



LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE



NEWSLETTER

## "PROTECTING THOSE WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES"

### ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE MAKES EAST DISTRICT ARREST

Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff First Class Raymond Strobel and Detective Adnan Selimovic responded to a call for service regarding two canines in distress in Lehigh Acres.

Upon their arrival, the two dogs, both Shepherd mixes, were observed inside of cages, with significant fecal waste both in and around the cages, with filthy water containers and malnourished.

The owner, Alexander Rodriguez Abreu, immediately dragged the cage away from the mound of feces in which



it sat. Inside of the cage was a fecal-covered, five-gallon bucket devoid of water and occupying a significant

portion of the cage. Neither cage contained food or food bowls.

One of the two canines showed skeletal protrusion indicating that it had not eaten in a significant amount of time. Abreu agreed to voluntarily surrender this canine.

The second dog, which Abreu refused to surrender, was removed and placed "on hold" pending a petition for a court order to remove it involuntarily.

JANUARY 2022

(Cont'd)

Both dogs were covered with feces and the lesser-



nourished dog needed to be carried as it was unable to walk.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force, in conjunction with the LCSO East CID, arrested Alexander Rodriguez Abreu (DOB 12/21/1973), and charged him with two misdemeanors (Torment /

Deprive / Mutilate / Kill Animal and Resisting Officer without Violence) and one felony (Torture / Inflict Pain or Serious Injury or Death on an Animal).

### ANIMAL CRUELTY AND CHILD ABUSE...

Did you know that the Florida legislature §39.208(1)(a) recognizes that "Animal cruelty of any kind is a type of interpersonal violence that often co-occurs with child abuse and other forms of family violence, including elder abuse and domestic violence. Early identification of animal cruelty is an important tool in safeguarding children from abuse, abandonment, and neglect; providing needed support to families; and protecting animals."

Always report animal cruelty, neglect and abuse to local law enforcement. That animal mistreatment may expose or prevent the abuse of children, seniors and/or vulnerable individuals in our community.

### Q&A WITH DR. WENDY PERRA, DVM: SPINNING

Dr. Perrera received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University in 2000. She is a Lee County veterinarian who has been the primary veterinarian servicing the Lee County and Hendry County Sheriff's Office canine units for the past 15 years.

**Question:** "When should dog 'spinning' be seen as a medical problem, rather than a silly behavior? "

**Dr. Wendy Perry, DVM:** "Many silly behaviors like spinning, tail chasing and air biting can be entertaining, but they also can be symptoms of underlying disease. Obsessive-compulsive disorders in dogs are common and are a result of neurotransmitter dysfunction in the central nervous system.

OCD can be manifested in many different forms and can have effects on multiple organ systems leaving your fur baby miserable and full of anxiety. The occasional excitement spinning behavior when someone is at the door does not constitute OCD; however, repeating a spinning motion in a relatively uniform sequence with no obvious purpose and is interfering with normal functioning could be labeled as OCD.

Definitively diagnosing OCD as the primary cause of a behavioral disorder is challenging. Physiologic conditions that can cause similar behaviors are generally ruled out first. This would include seizures, primary brain disease, pancreatic disease, hypothyroidism, hepatic encephalopathy or any painful source.

The history is also a vital piece of the puzzle when trying to diagnose OCD behaviors. Repetitive spinning is thought to be associated with excessive kenneling or confinement especially during the early months of a puppy's life. These dogs often will have exhibited the repetitive behavior as a puppy as a form of play, but as the dog matures play decreases and OCD increases.

Treatment often will require a combination of behavior modification and anti-anxiety medication to effectively manage the disorder. If you suspect your pet is battling OCD, keep a log of their abnormal behaviors and have a frank conversation with your veterinarian about your concerns. They can formulate a therapeutic plan or provide a referral to a veterinary behavioral medicine specialist."

### TOWELS, TOWELS AND MORE TOWELS!

The collection of pet supplies continues into the new year as local rescue and shelter populations continue to grow.

Two of the most-needed supplies are towels and blankets.



In addition to the other much-needed supplies, such as disinfectant, disinfectant wipes, large trash bags, mops, buckets, squeegees, bleach, laundry detergent, Dawn dishwashing liquid, dog and cat toys (especially toys for "heavy chewers"), harnesses, potty pads, dog and cat food, cat litter, leashes, large Nylabones, dog beds, puppy replacement milk, hydrogen peroxide, Isopropyl alcohol, metal food bowls and Kong toys, there is an ongoing need for cloth towels and blankets.



The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force continues to accept

donations of the aforementioned items, and will do so year round, at any of our community outreach centers.

Donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

**Cape Coral** (Brotherhood of Heroes Museum), 4522 Del Prado Blvd. South, Cape Coral, Florida 33904 (Hours of operation: Mon-Friday 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm), **Downtown**, 2125 First St. Suite 100, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 (Hours of operation: Monday – Sunday from 9am to 5 pm), Edison Mall, 4125 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 1930, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 (Hours of operation: Mon-Sat 11 am to 7 pm, Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm), **Miromar**

**Outlets**, 10801 Corkscrew Rd. Suite # 190 Estero, Florida 33928 (Hours of operation: Mon-Sat 10 am to 7 pm, Sun 10 am to 6 pm).



### PET FOOD SHORTAGE?

According to a recent "The Wall Street Journal" article, some regions of the country are experiencing a shortage of pet food inventory.

In addition to shortages in labor, raw materials and a means to transport the finished products, an increase in pet ownership, likely a byproduct of the increase in pandemic-period adoptions, has increased the demand.

Pet owners who have furry friends that require prescription foods or who have dietary restrictions are, reportedly, finding it even more difficult to purchase their specific foods.



"Many supermarkets, unable to find substitutes, are leaving pet-food shelves empty. Pet-food manufacturers, struggling to secure ingredients and expand production, have signaled that shortages could persist," according to the WSJ.



### CARTER NEEDS A HOME...

Only 3 1/2 months old, our new year resolution is to find a truly loving home for Carter.

Reportedly, this cutie absolutely loves to cuddle and snuggle and will bring unconditional love into a welcoming home.

Carter is currently being fostered in a Mutty Paws Rescue home along with other dogs and a cat...so other pets won't likely be a problem.



Interested in adopting this smiley boy?  
Please submit an application online at  
<https://muttypawsrescue.org/applications/>  
Donations are always appreciated:  
<https://muttypawsrescue.org/>

### F.D.A. REPORTS "PURE BEING" PET FOOD RECALL

In cooperation with Pet Brands Products, LLC, and out of an abundance of caution, ALDI is voluntarily recalling Pure Being Cat Advent Calendars and Pure Being Dog Advent Calendars as a precautionary measure due to a potential choking hazard.

After receiving a small number of customer complaints and discussion with the supplier, ALDI immediately removed the affected products from stores.

The affected products are Pure Being Cat Advent Calendar food and Pure Being Dog Advent Calendar food.



"We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do. True humanity does not allow us to impose such sufferings on them. It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it. Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace."

- Albert Schweitzer



# **January 2022 edition of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force Newsletter.**

This month...arrests for canine neglect, the link between animal cruelty and child abuse/domestic violence, a Q&A with Dr. Wendy Perra and much more. Please remember that we will continue to collect towels (cloth and paper), disinfectant, disinfectant wipes, large trash bags, mops, buckets, squeegees, bleach, laundry detergent, Dawn dishwashing liquid, dog and cat toys (especially toys for “heavy chewers”), harnesses, potty pads, dog and cat food, puppy replacement milk, cat litter, leashes, grooming supplies, large Nylabones, Kong toys, Isopropyl alcohol, Hydrogen peroxide, garden hoses and spray nozzles for our local animal rescues and shelters.

Donations can be dropped off at Crowther (located at 11791 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33966), Sun Sports Cycle & Watercraft (located at 3441 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33966) and at any of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Centers located at Cape Coral (Brotherhood of Heroes Museum), 4522 Del Prado Blvd. South, Cape Coral, Florida 33904 (Hours of operation: Mon-Friday 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm), Downtown, 2125 First St. Suite 100, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 (Hours of operation: Monday – Sunday from 9am to 5 pm), Edison Mall, 4125 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 1930, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 (Hours of operation: Mon-Sat 11 am to 7 pm, Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm), Miromar Outlets, 10801 Corkscrew Rd. Suite # 190 Estero, Florida 33928 (Hours of operation: Mon-Sat 10 am to 7 pm, Sun 10 am to 6 pm).

Thank you for your ongoing support!