



The Poop Scoop Quarterly Newsletter

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Medical Matters

"Puppy Strangles"

Have you heard of puppy strangles? Technically called juvenile cellulitis (juvenile sterile granulomatous dermatitis and lymphadenitis), this is considered to be an autoimmune disorder that causes a puppy's immune system to attack its own skin cells. Unlike the "strangles" seen in horses, this is not contagious, nor is it due to bacteria.



A rare condition, juvenile cellulitis is often first seen when the puppy's lymph glands in the neck, which filter the blood and fight infection, enlarge and resemble the mumps. This neck swelling progresses to generalized swelling of the face, followed by the appearance of pus-filled bumps that look similar to pimples. These pustules grow and rupture and can spread from the face to the body and can cause scarring if not treated. And the swollen lymph nodes can put pressure on the trachea, resulting in difficulty breathing, which is where the term "strangles" came from.

As you might expect, this condition requires immediate veterinary care. The treatment for juvenile cellulitis is always steroids to suppress the overactive immune system. If there is infection in the pustules or elsewhere, antibiotics may be given. The good news is that with early diagnosis and proper treatment, most puppies completely recover and the cellulitis never recurs.

HSLWR currently has a very young puppy with juvenile cellulitis in our care. Her name is Starbucks, and she is being fostered by our shelter manager, Dani Ziegler. Found alone at about 3 weeks old, Starbucks would not have survived had she not been rescued. She is

now in an incubator and being bottle fed every 3 - 4 hours. Like all juvenile cellulitis puppies, Starbucks is on steroid therapy, and she is also getting antibiotics for pneumonia. Her medical care is being coordinated by Dr. Samanowitz at [University Animal Clinic](#).

Volunteer Spotlight: Sally Carr

A chance meeting at a dog park in 2020 brought our featured volunteer, Sally Carr, to our door!

In Sally's words, "I struck up a conversation with someone at the Greenbrook dog park who told me about her experience volunteering at HSLWR and how wonderful it was. I'd mentioned that I'd always wanted to volunteer at a shelter but was afraid of being becoming too attached to the animals and also distressed by their not having homes. She said that HSLWR would be the perfect shelter for me because of how well run it was and how lovingly cared for each of the dogs and cats were. So I got over my fears and took the plunge. And, of course, it was the best decision. HSLWR is all she said it would be and more. And even though I do get quite attached to the dogs and feel sad for the ones having a harder time getting adopted, I know that they're loved immensely and are getting excellent care, love, and support from the shelter manager and staff. I'm always glad I decided to volunteer at HSLWR. It's been one of the most rewarding things I've ever done."



Sally loves to shower the dogs with affection and spoil them with treats. She firmly believes that volunteers make a big difference in their lives while they're at the shelter waiting for their new homes, and she gets joy and satisfaction knowing that. She says that HSLWR is a real community, and she is thankful for the friends she has made and the camaraderie among the volunteers and staff. And of course, we are thankful for Sally!

Are you interested in becoming an HSLWR volunteer? Visit our website at <https://hslwr.org/Volunteer> for more information.

Charitable Giving Options for Supporters



A Smart Way to Give: The Benefits of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

For donors age 70½ and older, there is a simple and powerful way to support the causes you care about while also making the most of your retirement resources: a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Many supporters are surprised to learn how impactful this giving option can be—both for nonprofits and for their own financial well-being.

What Is a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution allows you to give directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualified charitable organization like ours. Instead of taking a taxable distribution and then making a donation, the funds are transferred directly from your IRA to the charity. And you may choose to direct those funds to one nonprofit, or to several.

In 2026, you may donate up to \$111,000 per year per individual through a QCD. Married couples with separate IRAs may each make a QCD. This type of gift can be made starting at age 70½.

Make a Bigger Impact Without Increasing Your Taxes

One of the greatest benefits of a QCD is that the donated amount is **not** included in your taxable income. Because the gift is excluded from income altogether, it can be more tax-efficient than writing a check or donating cash from a bank account. This approach allows you to give generously while potentially keeping your overall income—and related taxes—lower.

Fulfill Required Minimum Distributions Through Giving

If you are required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA, a QCD can help. Gifts made through a QCD count toward your annual RMD, yet *they do not increase your taxable income*. For donors who do not need their RMD for everyday expenses, this can be an ideal way to turn a required withdrawal into a meaningful charitable gift.

A Benefit Even If You Don't Itemize Deductions

Many taxpayers no longer itemize deductions due to the higher standard deduction. That means traditional charitable gifts may not provide a tax benefit. QCDs are different. Because the gift is excluded from income rather than deducted, you receive a tax benefit even if you take the standard deduction. This makes QCDs especially appealing for retirees who give regularly to charity.

Support Our Mission in a Simple, Meaningful Way

A QCD is easy to arrange. All that is required is a request to your IRA administrator to send funds directly to our organization, or the organization of your choosing. You may make a one-time gift or establish recurring distributions to support our work year after year. Your gift helps advance your favorite nonprofit's mission while offering you a thoughtful way to align your charitable values with your financial planning.

A Thoughtful Gift for Today and Tomorrow

Qualified Charitable Distributions are a wonderful option for donors who want to give with intention, efficiency, and impact. By using retirement assets to support charitable work, you can make a difference today while managing your resources wisely.

We encourage you to speak with your financial or tax advisor to see if a QCD is right for you. If you have questions about making a gift through a QCD, our team would be happy to assist you.

2025 Subaru Loves Pets Partnership



Thank you Conley Subaru and Subaru Loves Pets! Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch was fortunate to have **Conley Subaru** once again choose our shelter to partner with during the 2025 Subaru Loves Pets month. They generously gave us \$4,000 to help cover medical & food costs to save more local homeless pets. This is the 9th year that Conley Subaru has supported HSLWR and our mission. We are so grateful!

This year HSLWR took in even more special animals that were senior or needed additional medical care. Two examples of Senior Dogs that found forever homes during the Subaru Loves Pets Month are Gerald and Ryder.

Gerald was found as a stray and had been looking for a home for over 4 months. This sweet senior Lab mix loves to play ball and does the best happy dances! Gerald went to our Subaru Loves Pets Adoption Event at Conley Subaru and had the best time making friends with everyone. Within a week, he found his forever home and will only know love for the rest of his life!

Ryder is an 8-year-old Papillon that came to us as a surrender when his mom could no longer care for him due to her declining health. He required medical care prior to being ready for adoption. He is now happily enjoying life in his new forever home.

Thank You to the Manatee Community Foundation and the Bill and Maryann Vinall Fund!

We are so grateful to receive a \$20,000 Grant from the **Manatee Community Foundation** and the Bill and Maryann Vinall Fund. These funds are allocated for veterinary care and support of our Foster Program.

We brought Faze into our shelter from Manatee County Animal Services, knowing this little 1-year-old pup had an injured eye, as well as other possible health issues. Unfortunately, his left eye had to be removed, due to a painful ruptured corneal ulcer. Tests also revealed a congenital heart defect and significant cardiac disease.

Faze was in a foster home for months while completing multiple tests and treatment. Final tests showed the medication stabilized his heart disease. He found his forever home with a wonderful woman who thoroughly understood and accepted his heart condition. He is absolutely adored, is doing exceptionally well and living his best life!



Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch does not receive any state or federal funding, therefore we rely not only on our generous individual donors, but also on grants and our community partners.

Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch
26920 Gopher Hill Rd.
Myakka City, Florida, 34251
Phone: 941-361-1071
<https://hslwr.org>

We are open to the public for adoptions Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm. We do not take any appointments-walk ins only!

Click here to subscribe to our newsletter!

