

ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2025

ARRESTED...AGAIN

When the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force continues to highlight the link between animal abuse and other criminal activity, there is a valid reason.

Case in point...Jerry Speed III.

Following a lengthy investigation regarding the death of two canines, Jerry Speed III was arrested for the 29th time. On this occasion, Speed was charged with Aggravated Animal Cruelty, Abandonment of Animals and Violation of Probation.

Prior arrests include drug trafficking, weapons charges, hit and run, burglary, battery and much more, and demonstrate the connection between the mistreatment of animals and a variety of illicit activities.



Lee County Sheriff's Office deputies arrived on scene and discovered two canines in wire crates...one deceased, one needing to be euthanized. Both dogs were covered in feces.

The crate bottoms were covered in feces and urine and water bowls contained the same brown liquid found at the bottom of the crates.

Detectives found no signs of food or fresh drinking water.

**ANIMAL ABUSERS
ARE FIVE TIMES MORE
LIKELY TO HARM A
HUMAN BEING.**



CHECK THE
ANIMAL ABUSE
REGISTRY



BEFORE REHOMING A PET.

RAW BISTRO RECALL

Company Announcement

October 9, 2025 – Raw Bistro Pet Fare, Cannon Falls, MN is voluntarily recalling two product sizes of its frozen beef dog food because they may be contaminated with Salmonella.

Raw Bistro Dog Fare Grass-Fed Beef Entrée, Frozen – 3 lb bags (UPC 858833002247) Lot 239, Best By 08/27/2026.

Raw Bistro Dog Fare Grass-Fed Beef Entrée, Bulk, Frozen – 18 lb cases (UPC 858833002629) Lot 239, Best By 08/27/2026.

Both of the above products have a “Best By” date of 08/27/2026 and lot number 239 printed on the packaging near the bottom of the back of the bag or box.

Cause of Recall and Testing Background

The potential for contamination was identified after an FDA-collected sample from a distributor tested positive for Salmonella. To date, no illness of pets or humans related to this lot has been reported.

Consumer Instructions

If you have the recalled product:

Do not feed it to pets or any other animals.

Do not sell or donate the recalled product.

Clean and sanitize pet food bowls, scoops, utensils, storage containers, and any surfaces that may have come into contact with the product.

Wash hands thoroughly after handling pet food or any surfaces exposed to the food.

Consumers who purchased the recalled product should return it to the place of purchase for a refund on any remaining product or dispose of it in a way that prevents access by children, pets, or wildlife.



FOODYNAMICS RECALL

Company Announcement

Wales, WI — Foodynamics is voluntarily recalling specific lots of Raw Dog Barkery, BellePepper Cats, and Kanu Pets brand freeze dried pet treats because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. Salmonella can affect animals eating the products and there is risk to humans handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after contacting the products or any surfaces exposed to the products.

Healthy people infected with Salmonella should monitor themselves for 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 infected products should contact their healthcare providers.

Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have only 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 the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

The recalled products were shipped from Wisconsin via UPS to retailers in Wisconsin, New York, and Florida. A total of 7 packages were distributed to consumers in these areas.

4 recalled Raw Dog Barkery products were packaged in 3 oz. and 16 oz. (1 lb.) packages and the “Use By” date (also the Lot #) is printed on a sticker on the back label of the packaging. Labels below. These products were distributed SimplyDried Treats, Magpies Gourmet Dog Treats, and What’s In the Bowl Delafield in Wisconsin.

2 packages of recalled BellePepper Cats products were sold by the retailer in New York in 3 oz. packaged plastic bags labeled “Freeze Dried Chicken Heart Slices” with a “Use By” sticker on the back listing 031627. Recalled products from Use By / Lot #’s 121426 and 011526 may have also been included in samples offered by the retailer as freeze dried pet treats. Labels below.

1 package of recalled Kanu Pets products was sold by the retailer in Florida in a 3 oz. packaged plastic bag labeled “Freeze Dried Chicken Heart Raw treats” and had a Use By / Lot # sticker on the back label of 031627. Labels below.

Foodynamics successfully traced 100% of the product distribution within hours of the recall notice and has contacted all direct customers. No adverse health effects have been reported in pets or humans to date.

The recall is the result of FDA sampling which revealed the presence of Salmonella. Foodynamics has ceased the production and distribution of the product while it works with the FDA to continue its investigation into what caused the problem.

Foodynamics is in contact with all retailers that have purchased these products and instructed them to immediately examine inventory and quarantine all product subject to the recall. Retailers will receive a refund for all recalled products. Consumers are urged to immediately return recalled product to the place of purchase for a full refund.

Do not feed the recalled product to pets or any other animals. The product should be disposed of in a way that children, pets, and wildlife cannot access it. Do not sell or donate the recalled products. Wash and sanitize pet food bowls, cups, and storage containers. Always ensure you wash and sanitize your hands after handling recalled food along with any utensils and surfaces that come in contact with recalled food or treats. For information or any questions, contact Teresa Perry at info@foodynamics.com or call (262) 421-5339, Monday- Friday 9 AM to 5 PM CST.

COLUMBUS DAY CAT ADOPTION EVENT

In August of 1492 Italian navigator, Christopher Columbus, set sail from the port of Palos de la Frontera in southern Spain.



More than half a millennium later...and well over four thousand miles away...we spent Columbus Day working to find loving homes for cats and kittens.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force hosted Haven on Earth Animal League at our Community Outreach Center at Miromar Outlets.



Mall shoppers, tourists and retail store staff came by to see the adorable felines and, in some cases, adopt a furry-family-member.

Special thanks to Starbucks at Miromar Outlets for providing refreshments for all of our guests!

HAMSTERS AS PETS

For those who have no fear of or disdain for rodents, few pets are more adorable than hamsters!

An excellent first pet for young children, hamsters enjoy exploring their environment, crawling beneath their bedding and are surprisingly intelligent.

Now, the bad news...they're nocturnal.

While your child sleeps, your furry buddy will be wildly active. Squeaky hamster wheels, gnawing and the clanking of the water bottle, throughout the overnight hours, may be disturbing to some. Hamsters will sleep primarily during the daylight hours, meaning that you child will need to wake them in order to play with them.



Hamsters happily eat store-bought mixtures of seeds, timothy hay and small amounts of fresh fruit and

vegetables. They require a constant supply of fresh, clean water, as well.

Hamsters do well in small, enclosed environment such a fish tanks. There are many elaborate hamster "residences" available and they seem to enjoy the intricate habitats that include tubes, wheels and other activities. Cages/habitats need to be cleaned often and well; uncleaned cages emit quite an unpleasant odor!

Young children should always be supervised when interacting with hamsters as they can easily escape and, on occasion, bite. Finding a missing hamster can be quite the adventure!

The average lifespan of a hamster is two years. Hamsters, in captivity, can live longer with proper nutrition and health care.

COMMUNAL DOG BOWLS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Dr. Megan Davis DVM
Suburban Animal Hospital

It is important that our dogs have access to water when we're out and about, especially during our southwest Florida summer months where there is a high risk of dehydration and heat stroke.

While there may be times that using a communal water bowl is unavoidable, pet owners should be aware that there may be some risks. These risks are higher for puppies, older dogs and those with compromised immune systems (long time steroid use, chemotherapy, etc).

Intestinal parasites

Fecal contamination of a water bowl could lead to your dog becoming infected with hookworms, roundworms, Coccidia or Giardia. This is likely common at dog parks where a large number of dogs defecate and the soil may already be contaminated with these parasites. A dog stepping in a water bowl or pawing at the side of it could easily result in fecal particles entering the water. Giardia, in particular, thrives in water.

Leptospirosis

Lepto is a bacterial infection that affects the liver and kidneys and can be fatal (it is also transmissible to people!). The organism concentrates in standing water that has been infected by the urine of affected animals. Depending how often the bowl is cleaned and if it stays out overnight there is a chance it could have become contaminated by rodents, raccoons or opossums.

Blue green algae

More common in ponds and lakes but blue green algae can form in any standing fresh water, especially during hot dry weather. The bacteria itself is not visible to the naked eye but if a slime/film is noticed on the surface of the water or the water has a green tinge to it then algae may be present.

Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (AKA Kennel Cough)

The usual route of transmission is close contact with other dogs who cough or sneeze in proximity to your pet. However just like the common cold in people, viruses can live on surfaces that were contaminated by sick pet.

Canine Papilloma Virus

This results in wart like lesions in and around the mouth and is spread by the drool of infected dogs. The virus can live on the edges of water bowls. This is one I see commonly in puppies that go to day care facilities.

The lowest risk is to carry a bowl with you for your dog's personal use. I like the collapsible silicone bowls for convenience but there are numerous products available including bottles/flasks with foldable bowls attached.

When using a communal bowl is unavoidable, the safest is likely to be a stainless steel one as the material is more resistant to harboring organisms than plastic ones. Bowls at restaurants or shops are likely washed more often than ones you find at a dog park or along a walking trail.



OPPOSED TO ANIMAL ABUSE AND MISTREATMENT? HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

By following the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force on Facebook...and by asking friends, relatives and neighbors to do so, as well...you help us keep others informed about our efforts, encourage others to report animal abuse and assist us to share vital information regarding recalls, pet care and issues that might affect a family pet.

Additionally, it is our hope that by sharing our successes, other jurisdictions make the decision to form a task force of their own!

Visit us at www.facebook.com/LCSO.ACTF and click "Follow!"



PETTING YOUR DOG RELEASES THE "LOVE HORMONE"

The hormone, Oxytocin, is produced in the Hypothalamus and released into the bloodstream by the Pituitary Gland.

According to "Psychology Today" magazine, "Oxytocin has been called 'the cuddle hormone' or 'the love hormone' due to its association with pair bonding. It appears to help reinforce the early attachment between mothers and their infants, as well as the bonds between romantic partners."



Clearly, increases in the level of Oxytocin encourages prosocial, loving and trusting behaviors. It is a hormone that plays a significant role in most infant-mother interactions, sexual activity, empathy, relationship-building, stress relief and many other positive human activities and experiences.

Reach down and scratch Fido behind his ears...scratch his belly...pet him in any manner and you will experience an increase in your plasma Oxytocin levels...and he will, too!



"DINE & DONATE" TO BENEFIT CAPE CORAL ANIMAL SHELTER

Special thanks to Ford's Garage Cape Coral for hosting an incredible "Dine & Donate" to benefit the Cape Coral Animal Shelter & Veterinary Clinic.



The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force is so grateful for those who came out to support the effort!

RECALL

Best Buy Bones, Inc. Recalls Nature's Own Pet Chews Bully Bites Because of Possible Salmonella Health Risk

Company Announcement

Best Buy Bones, Inc. of Mount Morris, Michigan is recalling four lots of Nature's Own Pet Chews Bully Bites 1 Pound pet treats in 16 oz. bags with a shared expiration date of September 2027 because it has the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. Salmonella 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 having contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Healthy people infected with Salmonella should monitor themselves for some or all of 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 this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have only 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 the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

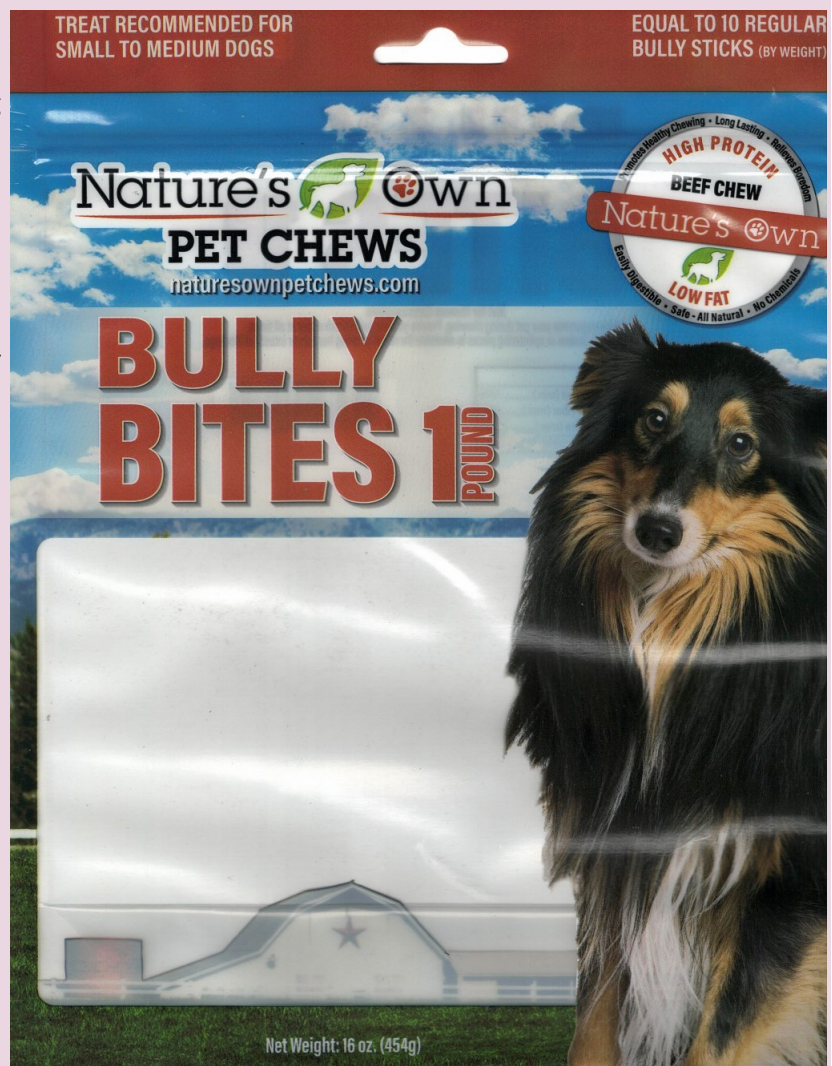
34 bags of Nature's Own Pet Chews Bully Bites 1 Pound pet treats were distributed out of Minnesota and sold through retail stores in Wisconsin after September 23.

Nature's Own Pet Chews brand Bully Bites, UPC# 739598900750, are sold in a 16 oz., resealable plastic pouch 11" high, 9.5" wide, 3.5" deep on the bottom and have a Best Buy date of September 2027 located on a tag on the bottom of the pouch. The lots are 19379, 19380, 19381, and 19382.

No illnesses in dogs have been reported to date.

The health risk was discovered when samples of the product were collected on September 11, 2025, and tested by the Food and Drug Administration. The product tested positive for Salmonella. The company has ceased production and distribution of this product as the FDA, and the company continue their investigation into what caused the problem.

Consumers who purchased 16 oz. bags of Nature's Own Pet Chews Bully Bites after September 23, 2025, are urged to return to the place of purchase or destroy the food in a way that children, pets, and wildlife cannot access it. Do not sell or donate the recalled products. Do not feed the recalled product to pets or any other animals. Wash and sanitize pet food bowls, cups, and storage containers. Always ensure you wash and sanitize your hands after handling recalled food or any utensils and surfaces that come in contact with recalled food. For more information, contact us at (810) 687-2106 Monday to Thursday 8am-5pm EST.



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

ITCHY AND SCRATCHY...

Dr. Megan Davis, DVM
Suburban Animal Hospital

Frequent itching/scratching, chewing and licking are some of the most common reasons for visiting the vet and there are a number of potential causes.

Parasites

Fleas are common all year round in Southwest Florida and even one bite can make your pup miserable! Often the pet ingests the flea when chewing on themselves so unless they have a heavy burden you may not see them on the dog. A common location for flea bites is near the base of the tail and on the back of the thighs. Your vet may recommend treatment for flea allergy dermatitis based on symptoms.

Sarcoptic mange (scabies)

Mites are microscopic so you won't see them with the naked eye. They can be transmitted by contact with an infected dog or contaminated environment (ex. kennels). As they burrow under the skin the dog will have an intense itch and will experience hair loss. Lesions tend to be on the edge of the ear flaps, elbows and on the belly. Sarcoptes in particular can be hard to find on skin scraping so your vet may suggest a blood antibody test or may start treatment if they think scabies is likely. Thankfully, many prescription flea and tick products also kill mange mites!

Skin infection

Skin infections are often caused by excessive itching but they may also be the primary problem! Redness, bumps, scabs, dry flakes, oozing sores and darkened skin can all indicate a skin infection by bacteria and/or yeast. Skin cytology or culture may be recommended to determine the appropriate course of treatment. Mild cases can be treated with medicated shampoo while more severe cases require oral medications for several weeks.



Contact dermatitis

Contact dermatitis results from direct contact with an irritating substance. This could be from something obvious like poison ivy but can also be caused by a change in floor cleaner or laundry detergent! The muzzle, belly and scrotum (areas with less fur) are typically where lesions occur. The skin will be very red, may be swollen and hives may appear.

Allergies

Environmental allergies are known as "canine atopic dermatitis" or atopy. Your dog's itch may be seasonal but it is not uncommon for them to react to pollens and molds year round. Itchy paws are one of the hallmarks of atopy. If your dog frequently licks or chews his feet then mention it to your vet at your next visit! Skin prick testing or serum analysis can be performed but often times we diagnose based on the signs and will trial a targeted allergy medication like Apoquel or Cytopoint. Dogs with allergies are prone to frequent skin and ear infections.

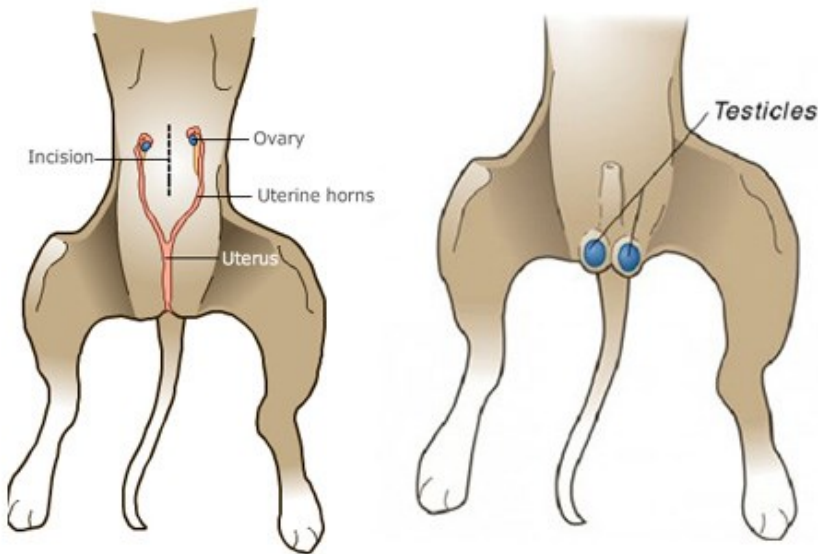
Food allergies

These are no where near as common as clients seem to think! Pets are itchy but often times have gastrointestinal issues as well. Symptoms usually start before a year of age or after 6 years old and there does not need to have been a recent diet change. Food allergies are diagnosed by feeding a prescription hypoallergenic or novel protein (ex. Kangaroo) diet for at least 8 weeks. The dog eats nothing but this food and if the itch goes away then the old diet is reintroduced. If the allergy symptoms return within a week then the diagnosis of food allergy is made.

INCREASING YOUR PET'S LIFESPAN

Who wouldn't do anything possible to extend their pet's longevity?

A study conducted using a database of 2.2 million canines and 460,000 felines concluded that spaying/neutering your pet extends the duration of their life.



Other studies indicate that this process lowers the risk of fatal infections, reduces the risk of reproductive cancers and lowers the likelihood of specific hormone related diseases.

The data showed that, on average, neutered male dogs lived 18% longer than unneutered dogs. The study additionally indicated a life expectancy increase of 23% for spayed female dogs.

As for cats, the results were even more impressive.

Neutered male cats showed a 62% increase in life expectancy, while spayed females lived 39% longer than unsprayed female cats.

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**

A BETTER LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND HORSES

ANIMALS AND KIDS RESCUE IS A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT ANIMAL RESCUE THAT PROVIDES EQUINE AND ANIMAL-ASSISTED EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT TO THOSE IN NEED.

JOIN THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
AND ANIMAL AND KIDS RESCUE
FOR A MOVING AND INFORMATIVE

"LUNCH & LEARN"

WHERE: LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMUNITY
OUTREACH CENTER AT MIROMAR OUTLETS
10901 CORKSCREW ROAD, SUITE 190, ESTERO

WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

LUNCH GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY
TACOS & TEQUILA CANTINA OF UNIVERSITY VILLAGE
10952 EAGLE VILLAGE DRIVE, ESTERO

