

Dog Dies Due to Owner's Negligence

Fort Myers, Florida, 7/23/09—On July 15, 2009 Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) received an anonymous complaint reporting a dead dog in a neighbor's yard. An Animal Control Officer was immediately dispatched to the Lehigh Acres location and unfortunately confirmed that the dog had expired.

The three year old Rottweiler was tied to a stake in the owner's yard where it had no access to shelter from the sun or heat and had no water. The dog's surface body temperature registered over 109 degrees Fahrenheit. The owner has been charged with cruelty to animals plus failure to vaccinate and license his dog.

Animal Services reminds all pet owners of the importance of providing proper food, water, and shelter for their pets and the penalties for failure to do so. This is particularly critical during the summer months. Many of us have heard warnings about the dangers of leaving pets in parked cars due to how quickly the temperature can rise. However, many people do not realize the danger to pets from overexposure to the sun which can result in permanent brain or organ damage as well as death.

Anyone who sees an animal without proper food, water, and shelter or subject to other types of neglect and abuse should contact Lee County Domestic Animal Services at 239-533-7387. According to Lee County Ordinance 09-20 and Florida State Statute it is unlawful for any owner or agent to fail to provide adequate, food, water, shelter, veterinary care, or otherwise neglect an animal. Failure to do so is punishable by a maximum fine of \$500 for a civil infraction and a maximum of \$5,000, jail time, or both for a misdemeanor conviction.

For more information about local and state laws regarding animals call Lee County Domestic Animal Services at 239-533-7387 (LEE-PETS). Lee County Ordinance 09-20 may be viewed online at www.LeeLostPets.com.