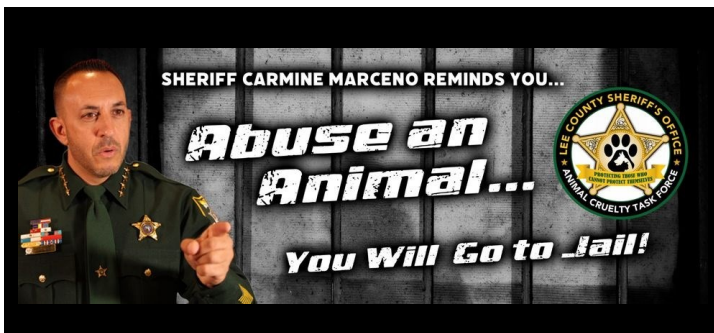


ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE

NEWSLETTER



JULY 2025



Join the Lee County Sheriff's Office and
Lee County Domestic Animal Services
for

"KITTENS & COFFEE"

A kitten and cat adoption event!

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

When:
Thursday,
August 7, 2025
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Refreshments
generously provided
by Starbucks of
Miromar Outlets



Join the Lee County Sheriff's Office,
the Gulf Coast Humane Society and
Moose's March for an incredibly
important and informative

FREE Lunch & Learn

"What You NEED to Know
about Pet Cancer"

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

When: Thursday,
August 20, 2025
from 11:30 am to
1:00 pm

Lunch generously
provided by
Naples Flatbread
Kitchen & Bar



**IMPORTANT: Registration is required
as seating is limited!**
Email glevine@sheriffleefl.org

We're giving away 5 FREE
Oncotect Pet Cancer
Screening Tests



ZERO TOLERANCE.

ZERO EXCUSES.

ZERO EXCEPTIONS.



CLEANING DOG'S AND CAT'S EARS!

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

Let's face it...when your veterinarian prescribes an ear cleaner, you know it isn't going to be easy! Pets really dislike liquids put into their ears...and do we blame them?! Here's a few tips/suggestions regarding pets' ear health:

Dogs, cats and humans have "epithelial migration" meaning a "natural" process of keeping the ear clean where the surface cells (epithelial cells) are shed outward on a regular basis bringing with them wax, debris and other secretions. It is for this reason that OVERCLEANING can disrupt this process.

When an owner asks me how often they should clean their pet's ears, my answer is if there's nothing wrong with the ears... then don't! You don't want to upset this normal epithelial migration.

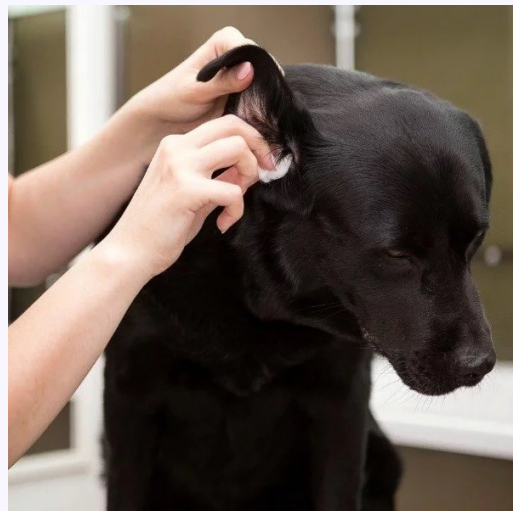
Are cat's ears treated the same way as dog's ears? NO-cat's ears tend to hold in whatever topical you've put in which is why most veterinary dermatologists do not use a lot of topical medications when it comes to cat's ear infections.

Before instilling ANY liquid medication prescribed by your veterinarian as a cleaner, be sure to bring it to room temperature. Cold liquids placed in the ear are not only unpleasant but can cause nausea and vomiting (which can occur in humans also).

Be sure to consult with your veterinarian in using the proper ear cleaner for mild, waxy discharge, propylene glycol (don't use in cats) may be enough. If wax is the problem, a cerumenolytic should be used to break down the wax. If infection is present, then an ear smear performed by your veterinarian is needed to determine if yeast or bacteria are present, then the appropriate topical medication is needed i.e. anti-yeast or antibacterial. A topical steroid is often used as maintenance to reduce inflammation in the ear canal to keep it a normal thickness and reduce glandular activity.

And finally, it is important to get to the underlying reason for the ear infection. Are there underlying environmental or food allergies? Is the dog hypothyroid? Is there a tumor or a foreign body in the ear? Is there a polyp present (more common in cats)?

Because there are no suitable over the counter (OTC) pet ear medications, it is important to see your veterinarian to address ANY ear issues and prescribe proper medications!



SHERIFF CARMINE MARCENO REMINDS YOU...

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



ANTIOXIDANTS AND THE AGING CANINE

Much like humans, cognition in the aging dog decreases. Both canines and humans accumulate deposits of beta-amyloid in the brain and, as a result, both show impaired learning and memory.

Senior canines were separated into two groups, only one of which was fed a diet including antioxidants.

According to the study, antioxidant consumption led to improvement in areas of memory and learning.

Consider adding a few of these dog-friendly, antioxidant-rich foods to your dog's diet. Do so slowly to ensure that your dog's digestive system will tolerate them:

Blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries

Cooked yellow squash, carrots, sweet potatoes

Steamed broccoli, spinach, kale, green beans

Always speak with your veterinarian prior to altering your dog's diet or providing supplements.



EXPANDING OUR REACH...

It is of primary importance, to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force, that our efforts and messages prompt other jurisdictions around the state and nation to create similar task forces to address the abuse and mistreatment of animals. Following and sharing our Facebook page helps disperse our messages across the country! Follow us at [Facebook.com/LCSO.ACTF](https://www.facebook.com/LCSO.ACTF).



**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)

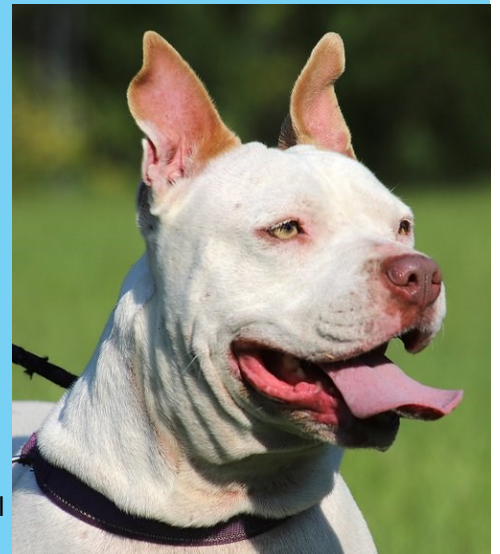


MEET "PRETTY LADY!"

Pretty Lady was surrendered because her owner was disinterested in caring for her.

Sadly, Pretty Lady deserved much better as she is a sweet, loving girl who enjoys playing.

If you are in search of unconditional love and companionship, please come out to the Animal Refuge Center located at 18011 Old Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers or call 239-731-3535.



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**

DONATIONS FOR GULF COAST HUMANE SOCIETY

Thank you to all who donated shelter supplies to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force.

These supplies are divided and distributed to shelters and rescues in Lee County.

Today's batch consisted primarily of cat food, towels, sheets and pillows and were delivered to Gulf Coast Humane Society.



For additional information regarding donations, please email glevine@sheriffleeefl.org.

INCREASED TEMPERATURES, SIZZLING PAVEMENT CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY TO YOUR DOG

Temperatures are rising...

With the unseasonably hot temperatures comes increased ground temperatures.

While we move about with footwear on our feet, our canines' metatarsal and digital pads come in direct contact with the heated ground.

As the thermometer begins to exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit, the ground beneath our feet heats to a temperature that can cause discomfort, pain and even serious injury to your dog's pads.

These pads do an amazing job in regard to shock absorption and traction, but are not suited to tolerate hot pavement, pavers or asphalt.

Most dog owners fail to realize that the air temperature and the ground temperature are vastly different and that even short walks on these hot surfaces are hazardous to your dog.

It is a good practice to hold your bare hand...palm included...on the sunlit ground for a period of ten full seconds. If you feel pain or discomfort, so will your canine.

We recognize the quandary. Dogs need to be walked. We live in a tropical climate. It's a predicament, for certain.

Whenever possible, walk your dog on grass or soil. As odd as it may sound, there are also canine shoes/socks that are available and inexpensive. It may take a bit of time for Fido to grow accustomed to wearing them, however, it is far better than exposing him to the sizzling pavement.

PROTECT YOUR DOG'S PAWS

AIR TEMP	CONCRETE	ASPHALT
80°F	95°F	115°F
85°F	105°F	130°F
90°F	125°F	140°F
95°F	140°F	155°F

PLACE YOUR FULL PALM ON THE
GROUND FOR 10 SECONDS.

IF IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOUR HAND, IT'S
TOO HOT FOR YOUR DOG'S PAWS!

HYDROCEPHALUS IN OUR CANINE AND FELINE COMPANIONS

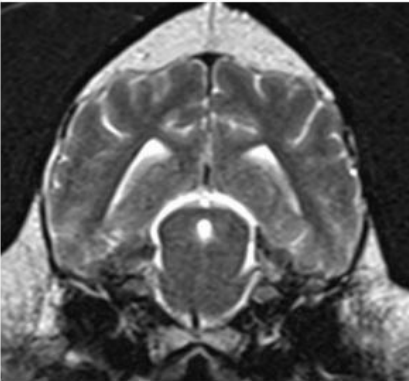
Dr. Missy Carpentier, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

Minnesota Veterinary Neurology

Hydrocephalus is a condition where there is too much spinal fluid trapped in the brain. You may have heard of it referred to as “too much water on the brain”.

The type of hydrocephalus that we treat most commonly in cats and dogs is called obstructive hydrocephalus, which is caused by obstruction (blockage) of the normal flow of the spinal fluid out of the brain and skull. Due to the buildup of spinal fluid, it puts pressure on the normal brain tissue and causes it to atrophy (get smaller). Over time, the atrophy can lead to permanent loss of the brain tissue and neurologic signs.

Normal dog brain. The bright (white) areas are showing the normal spinal fluid that should be present in the brain



Clinical signs:

This is often a congenital condition and therefore is most commonly present in young patients. The classic signs that young patients with hydrocephalus will present for is a dome-shaped skull, “sun-set” eyes (the eyes point down and towards the side), behavior changes, seizures, visual deficits, and difficulty walking. The

other most common reason that patients can develop obstructive hydrocephalus is secondary

to a brain tumor blocking the spinal fluid’s ability to exit the skull. These patients are normally older.

Diagnosis:

In some young, small dogs with hydrocephalus, they have a fontanelle (an opening in their skull) that allows us to ultrasound the brain through the fontanelle to diagnosis hydrocephalus. This is less common in medium and large breed dogs due to their thicker skull. Most commonly, a MRI or CT is recommended. The MRI is

preferred over the CT, because the MRI is better at delineating all of the brain structures. This is important, because it is common that dogs that have 1 congenital abnormality can have many and we want to be sure that we are getting the whole story with the brain anatomy to come up with the best treatment plan.

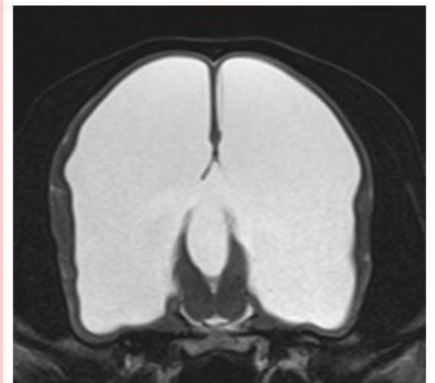
Treatment:

There are both medical and surgical treatment options. Surgical treatment is preferred, as this has a better long term outcome for the patient. That being said, not all patients are surgical candidates, and this will be based not only on their clinical presentation, but also their MRI findings. For example, some patients that have lost too much brain tissue or have multiple congenital abnormalities are not good surgical candidates.

Medical management consists of medications that control any associated inflammation in the brain and decrease the amount of spinal fluid that is being produced. Common medications routinely used include steroids and omeprazole (Prilosec). Other medications may be necessary based on the patient’s clinical signs, for example, patients with seizures will be placed on anti-seizure medication. Medical management is just that, management of the condition, but it is not a cure. Even though it isn’t a cure, many patients with mild clinical signs and mild MRI findings can do well with medical management.

Surgical management involves placing a shunt to give a direct path for the spinal fluid to exit the skull. One end of the

Dog with hydrocephalus. Note the significant amount of brightness (white) in this image in comparison to the normal dog brain



(Hydrocephalus in our Canine and Feline Companions...continued)

shunt is placed in a lateral ventricle in the brain and then the other end of the shunt is placed in the abdomen.

The shunt allows a permanent pathway for the spinal fluid to exit the skull and many patients will do great with this procedure. As with any surgical procedure, there are always risks and one of the largest risks is a post-operative infection. If the shunt gets infected, that can lead to it getting clogged and no longer being able to do its job. Luckily, this is not common, but the neurologist you are working with will always go through the risks with you to be sure that you are well prepared for all the possible outcomes.

I hope this article has provided you with helpful information on hydrocephalus. If you have a pet that you think has hydrocephalus, please feel free to reach out to us or your local veterinary neurologist. This is one of my favorite surgeries to perform, because I love giving young dogs and cats a chance at a fulfilling life when they otherwise wouldn't have one.

(Photos courtesy Dr. Missy Carpentier)

Pictured below is a post operative radiograph of a patient that had a ventriculoperitoneal shunt placed to treat his hydrocephalus.

The blue arrow is pointing to the shunt in the brain and the red arrow is pointing to the shunt in the abdomen.



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 US!

FREE* *DOGGY*
YOGA



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

WHEN: ,
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025
2:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS
GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY

→ SEATING IS LIMITED!
RESERVATION REQUIRED
EMAIL GARY LEVINE AT
GLEVINE@SHERIFFLEEFL.ORG

*DONATIONS TO GULF COAST HUMANE APPRECIATED

