

ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE

NEWSLETTER



TOWELS, LINENS AND BLANKETS

It is unfathomable when one considers the volume of towels, linens and blankets that are utilized by our local animal shelters, rescues and sanctuaries.



The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force is absolutely blessed to have our community's steadfast support and, if not for these individuals and businesses, there is no

way that we could contribute the incredible volume of supplies to these shelters.

Several large donations of towels, linens and soft, plush blankets arrived over the course of the last week. The Animal Cruelty Task Force filled an agency



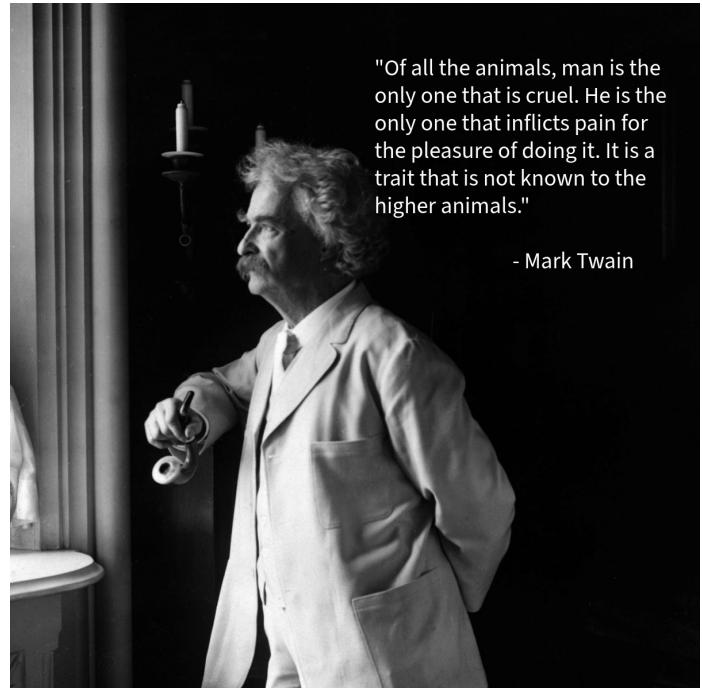
Explorer...every available inch...and delivered this load to the Animal Refuge Center in North Fort Myers.



Please keep the donated supplies coming! Everything...every single item...finds its way to one of our local animal not-for-profits and benefits our dogs, cats, birds, horses...you name it!

Supplies can be dropped off at the LCSO Community Outreach Center at Miromar Outlets, Suite 190, in Estero.

FEBRUARY 2026



"Of all the animals, man is the only one that is cruel. He is the only one that inflicts pain for the pleasure of doing it. It is a trait that is not known to the higher animals."

- Mark Twain



[ALWAYS CHECK THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRY BEFORE REHOMING PETS!](#)

FOLLOW THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM



IN LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA...



DO THIS...



GET THIS.



OUR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUES ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES:



Towels (cloth and paper), wet and dry dog and cat food (unopened), blankets, washcloths, disinfectant, disinfectant wipes, trash bags (13 gallon and 55 gallon), mops, buckets, squeegees, bleach, sponges, scrub pads, laundry detergent, Dawn dishwashing liquid, brooms and dustpans, dog and cat toys (especially toys for "heavy chewers"), six-foot leashes (non-retractable), collars, harnesses, potty pads, dog and cat treats (unopened, no rawhide products, please), puppy/kitten replacement milk, clumping cat litter, litter boxes, pet-grooming supplies, large Non-nylon chew bones (Augie Bones and BetterBone, for example), Kong toys, Isopropyl alcohol, Hydrogen peroxide, garden hoses and spray nozzles, baby bottles with 0-3 month nipples, pet crates (any size), nail clippers, stainless steel food and water bowls, cat scratch pads, cat towers, latex and non-latex gloves, Earth Rated® Dog Waste Bags, distilled water, glass cleaner and pet beds.



Please drop off donated supplies at the Lee County Sheriff's Office Miromar Community Outreach Center located in Suite 190 in the Miromar Outlets (10801 Corkscrew Road, Estero.)

ARE THEY KISSING? WHAT IS AFFILIATIVE BONDING?

The process of "affiliative bonding" is a sophisticated neurobiological form of communication that transmits trust and mutual comfort.

In this position, horses are co-regulating their nervous systems, lowering their heart rates, feeling one another's breathing patterns and sharing hormonal information through scent.

While this physical act isn't always indicative of affection, the nuzzling and nose-to-nose positioning is usually enjoyed by both animals.

Additionally, the meeting of muzzles results during grooming as horses nibble at one another's neck, shoulders and withers as a way to strengthen social bonds.

These acts are non-aggressive and promote trust between the animals.

Horses are very particular in regard to the partners that they choose and, through this social coordination, form extremely strong bonds.



PUPPY MILLS...

Puppies and profit often go hand-in-hand.

Most dog owners have heard the term "puppy mill," but few truly understand the horrific conditions faced by the dogs bred in these commercial breeding facilities.

More puppies equate to more profit, so space is at a premium in these puppy mills.

Cages are exceptionally small and puppies are forced to lie nearly motionless in their own feces and urine.

Proper veterinary care can become expensive and labor-intensive and is often absent.

Dogs are continuously bred, are not walked or permitted to exercise and their offspring often suffer from genetically-transmitted diseases.

Those of us who care deeply for these animals must do our part to end such operations. Refusing to purchase a dog from these disreputable dealers cuts into profits and forces many mills to close their doors.

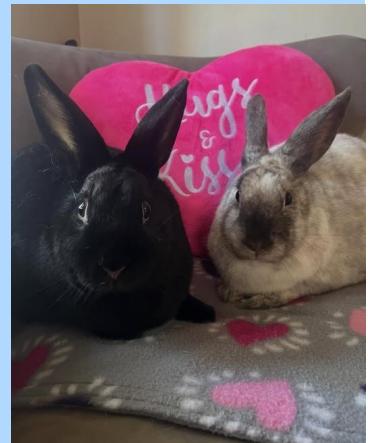


Interestingly, buyers willing to spend thousands of dollars for a dog are generally "animal lovers." The truth is that they would be appalled and outraged if they saw the location from which that expensive puppy originated.

As always, the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force implores prospective dog owners to adopt from a local shelter or rescue. These shelters/rescues include a variety of breeds and, quite often, have a significant selection of puppies available for adoption.

SEEKING A LOVING HOME FOR "CARLA" AND "BUMBLE"

"Bumble and Carla are one-year-old sisters who were born the very night their mom was rescued from a hoarding situation in Bonita Springs, and they've only ever known a life full of love and companionship. Sweet, quiet and easygoing, these girls are pure dreams. Carla is a gorgeous deep black bun with a velvety coat—she adores snuggling and relaxing. Bumble is stunning in her soft white fur, delicately brushed with silver, and just as sweet as she looks. With their gentle, trusting personalities, these sisters are utterly irresistible!"



For additional information, please call 941-499-7197, email swflrabbits@gmail.com or vis-

DID YOU KNOW: ONE DOG LITTER CAN HAVE MULTIPLE FATHERS

Nearly always, all of the puppies in a litter look similar to one another. From time to time...they don't. The process is called superfecundation.

Female dogs produce multiple eggs at one time. This is the reason that dogs typically give birth to litters of puppies, rather than one single puppy. The bitch remains in heat for approximately ten days and, as a result, may be fertilized by more than one male.



While highly unlikely...the chance being estimated at less than one percent...a dog can deliver puppies from multiple fathers in the same litter.

IS YOUR PET IN PAIN?

Dr. Sharon Powell
Edison Park Animal Hospital

Dogs and cats can be good at hiding their pain. Since animals can't verbally tell us when they are in pain, it is our responsibility as pet owners to pay attention to subtle changes in our furry companion's physical condition, behavior or mobility that might give us a clue that they aren't feeling well.



One of the first indicators that your pet may be in pain is a noticeable change in their behavior. This change may include reduced activity, not being as eager to exercise or play, walking slower or refusing to walk, reluctance to jump or use stairs, trouble lying down or getting up, and of course limping. Other behavior changes that may suggest your pet is in pain would be vocalization such as whining,

whimpering or yelping. Behavior changes such as becoming aggressive, snapping or growling can also indicate pain especially when touched. If your pet becomes restless, this may indicate they are unable to rest comfortably because of pain. And some cats and dogs may choose to hide or isolate themselves and become anti-social. Cats in particular may stop grooming themselves so their coat will look unkempt.

Watch the way your pet moves and stands. Standing with a rigid posture with the head down and reluctance to move can indicate a back or neck problem. Often the tail will be tucked under. Your dog may twitch or have tense muscles if they're experiencing muscle or nerve related pain or painful abdominal spasms.

Changes in eating and drinking habits maybe observed in painful pets with a loss of appetite or reluctance to move to get to their food and water bowls. Or refusing food for instance with teeth, jaw or oral pain. Excessive licking or drooling, increased heart rate and breathing rate and panting particularly when at rest can sometimes be an indication of pain.

Pain in pets, can be caused by a variety of conditions including injury, trauma, or an underlying issue like arthritis. Pain can be acute (something that just happened) or chronic (like arthritis, dental problems). Some signs of pain can vary widely ranging from blatantly obvious to incredibly subtle. If you see any signs that may indicate your pet is in pain, it is important to seek prompt veterinary attention. Some injuries causing pain can be totally cured if the cause is addressed quickly. Your animal companion depends on your care and loving attention.



SPEAK UP

FOR THE VOICELESS



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**

CAN CATS TASTE SUGAR OR SWEETNESS?



T1R2 is a G-protein-coupled receptor found mainly on taste cells in the tongue.

Interestingly, cats lack this receptor.

As cats are obligate carnivores...animals that must eat meat to survive...their diet needs to consist of the specific nutrients found in meat (Taurine which is critical for heart and eye health, Vitamin A, Arachidonic acid (a fatty acid) and Vitamin B12.

While cats can definitely taste sour, bitter, salty and umami (a strong meaty taste imparted by glutamate and certain other amino acids), that slice of birthday cake will do nothing to tempt them.

PLEASE SPAY/NEUTER YOUR PET!



**Extends lifespan...
Controls pet population...
Reduces aggression...
Lessens desire to run off...**

WHAT WE DO. WHY WE DO IT.

Violence towards animals and violence towards humans are not unrelated, independent issues...not even close.

Violence towards animals is an incredible predictor of existing or soon-to-come violence against people.



The studies are numerous and complex. All depict horrific mental and physical components with lifelong effects. The links between animal and human abuse have been documented since, at the very least, the 13th Century.

Animal cruelty often foretells of human mistreatment and other criminality. Please support what we do! Please insist that your local legislators endorse and support similar efforts in your community!



THANK YOU!

As we venture into this new year, we would be remiss if we didn't thank everyone supporting the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force!