



DART Training • Written by Camden Smith (Happy Tails Host)

A family evacuation plan for a natural disaster including your pets is imperative, as mentioned earlier in this newsletter. However, did you know there is another way you may help animals during and after a disaster such as a hurricane?

Each year, hurricanes, tornadoes, hazardous-materials incidents, floods and other disasters threaten not only humans but also animals such as livestock and owned domestic pets. As the media candidly showed during Hurricane Katrina, pets were left stranded and struggling to survive. National efforts were made to rescue animals and local communities now coordinate organized pet disaster plans.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) participates in the HSUS National Disaster Animal Response Team (NDART™) to prepare families and the community to respond during and after natural disasters.

Collier County's DART assists with the search and rescue of livestock and pets as well as disaster preparation education. Additionally, DART members work side by side with DAS shelter staff to run Collier County's Emergency Pet Shelter. DART is a specialized group of community volunteers who have received special training to care for animals in case of an event for Emergency Pet Shelter.

As a trained responder, your first priority is to make sure your family and pets are taken care of when a disaster or crisis strikes.

DAS will be offering DART training July 26 through July 27. The weekend long training will teach proper protocol for responding to a disaster and a

comprehensive knowledge of DAS responsibilities and how the agency works with the community.

All training including hands on interaction with a variety of animals to ensure volunteers are equipped for any potential situation.

The American Humane Association will be conducting the training at DAS during July.

You may become a DART member by attending the July 26 and July 27 training. To sign up for that training session, visit www.americanhumane.org and go to protecting animals, disaster relief.

Learn more DART and other training sessions by visiting DAS online at www.collierpets.com or by calling Kathy Drew at (239) 252-8657.



Ordinance Notice

Changes to the Collier County Animal Control Ordinance will be under consideration at the July Board of County Commissioners meeting. It is anticipated changes will be adopted affecting spay/neuter, dangerous dog and other regulations.

At press time, ordinance changes had not been adopted, but any changes made including fee increases will be posted to the DAS website at www.collierpets.com.

Call (239) 252-PETS with questions.

Dog Bite Prevention • Written by Camden Smith (Happy Tails Host)

Knowing about pets and their behaviors could help you understand them better and improve your own safety. Learning about the animals you love and those you are perhaps not familiar with is important.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) wants to educate the public about approaching animals safely, caring for them and the proper response to animal aggression.

The Humane Society of the United States has provided some tips for handling a potentially aggressive dog and how to prevent a bite.



Raising Awareness In Children

Children should be taught how to avoid antagonizing dogs. Show your child how to appropriately behave around all pets such as not pulling on a pet's tails or teasing with food.

Training Your Pet

It is every pet owner's responsibility to have their pet trained to learn at least basic obedience commands.

Even the cutest pet can be made uncomfortable by a stranger and can growl and nip, so training your dog on obedience commands could give you more control in emergency situations.

Basic obedience commands include:

- Sit
- Stay
- Leave It
- Quiet

All of these commands teach discipline, but the "Leave It" command is important for controlling your dog if he or she wants to run after something or someone.

Be responsible, leash your animals and help prevent bites. Visit www.hsus.org for more information.

Protecting Yourself

- Ask before petting a pet
- Never scream or run
- Remain motionless, hands at your sides
- Avoid eye contact with the animal
- If the dog loses interest, slowly back away
- If the dog does attack, give the animal your purse, jacket or something else to distract him
- If knocked down by the animal, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and remain motionless

What is important to understand is that any animal that does not know who you are may perceive that you are entering their "protected" space and could perceive you as an intruder. Some dogs only bark to alert you to their presence, but when one feels threatened it could be aggressive.

Calendar of Events

Domestic Animal Services Advisory Board Discusses business of the shelter in a public forum. Meets at DAS at 7610 Davis Blvd. at 6:30 p.m.	Third Tuesday every month
DAS Volunteer Training: You will learn about the DAS facility and functions to begin volunteering.	Third Saturday each month
Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) Training You will become a team member who helps during natural disasters. Call Kathy Drew at (239) 252-8657	July 26-27
Basic Dog Obedience Training at Veterans Community Park Aug. 16-Sept. 13. Cost: \$90 for five weeks of training. Call (239) 566-2367.	Aug. 16 to Sept. 13 (see details)
Howl-A-Day Jubilee Pet Festival: Holiday shopping, pet games, costume contests, dog agility fun for your pet & more. Location: Veterans Community Park, 1895 Veterans Park Dr. in Naples, FL Call Kathy Drew at (239) 252-8657. Vendors and sponsors welcomed.	Saturday, Nov. 22 12 - 5 p.m.

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Hot Pets • Written by Camden Smith (Happy Tails Host)

Did you know that windows collect light and trap heat inside your vehicle?

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) asks that you remember pets can suffer heat stroke or worse if left in hot vehicles.

Veterinarians suggest that dogs, especially, need to slowly adjust to the hotter pavement during warmer months. Asphalt surfaces can burn your pet's paws and prompt overheating, as dogs do not sweat but rather pant.

Even on a cool summer day of 72 degrees, the temperature inside your vehicle will rise to approximately 130 degrees in just 30 minutes. According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), at 110 degrees your pet is in danger of heat stroke or possibly death.

Leaving Pets in Vehicles

If you are going out shopping with your favorite four-legged friend and need to make a quick stop, ensure you are going somewhere your pet can go in with you. If your pet cannot go into the location with you, leaving the car running should not be considered.

While you and I can roll the windows down, start the vehicle and turn on the air conditioning, your pet cannot. Your pet can only hope that you relieve it from an overheating vehicle.

Not only can an animal accidentally lock his or herself in the vehicle, but you run the risk of vehicle theft as well. Moreover, it is against the law to

leave an empty car running. You could receive a traffic violation for leaving your vehicle running, so the best option is to go only where your pet can go with you.

If you leave your pet in a vehicle, knowing it will overheat, authorities can charge you with animal cruelty in the State of Florida.

Hot Walk Dangers

Have you ever kicked off the covers while you were sleeping? Pets function in a similar fashion.



If your pet's paws get hot, their bodies also tend to warm up, which can lead to heat exhaustion. So even walking on the hot asphalt pavement during the summer can overheat your favorite canine.

Try to walk your pets in the grass and shaded areas even through the Fall months, because Southwest Florida remains hot through November quite often.



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Heat Stroke Symptoms

- Heavy panting
- Glazed eyes - looks disoriented
- Excessive thirst
- Dizziness
- Lack of coordination
- Profuse salivation
- Vomiting
- Deep red or purple tongue color
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Unconsciousness

Cool Treatments

- Move animal to shady area
- Apply ice packs to pet's neck and head
- Wrap neck with cold towel
- Give water to drink - if unable to drink on own hold ice cubes for dog to lick
- If unconscious, it is best to immerse the animal in a tub with cool water - not ice water

Seek veterinary care immediately. Icy or very cold water can send an overheated animal into shock. Only hand feed ice and provide cool water.

Pets should not be kept outdoors for long periods.

Be sure to follow these tips and you should have a safe, happy summer with your pets.

Visit collierpets.com for more information or www.hsus.org.

Senior Pet Summer Safety • Written by Kathy Drew (Volunteer Coordinator)

Ahh, the dog days of summer are here. Time to relax and enjoy the beautiful summer weather, unless you're an older dog.

As you have learned in the "Hot Pets" article on the preceding page, hot temperatures make it difficult for dogs to regulate their body temperatures. This is especially true for older dogs.

Always look for signs of overheating in your senior dog:

- Rapid, heavy panting
- Digging to expose cool ground
- Walking unsteadily or falling
- Very red gums or ears

Older dogs should be kept inside where it's cool as much as possible.



Hurricane Planning • Written by Camden Smith (Happy Tails Host)

This year, your hurricane evacuation plans should include your pets with a handy list of pet-friendly hotels, extra food, medications and water.

Families are encouraged to make evacuation plans for themselves and their pets. However, if evacuation is not possible and sheltering in place is not safe, the Collier County Emergency Pet Shelter is available as a last resort.

DAS officials remind the public that pets must be pre-registered for the emergency shelter in order for your pet to qualify for sheltering. Pets must be registered each year, so if you registered last year, you will need to do so again.

A senior pet can be defined as an animal three-quarters of the way through the average life expectancy for its breed or pet type.

If your pet is an outside pet, ensure he or she has a shady spot, and ample drinking water available all day. For larger dogs, it is wise to put a child's blow up pool in a shaded area so your pet may cool off if necessary.

Walk your senior dog early. Even after the sun goes down pavement may still be hot and can burn a dog's footpads.

Limit outdoor playtime, even if your dog seems ready for more. If your neighborhood dog park doesn't have water

Emergency Pet Shelter

The Collier County Emergency Pet Shelter will be located at North Collier Regional Park located at 15000 Livingston Rd.

The Emergency Pet Shelter is an adjacency shelter, which requires pet owners to remain on the property. Owners care for their animals before and after the storm. Volunteers care for pets during the storm. Pets may not be dropped off.

The Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) determines when emergency shelters activate based on the approach of a storm, potential flooding estimates and evacuation zones.

readily available, bring your own.

A dog's coat is a temperature regulator in both hot and cold weather. Clipping the fur of a longer-hair dog to about one inch may help the dog stay cooler. Make sure, however, you do not trim too much so that you leave enough fur for sunburn protection. Consult your veterinarian before clipping your dog's fur, and do not forget sunscreen for your dog.

Prevention is the best way to keep your older dog safe and cool when the dog days of summer are here.

When the shelter activates, homes with pre-registered pets receive an automated phone call notifying them they qualify to evacuate to the adjacency pet and people shelter. Only owners of pre-registered pets receive this notice.

Collier County's emergency pet shelter holds 75 pets and only accepts cats and dogs.

Registrations are suspended once there is a Tropical Storm and/or Hurricane Watch issued for Collier County. Register your pet now at www.collierpets.com.

Pets must be up-to-date with vaccinations with printed vaccination records available.

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