

humane tails

Celebrating the Season with Your Pets

The holidays are special times for all of us, including our pets. In many households, our canine or feline family members are the center of attention. But, as we get caught up in the spirit, it can also be a dangerous time for them. Each year during the holiday season, thousands of pets are seriously injured and/or become ill. It's a busy time and oftentimes we forget about our four-legged friends during the hustle and bustle of the season. Unfortunately, our pets are curious creatures and many hazards await their interest.

Holiday decorations can be dangerous. Tinsel and garland are indigestible and fragile glass ornaments can be broken, presenting an obvious hazard. If you use them, place them out of reach of pets. Make sure your tree is on a flat stable surface. If you have a live tree, cover up the tree stand so they can't drink the stagnant water. Electrical cords must also be concealed. Pets often try to chew them and get badly shocked or electrocuted. You can conceal exposed cords by encasing them in plastic tubing. Plants like poinsettias, mistletoe and holly are poisonous to animals and should also be kept only where they cannot be reached.

Keep burning candles on high tables or mantels, out of the way of your dog's wagging tail. For our feline friends who like to jump, make sure burning candles are supervised at all times.

Be mindful of what your pet eats. Many of us are guilty of slipping a few treats under the table, but too many fatty, rich or even just new types of foods can give your pet inflammation of the pancreas, stomach



or intestines. Bones can irritate, tear or obstruct your pet's digestive tract. Turkey bones are especially harmful because they are hollow and can easily splinter in your pet's mouth. Too much chocolate, especially baking chocolate, can actually kill your dog, so keep it out of reach. Raisins and grapes can cause kidney failure in dogs and cats.

It is always wonderful to involve your pets in your holiday celebrations by giving them gifts. Small toys or bones may cause choking hazards, so be mindful of what you give.

With a little extra attention, the holiday season can be merry for both pets and people!

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DONATIONS NEEDED

We desperately need your financial support today. The Gulf Coast Humane Society does not receive any local, state or federal funding so we cannot continue our mission without your help. Please help us save them and continue bringing joy to Gulf Coast families. Donate online at www.GulfCoastHumaneSociety.org or call us (239) 332-0364.



GULF COAST
HUMANE
SOCIETY

Visit our adoptable pets online at www.GulfCoastHumaneSociety.org

SPOT-LIGHT PET



- Gabby -
10 years old
Female

Big, bold and beautiful Gabby has been with us since April 2008 and is looking forward to finding her perfect family. She is a tuxedo cat with a huge personality. Gabby needs an experienced cat owner who understands her independent spirit. She loves to be petted, groomed and cuddled, but on her own terms. She is not too keen on living with other cats, especially older or shy cats, or cats that want to be the boss. That is Gabby's job! She would be ideal for any home with adults or children over 10 years old.



\$500 Donation!

We are amazed everyday at the kindness and support of our community, but have particular admiration for a group of kids that recently paid us a visit. Imagine the surprise of our staff when on a Saturday afternoon, four local youths (accompanied by their parents), came in to our administration building to drop off a donation. The children, Genevieve and Marielle Patrick, along with Rachel and Ethan Gropper, had held a garage sale so that they could donate the proceeds to GCHS. Their generous donation totaled \$500! From all of us at GCHS, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Visit our adoptable pets online at www.GulfCoastHumaneSociety.org



GCHS Roundup

What a busy time of year for us at the GCHS. The holidays are approaching, and with them, the hustle and bustle of finding just the right gift. We at the GCHS believe there is no better gift to give during the holiday season than to give a loving, lifelong home to one of our amazing orphaned animals.

Some people hesitate to give a dog or cat as a present to someone, and we understand. Many pet owners prefer choosing new pets themselves so giving a pet as a surprise can have disastrous results. It also tends to be such a busy time of year that the recipient has no time to spend with the new member of the family. We have the perfect solution that is a win-win situation for you and our beloved animals!

For the first time at the GCHS, we are offering gift certificates for the holidays. The certificate can be redeemed after the hectic holiday season. The animal lover in your life can pick out his or her perfect pet at the Humane Society! But, that's not all. For those that already own pets, the certificates can be redeemed at our Low Cost Veterinary Clinic, or can be used toward food and supplies. Please stop by today to purchase your holiday gift certificate.

From all of us at Gulf Coast Humane Society, we wish you the happiest of holiday seasons!

Ask Us Why

Q. My dog won't stop digging! What can I do?

A. Dogs dig for many reasons. Find out why they are digging, and then you can find the appropriate solution. For example:

- Your pooch is trying to get to cool dirt! To combat heat, provide shade or even a small kiddie pool. Plenty of fresh water and a bowl of ice cubes can be a cool crunchy way to beat the heat and stay hydrated.
- Some breeds, such as terriers, were bred to dig and chase vermin. More exercise in addition to providing a digging area will help. Sometimes a sand box with buried doggie treasure can curb the urge to dig in inappropriate places.
- They are bored. When there is nothing else to do ... digging is fun! Make sure they are supervised (you can't correct after the fact) and get plenty of exercise. Interactive toys and treat dispensing puzzle toys can help pass away the boredom blues.

Dogs are social learners, so don't ever let them see you dig! Garden, refill holes and landscape, ALONE! If your dog sees you having fun, he's going to want to join you!

Clinic Corner

Pets Need Dental Care, Too!

Your pet needs dental care, both professionally and at home. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, more than 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats develop gum disease by the age of three years. The good news is that it is easily preventable with a few easy steps.

- Take your pet to the veterinarian for a dental exam. Don't wait for his annual checkup if you suspect a problem.
- Begin a dental care regimen at home. This may include brushing your pet's teeth and/or feeding your pet specially formulated foods proven effective in combating plaque and tartar build up.
- Schedule regular vet checkups. These are essential in helping monitor the progress of your pet's dental health routine.

We can help you with your pet's dental care! Our low cost Veterinary Clinic at Gulf Coast Humane Society is now offering dental services. Please call (239) 332-2719 and schedule an appointment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING AROUND HERE AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PET-FRIENDLY EVENTS.

FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENTS LISTED OR TO SEE IF WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN YOUR EVENT, CALL (239) 332-0364

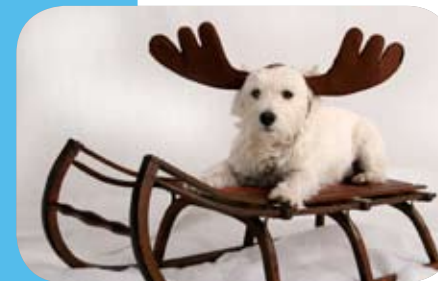
NOVEMBER 27
Yappy Hour and Stroll
6 – 8pm
The Grape
Coconut Point Mall
Estero

DECEMBER 11
Yappy Hour and Stroll
6 – 8pm
Center Circle at
Bell Tower Shops, Fort Myers

DECEMBER 12
Holiday Adopt-a-thon & Low Cost Clinic
11am – 3pm
Call for appointment for Clinic 332-2719
Gulf Coast Humane Society
2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers

DECEMBER 12 & 13
Pet Supermarket Grand Opening
noon - 4pm
Cape Coral

Save the Date: January 9
Walk-a-thon at Coconut Point



Visit our adoptable pets online at www.GulfCoastHumaneSociety.org

Canine Influenza

While us humans deal with the H1N1 virus, another virus has been spreading to our dogs: H3N8, or canine influenza, a contagious viral infection of dogs.

According to the experts at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, the canine influenza virus can cause mild to severe illness in our dogs. Mild effects include a soft, moist cough with or without a low-grade fever that lasts 10 to 30 days despite treatment, along with yellow/green nasal discharge if a secondary bacterial infection occurs. More severe illness can result in high-grade fever as well as rapid and/or difficult breathing, which is usually caused by secondary pneumonia.

Dogs in shelters, kennels, training facilities, doggie day cares, veterinary clinics, pet stores or grooming parlors are at highest risk for exposure to the virus and should be vaccinated. Dogs that mostly stay at home and walk around the neighborhood are at a lower risk.

The vaccine, which was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture earlier this year, is available at the Gulf Coast Humane Society Veterinary Clinic. The vaccine is intended as an aid in the control of disease associated with the canine influenza virus infection. Although the vaccine may not always prevent infection, the vaccination has shown to significantly reduce the severity and duration of illness. Vaccinated dogs that do become infected are less likely to have severe symptoms and are not as contagious to other dogs. These benefits are similar to those provided by influenza vaccines used in other species, including people.

If you are interested in having your pet vaccinated for the Canine Influenza Virus, please contact our Veterinary Clinic for an appointment at (239) 332-2719.



EVENTS

Resorts Sports Event



On October 3, Resort Sports Inc, held an exciting fundraising event at Bell Tower Shops to benefit the Gulf Coast Humane Society. The day featured a meet and greet of adoptable pets from GCHS, a cupcake decorating station, raffles and silent auction baskets.

Kids and adults enjoyed trying their luck in a Money Machine and numerous families captured a keepsake memory of their pet with a pet photographer. The best part? GCHS received \$4,200 in cash and in donated pet supplies. Thank you to Resort Sports for coordinating such a wonderful day!



Halloween Bash at Coconut Point

Held on October 28 to benefit Gulf Coast Humane Society, pets came outfitted in their favorite costumes hoping to win the title of Best Costume! Sponsored by Coconut Point and its merchants, the event also featured a Kids Costume Fashion Show, trick or treating and a performance of "Thriller" by The Edge.

Our gratitude goes out to Barbara Dell Productions for making the event a success!

