

F A L L 2 0 1 5

LCDAS Quarterly Newsletter

Saving lives one pet at a time...



April-July 2015 Statistics

557 cats and 426 dogs were adopted

23 cats and 371 dogs were returned
to owners

462 cats and 308 were sent to rescue

196 cats went through our TNR program

2,173 dogs and cats were sterilized

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is the municipal shelter for Lee County FL. Our annual intake is approximately 5,000 dogs and 5,000 cats. Animal Services is dedicated to providing public safety via our Animal Control Officers, investigating suspected cases of animal cruelty and neglect, ensuring compliance with county ordinances, providing a safe haven for adoptable dogs and cats and assisting the public in finding their forever pets. Our shelter also has an active feral cat program through Trap Neuter Return and Barn Buddies, a spay-neuter program for dogs and cats with owners on public assistance, a Pet Pantry and an Animal Care Trust Fund.

Visitors are encouraged to visit our adoption center Monday-Saturday from 10:30 am until 3:30 pm! Find us at 5600 Banner Drive, Fort Myers FL, 33912. Visit www.leelostpets.com or call 239-533-7387. Visit and Like our Facebook page by clicking on the image:

Save the Date!

TNR Workshop

September 19th
October 17th
November 21st
Workshops are held at 10 am in the conference room

Fall into Love

September Promo
Fall into love with a new pet at LCDAS during our Fall Promotion!

Dogtober

October Promo
Find your forever dog during our October promotion!

facebook 

The “No Kill” Conundrum

The term “No Kill” is frequently used by the public requesting that their municipal shelter become a no kill facility, without fully understanding the implications behind this term.

Nicole Ferguson, DVM, MS, MRCVS

What does “no kill” mean?

Not all shelters or communities have the same definition regarding no kill. For many, no kill equates to every healthy and treatable shelter dog and cat being able to be given a loving home. Without an organization defining its terms, publishing its statistics and publicly articulating what it is doing to save animal lives, such statements are misleading and confusing.

Should communities adopt a “no kill” status?

All communities should strive to reduce the number of dogs and cats being born in the community and increase the number of adoptable dogs and cats from local shelters.

However, becoming a “no kill” shelter or community requires having an engaged community with significant community involvement, the ability to provide high volume high quality spay neuter on a sustained basis, a large number of rescue partnerships, a large volunteer base, the ability to place potentially large numbers of adoptable animals in foster care, a comprehensive adoption program, medical and behavioral prevention & rehabilitation programs, proactive redemptions and hard-working compassionate staff members in all organizations. Without these factors in place, it is impossible for any large, municipal shelter to reach a “no kill” status, however this is defined.

Why should I support a “kill” shelter?

Shelters that function as an animal control agency as well as an animal adoption agency face challenges that smaller, non-municipal shelters may not. As an animal control agency, impounding stray and injured animals, investigating cruelty, neglect and hoarding cases, and addressing the pet overpopulation by performing high volume sterilization are just a few of the challenges faced on a regular basis. Limitations are imposed on what population the shelter can sustain for an extended period of time via staffing numbers, budgetary constraints and physical space within the shelter. Pet overpopulation within a shelter setting ultimately results in a high rate of disease and negatively affects the welfare of the animals within that population. Reliance on community involvement is high year-round, but becomes critical during high intake periods, whether this intake is a result of expected kitten season or due to a high volume hoarding case. If the community does not support a shelter due to its “kill” status, a large disservice is being made toward the animals within the care of that shelter and it is unlikely that a higher live release rate will ensue.

Why can’t LCDAS become a “no kill” shelter?

LCDAS strives to have as high a live release rate as possible while maintaining the animal control functions on which the county relies. Remember, it takes a community working together in a sustainable manner to help the animals in our care and in the care of our shelter and rescue partners in order to accomplish such a goal. Without having proactive, caring and sustainable programs in place and full community support, it will be very difficult to achieve a higher live release rate.

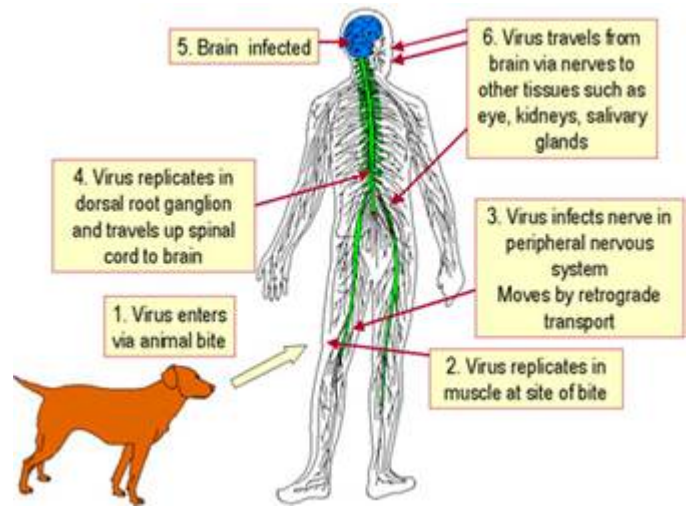
Rabies

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals spread most commonly through the bite of an infected animal. In the United States, the majority of rabies cases are found in wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes. Rabies is a reportable disease in all states and most cases are reported to the Center for Disease Control.

The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. Early symptoms of rabies in people are similar to that of many other illnesses, such as fever, headache and general weakness or discomfort. As the disease progresses, more specific symptoms arise and death occurs within a few days. In animals, the first symptoms of rabies may be nonspecific and include lethargy, fever, vomiting, and anorexia. Signs progress within days to include many neurological signs, excessive salivation, abnormal behavior, aggression, and/or self-mutilation. The signs are rapidly progressive and animals die within a few days of these signs.

The domestic animal most commonly affected by rabies in Florida is the cat. Many wildlife species are affected and include, in order of prevalence over the past 20 years, raccoons, foxes, bats, bobcats, skunks, otters, coyotes and beavers. Cats are the domestic species most exposed to the risk of rabies due to their close association with wildlife if living outdoors.

Rabies in domestic species is preventable through vaccination. All dogs, cats and ferrets are required by law to be vaccinated in the State of Florida by 4



months of age by a licensed veterinarian. Rabies vaccinations are approved for use as early as 12 weeks of age and are administered at this time at LCDAS. Booster vaccinations are performed at 1 or 3 year intervals depending on the vaccine used and if the animal has received an initial vaccination or not. Despite the widespread availability of rabies vaccinations, we encounter many dogs and cats coming into the shelter that have likely never had a rabies vaccination.

More information on rabies can be found at: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>



Rabies:
understand it to defeat it.

Grants Received

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is the proud recipient of several grants over the past few years. These grants enable our shelter to enhance the facility for the comfort of the animals, add programs that address the health and behavioral well-being of the animals and ensure that our staff is equipped with proper and safe animal handling equipment, among other things. We have been the proud recipient of the following grants over the past 2 years:

- 2014 Future Five Finalist from Alley Cat Allies
- 2014 Petco Foundation Holiday Wishes 3rd place winner
- 2014 Maddie's Fund Pet Adoption Days grant
- 2015 Maddie's Fund grant
- 2015 Friends of Animals license plate grant

These grants have enabled us to purchase veterinary equipment, enhance our dogs' lives by adding play pens to host more play groups, modify our large cat free roam room into 4 distinct catteries (in progress) and modify our dog kennel doors so the kennels appear less restrictive (in progress). Future plans with additional grant funds or through donations to the Animal Care Trust Fund will allow us to place portals through the cat kennels to double the size of the cat kennels in adoption amongst other projects. If you are interesting in donating funds to the Animal Care Trust Fund, please go to:

<https://www.leegov.com/animalservices/volunteerdonate/trustfund>



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Saving Lives One Pet At A Time

