words fall short. At Animals & Kids Rescue, we see every day how this bond can open doors to healing for children, teens, and families.



Horses are prey animals—deeply sensitive to body language, tone, and energy. They respond with honesty, without judgment, reflecting back what they sense in the people around them. If someone is anxious, a horse may become restless. When that person calms their breathing and steadies their body, the horse often softens in response. This natural mirroring allows people to externalize what's happening inside of them, gaining new perspective on their emotions and behaviors. From there, true internal change can begin.

This approach is the foundation of equine-assisted therapy models like EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association), which focus on experiential learning with horses. Rather than telling people what to feel or think, horses give immediate, honest feedback that helps individuals see their struggles and strengths more clearly.

Science supports what horse people have always known intuitively:

Heart rate synchronization can occur between humans and horses during calm interaction, promoting regulation and connection.

Working with horses can lower cortisol, the stress hormone, reducing anxiety and improving mood.

Studies show equine-assisted therapy benefits individuals coping with PTSD, depression, anxiety, and trauma recovery, offering a safe and powerful avenue for healing.

At Animals & Kids Rescue, our programs go beyond horsemanship. While children and teens learn to care for, lead, and ride horses, they are also developing resilience, self-awareness, and trust. Each interaction becomes a lesson in patience, communication, and self-worth. The horse is not only a partner in growth but also a mirror of the heart—helping young people and families find new hope and strength.

The horse-human bond is more than companionship - it is a bridge. It connects us back to ourselves, to others, and to healing we may not have believed possible. We are blessed to witness these transformations every day, as horses and people walk the journey of healing together.

