

S P R I N G 2 0 1 5

LCDAS Quarterly Newsletter

Saving lives one pet at a time...



January-March 2015

Total of 1,462 lives saved!

340 dog adoptions, 181 cat adoptions

291 dogs returned to owner, 22 cats returned to owner

232 dogs sent to rescues, 272 cats sent to rescues

124 cats released through TNR

Total of 1,501 spays & neuters:

- 88 Public Assistance cat surgeries
- 114 Public Assistance dog surgeries
- 816 surgeries on shelter animals/return to owner animals
- 483 TNR surgeries



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 cats and dogs and assisting the public in finding their forever pets. Our shelter also has an active feral cat program through Trap Neuter Release and Barn Buddies, a spay-neuter program for dogs and cats with owners on public assistance, a Pet Pantry as well as an Animal Care Trust Fund. Visitors are encouraged to visit our adoption center from Monday- Saturday from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm! Find us at 5600 Banner Drive, Fort Myers FL, 33912. Visit www.leelostpets.com or call 533- 7387.

Visit and Like our Facebook page by clicking on the image:

Save the Date!

Kitten Shower

April 11, 2015

LCDAS

Conference Room

10 am to 12 pm

Microchip Clinics

Monday through

Friday from 9 am

until 1 pm in the

Spay Neuter Clinic

Catch Spring Fever

Adoption specials for

Spring can be found

at:

www.leelostpets.com



Dog Play Groups

Lee County Domestic Animal Services was honored to host Aimee and Kodi Sadler from Dogs Playing for Life! in February to teach staff and volunteers how to conduct dog play groups.

Why play groups for shelter dogs?

The shelter environment doesn't allow dogs to routinely express their normal behavior and socialize in groups as nature intended. Playgroups are an excellent tool for increasing the quality of life for many shelter dogs. Some shelters may have fears about letting dogs play or interact with one another, but socialization for dogs can be one of the most valuable forms of enrichment. Not only do the dogs enjoy and benefit from their time playing together, but it's an effective way to exercise and enrich many dogs at one time, instead of (or in combination with) working with the dogs individually. In addition, staff and volunteers will learn more about each dog's dog-dog social skills. This important piece of information will help dogs go home faster.



Some of the benefits of group play are:

- Mental and physical energy burned through intense social interaction
- Decreased territorial behavior within the shelter
- Decreased on-leash reactivity to other dogs
- Increased attention and focus in training

We are excited to be able to offer this type of enrichment and social interaction to dogs within our facility. Our kennel staffers are hard at work every day ensuring that as many dogs as possible are able to get out in play groups and have had up to 18 dogs out at once in our largest play pen!



The Veterinary Page: Zoonotic Diseases

A zoonotic disease is an infection that is naturally transmitted from animals to human beings. Potential zoonotic agents include bacteria, viruses, fungi, internal parasites and arthropods. An animal shelter is unlike virtually any other environment in which animals are maintained, and poses unique challenges for the control of infectious disease in general and zoonotic disease in particular. There is often a high degree of turnover of the population of animals in a shelter, meaning that there is always a new group of animals at risk of contracting disease. Stress, poor nutrition, and presence of concurrent disease or parasitic infestation are common problems that increase the risk of transmission of infectious disease and the likelihood that infected animals will shed significant amounts of disease causing agents into the environment. Many shelters struggle to care for animals in older facilities that may be difficult to properly sanitize, and may be characterized by poor ventilation, overcrowding, and uncomfortable temperature extremes, all of which contribute to the ready spread of infection. Treatment with antibiotics, common at many shelters for such conditions as kennel cough and upper respiratory infection, further reduces animals' resistance to some gastrointestinal infections, and can increase the spread of such zoonotic infections as salmonellosis.

In addition to the general difficulties of controlling infectious disease in a shelter environment, certain factors common in sheltered animals specifically increase the risk of various zoonotic diseases. Animals frequently enter shelters without a history of proper veterinary care or vaccination. Zoonotic diseases more likely to occur in unvaccinated animals include rabies and leptospirosis. Many animals in shelters have a history of roaming outdoors, hunting or scavenging. This increases the risk of infection with such zoonotic conditions as echinococcosis, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, and rabies. Animals that have spent time outdoors and received minimal care are more likely to be infested with external parasites. Some external parasites can be directly transmitted to humans (i.e. scabies, cheyletiella), or they can serve as vectors for zoonotic disease such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted tick fever. Finally, animals entering shelters are often frightened, disoriented, and of unknown temperament. Staff handling these animals are at increased risk of being bitten or scratched. Besides the injury and infection that can occur due to the wound itself, this can serve as a means of transmitting zoonotic diseases such as rabies and cat scratch fever. Although the incidence of these diseases are likely increased in a shelter setting due to volume and population density, any private veterinary practice may encounter some of these diseases. Regular annual visits at your veterinarian, routine preventive care and the veterinarian's knowledge of zoonotic diseases common in your area can all help reduce the risk of disease. An estimated 75% of the world's emerging diseases are zoonotic in part due to globalization and ease of human travel. The subtropical climate in SW Florida is optimum for many parasitic and vector-borne diseases to thrive.

More information on zoonotic diseases can be found at:

www.capcvet.org

<http://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/zoonotic-diseases.html>

<http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/>

Targeted TNR

What is targeted TNR?

Targeted TNR (trap-neuter-return) is TNR that is performed on a targeted cat population, usually within a zipcode or locale noted for high cat intake within a shelter or for high cat complaints by citizens. A targeted approach to this population aims to perform mass trapping and sterilization in a relatively short period of time in order to address these issues.



What are the advantages?

The primary advantage of a targeted approach to TNR is identifying the specific areas in need of a high volume approach in order to stabilize the community cat population in a short period of time. By sterilizing as close to 100% of the cats as possible in one area of concern, the population in that area will stabilize and reduce over time due to attrition.

What are the drawbacks?

The main drawback of a targeted TNR approach is the need for a coordinated effort between citizens, community cat caretakers and organizations able to perform the high volume of sterilization required in a relatively short period of time. Mass trapping and sterilization requires a comprehensive plan prior to being undertaken in order to maximize success. Budget constraints are a concern if the targeted approach does not have a comprehensive plan in place.



Is targeted TNR in the works in Lee County?

One of the future goals of LCDAS is to be able to have a targeted approach to the TNR program to allow the identification of areas with a high volume of cats and cat complaints and help the community resolve these issues as humanely as possible.

Foster Program

What types of animals need foster care?

Imagine a house full of adorable puppies and kittens! The majority of animals in our Foster Care program are underage babies too young to be placed for adoption. These kittens and puppies need a safe, loving and nurturing environment where they can play and grow.

Injured and ill homeless animals and animals recovering from surgery also qualify for Foster Care and, under the direction of our veterinary staff, are placed with foster volunteers who ensure that medical care is administered.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services relies on our foster parents to help rehabilitate dogs and cats and ensure they will have a future home.

What if I already have pets at home?

Young or ill foster animals will need to be housed in a quiet place of their own and should not interact with resident pets.

Many foster parents are already pet owners who are able to successfully integrate foster animals into their home after ensuring their own animals are vaccinated and spayed or neutered.

Our staff will work closely with you to determine the types and number of foster animals you feel comfortable caring for.

What is the length of foster care?

Depending on the individual needs and your schedule, you may have a foster animal in your home for a few days to more than a month. Our staff will work closely with you to coordinate a schedule around your needs.

Are there any expenses for foster parents?

Lee County Domestic Animal Services will provide all medical care for foster animals, including treatment for injuries or illnesses, medications, spaying or neutering, and preventive care. You will also be provided with the information you need in case emergency veterinary care for your foster animals is required.

We appreciate any foster parents able to supply standard animal care needs such as animal food, cat litter and litter boxes, and bedding materials, but these supplies may be provided by Lee County Domestic Animal Services if necessary. Donations to the Animal Care Trust Fund are tax-deductible and expenses are used to directly support the medical care of foster animals.

To become a foster parent, go to www.leelostpets.com.

