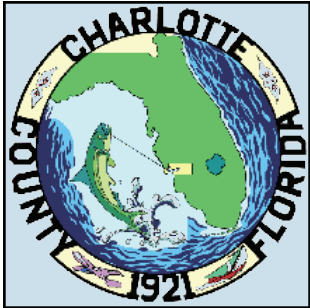


ANIMAL CONTROL NEWSLETTER



NEW RABIES LAW SAFEGAURDS PETS AND THE PUBLIC



On January 1st, a new law went into effect in the State of Florida that states local governments and veterinarians will now be required to recognize a three-year rabies vaccine for the full duration of immunity.

This bill was signed on May 27th, 2005 by Governor Jeb Bush and was designed to greatly benefit pets and their owners while protecting the public against rabies.

Before the law went into effect, only fourteen counties in Florida recognized the three-year vaccine for the full duration of immunity. That resulted in many pet owners being forced to adhere to local laws by revaccinating their pets every year for no justifiable medical reason. The main objective of incorporating these requirements into the Florida Statutes was to greatly benefit animals by maximizing protection against rabies while minimizing vaccine-associated risks.

This legislative effort was led by the Florida Animal Control Association and was supported by the Florida Rabies Prevention and Control Committee and the Florida Veterinary Medical Association.

With the passage of this legislation, Florida now joins thirty-four other states that either require or recognize three-year rabies vaccines. As one legislator summed it up, "*government is finally catching up with science*".

Another benefit to this law is that county governments can realize a cost savings on tags, forms, and administrative costs associated with three-year vaccines and license requirements. Veterinarians will still have the option of using a rabies vaccine of either one or three years duration of immunity in their practices.

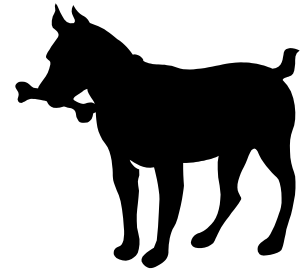
It is also important to note that Rabies titers are not allowed in lieu of revaccination and that animal licenses are *still* required to be renewed yearly in Charlotte County.

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ANIMAL CONTROL RESPONDS TO BRUSH FIRES IN TROPICAL GULF ACRES

Charlotte County Animal Control responded to the brush fires in Tropical Gulf Acres on March 7th to assist Fire/EMS with various animal issues. The fire encroached on several areas where homes were present. Animal Control canvassed the area to determine if there were any animals in danger from the fires. Animal Control responded to several areas of the fire and removed two dogs that were located in the back yard of one residence threatened by the fire. Both dogs were safely rescued and transported to the animal shelter until the owner could claim them the next day. Animal Control also rescued several cats that were in the area and brought them to safety.



ANIMAL CONTROL SAYS "THANK YOU" TO OUR FRIENDS IN WEST PALM BEACH



Lt. Brian Jones presents a recognition award to the Director of Palm Beach Co. Animal Control, Dianne Suave.

Charlotte County Animal Control paid a visit to Palm Beach County Animal Control in West Palm Beach Florida to present a plaque that thanked them for their assistance in the recovery efforts of Hurricane Charley.

The plaque recognized all who participated and was our way of saying "thank you" for their efforts. Even though many agencies responded to assist our county in dealing with animal issues in the aftermath of "Charley", Palm Beach County Animal Control went above and beyond the call of duty. They stayed for 2-3 weeks and took over our night shift so that our crew could get some much needed rest. Without any knowledge of the geographical area, they responded to dozens of complaints and resolved many issues. It is clear that our mission would have been

more difficult without their assistance. So once again, our department would like to commend them on their extraordinary efforts.

Lost your pet?

Make sure you contact the Animal Welfare League at 625-6720 and the Suncoast Humane Society at 474-7884 to file a "lost" report.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What should I do with my pet if my area is threatened with a Hurricane?

A: Be prepared. It is always recommended that pets be treated as part of the family and never left behind. Every pet owner should have a hurricane survival kit just for their pets. This should include a photo of your pet, any medical records, two-week supply of food and water, treats, a pet carrier and extra leashes, and collars. Most importantly, make sure that you pet has an identification tag with your phone number, an alternative contact number a (i.e. out of state relative, close friend) and your home address. The alternative contact can act as a messenger for you in the event communication is down. And most importantly, make sure that your animal is current on its rabies vaccines and has its rabies tag attached to its collar.



ANIMAL CONTROL CONFISCATES 28 ANIMALS FROM FEMA TRAILER



Charlotte County Animal Control responded to the FEMA park in Punta Gorda in late January in response to an anonymous complaint stating that there were a multitude of neglected animals being harbored in a FEMA trailer.

Upon arrival, investigating Officer Reannon Juergensen met with the owner and learned that there were approx. 28 animals inside of the trailer consisting of 23 cats, 3 dogs and 2 hamsters. Officer Juergensen stated that there was a foul odor present and was given verbal permission by the owner to enter the trailer for inspection. Upon entering the trailer, it was immediately noticed that there were many animals being kept in neglectful conditions. There was a strong presence of animal feces and urine and it was apparent that the environment in which they were kept was detrimental to their health. It was also observed that there were several animals in apparent need of medical attention. A search and seizure warrant was obtained and all 28 animals were confiscated and transported to the Animal Welfare League. Our department won custody of the animals in a Charlotte County court and charges are currently pending on the owner with the State Attorneys Office.

A county-wide e-mail was sent to all county employees asking for donations to the Animal Welfare League to help pay for the medical expenses. Donations immediately started coming in and the animals received all necessary medical care. All animals are reportedly doing well and most have been adopted into new homes. Our department would like to thank all those who donated their money to this worthy cause!!

DID YOU KNOW...

CHARLOTTE COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL BRINGS OVER 2,200 ANIMALS TO OUR ANIMAL SHELTERS EVERY YEAR

DID YOU KNOW...

CC ANIMAL CONTROL DISPATCH RECEIVES OVER 20,000 INCOMING PHONE CALLS PER YEAR



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ANIMAL CONTROL**

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Visit our website at
www.charlottecountyfl.com

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line at
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"agencies" and
then "animal control"*



"All in a Day's Work"



PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Volunteers are needed to operate pet-friendly shelters in Charlotte County. Training in emergency sheltering will be provided. Volunteers do not have to have animal experience, just dedication, a willingness to learn and the ability to commit to deploy when needed. Training will be offered in all areas of emergency shelter operations. Please call 941-875-3112 or e-mail petfriendlyshelters@verizon.net for more information. Your commitment will be rewarded with the knowledge that you can help save lives of our residents and our companion animals.