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**The Official Newsletter of  
The City of Edgewater**  
[www.CityofEdgewater.org](http://www.CityofEdgewater.org)

# THE EDGEWATER SHORELINES

## Canine Distemper On Rise In Local Wildlife

Canine distemper is a disease affecting a large population of raccoons in our area. This disease is easily transmittable to your dogs. Symptoms usually start like signs of an upper respiratory infection; runny nose, watery eyes and sneezing. As the disease progresses, the animal can develop pneumonia. It may also be thin and have diarrhea. In the final stages of the disease, the animal will wander around and demonstrate

other weird behavior resulting from brain damage. The mortality rate may reach 100% in susceptible animals. No treatment exists for canine distemper so it is extremely important to have your animals vaccinated against this disease. If you see a raccoon, opossum, fox or other carnivorous animal acting strange or looking sick please do not go near it and keep your animals away. Call **Animal Control at 424-2000**.



Raccoons are common carriers of canine distemper.

If you are unsure if your animals are up to date on their vaccinations call your local veterinarian.

## Pool and Spa Safety Tips

With summer approaching, now is a good time to remember pool and spa safety. Per city ordinance [21-36.10 Swimming pools] all swimming pools, whirlpools, spas or hot tubs must be maintained and enclosed with a four foot or over (higher) enclosure that latches.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 260 children under the

age of 5 years drown in residential swimming pools and spas and another 3000 are treated in emergency rooms following submersion accidents, each year. Nationally, drowning is the fourth leading cause of death to children under five.

The CPSC offers some tips for pool owners:

- Never leave a child unsu-

pervised near a pool.

- Do not consider young children "drown proof" because they've had swimming lessons; young children should always be watched carefully while swimming.
- Do not use floatation devices as a substitute

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### Did you know:

- There is an educational and fun site for kids and adults to learn the [Story of Drinking Water](http://www.drinktap.org). It is from the American Water Works Association and has games, stories and videos about where your drinking water comes from and how water can be saved through leak prevention and detection. It's at [www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org). Try it out so you know about H2O!
- Per City Ordinance Section 21-56.03, Property Maintenance: All weeds and grass shall be cut to a height not exceeding 12 inches by owner of an improved lot.

## Hurricane Season Stormwater Preparation

With hurricane season upon us it is important to remember a few drainage facts. Most areas in the City either have a gutter system or swales for drainage. It is important to keep these areas free of tree limbs and other debris during periods of rainfall. This debris blocks the drainage areas of culverts, piping, catch basins and grates and prevents or slows the drainage process. This can lead to flooding of streets, yards and potentially homes when this infrastructure remains blocked.

Remember these items prior to a severe rainfall or when a storm is approaching.

- Do not place yard debris in swales, on top of catch basins or grates or in gutters.
- If a hurricane or tropical storm is approaching, do **not** cut down trees. There may not be time to get them picked up and disposed of before the storm and then they can become flying debris. The time to prune and cut trees is long before a storm comes and preferably during the off-season.
- Please call **Environmental Services at 424-2476** if you see

blockages in the major drainage canals prior to a storm so we can eliminate the problem before the storm.

- Put all garbage cans inside a shed or garage to prevent them from blocking pipes. They fit nicely inside culvert pipes and are impossible to remove until the water recedes.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## Prepare Your Property for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season will officially start on June 1 and end on November 30, but it's not too early to start preparations. Edgewater Fire-Rescue recommends the following preparations that can be completed now as we await the arrival of our first storm of the season.

- Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut

to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.

- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.

- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Consider building a safe room.

Edgewater Fire-Rescue personnel are available to visit your civic group or homeowner's association to talk about hurricane season preparations. Please call 424-2445 for more information.

## Brush Fire Prevention and Safety Tips

Brush fire season is upon us earlier than expected this year. The National Weather Service has been regularly posting Red Flag warnings for our area. A Red Flag Warning means means high fire danger with increased probability of a quickly spreading vegetation fire in the area within 24 hours. Edgewater Fire-Rescue offers the following brush fire tips:

- Create a safety zone around your home of at least 30 feet.
- Remove all debris such as leaves and rubbish from under

and around the structure.

- Remove all dead branches from trees.
- Remove vines from the walls of your home.
- Stack firewood at least 10 feet away from the home and make sure to clear all combustible materials within 20 feet away.
- Identify any outside water sources in your area and main-

tain them. These can be small ponds, a cistern, a well, a swimming pool, or fire hydrants.

- Make sure that you have got a long enough garden hose that reaches your home and any other structures on your property.

Please contact **Edgewater Fire-Rescue at 424-2445** for more information about brush fire prevention and safety.

## Pool and Spa Safety Tips

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- for supervision.
- Remove steps to above ground pools when not in use.
- Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).
- Have a telephone poolside to avoid leaving children to answer a telephone elsewhere. Keep emergency

numbers at the poolside telephone.

- Keep rescue equipment by the pool.

**PARENTS AND GUARDIANS: ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT A DROWNING. WATCH YOUR CHILD CLOSELY AT ALL TIMES. MAKE SURE DOORS LEADING TO THE POOL AREA ARE CLOSED AND LOCKED. YOUNG CHILDREN CAN QUICKLY SLIP AWAY AND INTO THE POOL**

More information can be obtained on the

web at [http://www.keepkidshealthy.com/welcome/safety/pool\\_safety.html](http://www.keepkidshealthy.com/welcome/safety/pool_safety.html).

The Community Service Department wish all of you a safe and fun Summer.

Community Service Supervisor Angela

## Surviving the Dog Days of Summer: Hot Weather Tips to Keep your Pet Safe When the Temperature Rises.

The Florida summer may be beautiful, but for dogs and cats left without a cool place to rest and plenty of water, the high temps can be deadly. **Edgewater Animal Services** offers these tips for pet owners to help keep their four-legged friends safe and cool.

- Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car. The temperature in your car can exceed 110 degrees in minutes. It is inhumane, illegal and can cause severe injury or even death within minutes. Accidents can even happen if pets are left inside vehicles that are running with the air on.
- Be certain pets have access to fresh, clean water at all times.
- Ensure that your pet has access to shade at all times of the day. Your dog might be in the shade when you leave for work, but the sun moves in the late afternoon. Don't allow your pet to be stranded in the scorching sun. A shade tree is great, but it is not enough, because in Florida we also have afternoon thunderstorms with deadly lightning. Pets need shelters and should never be chained. They can be electrocuted.
- Secure plastic water bowls, never metal, to the ground so your pet can't accidentally tip them over. You can dig a small round hole and place the water bowls inside. Another tip is to clip the handle of the water bucket to your fence.
- If your pet is showing signs of heat exhaustion (excessive panting, lethargic behavior), right away begin treatment by applying cold water to your pet's extremities. See your veterinarian immediately!
- Inexpensive plastic kiddie pools are a fun way for your dog to cool down (fun to watch them too!) just be certain that the water is fresh. Some dogs enjoy playing in sprinklers as well.
- If you run or jog with your dog, take frequent water breaks for yourself and your dog. Remember that asphalt and concrete get hot quickly. You have rubber soles on your feet—your dog does not. On hot days, leave your dog at home.
- During the summer, mosquitoes are prevalent. Have your pet tested by a veterinarian for Heartworm Disease (a mosquito-transmitted, often fatal disease) and begin Heartworm prevention medication.
- When the weather is dangerously hot, bring your pets inside.
- Do not house your pet in a garage or any other area that is not well ventilated.

To report an animal in heat-related jeopardy, please call the Edgewater Animal Control at (386) 424-2000.

# Shelter Animals Available For Adoption

If you would like to provide a forever home for these, or any of our other wonderful animals, please visit the **Edgewater Animal Shelter**, Mon-Sat, 9 am-4 pm, at 605 mango Tree Dr. We always welcome your calls at 386-424-2442.



Buster (at left) is the CUTEST dog with all his puppy expressions! This young Italian Mastiff mix is full of life and ready for a new home.

Speedy (right) a Doberman Pinscher/ Manchester Terrier mix, is a funny little man who loves to posture over his babies (toys).

Both boys need to be neutered, but the service is included in the \$80 adoption fee.



Baby, a Jack Russell (left), and Cleopatra, a Chihuahua (right), are two older girls who truly deserve the good life. They have been over bred, under appreciated and neglected. They are precious little girls who love to give love, get love and lay in the sun. They have been together a long time and we would hate to see them separated at this stage of their lives.



Phantom (left) is a young, neutered kitty. He was abandoned at the Shelter in a cardboard box. He is sweet, playful and in need of a new home.

Samantha (right) is a 10 year old beauty who was surrendered by her elderly owner. She is spayed and de-clawed in front. She would really like to be back in a home.

The 'Spring Special' adoption fee for felines is only \$60!



Ben (on left), aka Big Ben, is a Rhodesian Ridgeback mix with a beautiful copper color. He's the sweetest boy and he would make a GREAT family pet.

Marley (at right), is a young male. Typical of Boxer's, (he's a mix) he's a good boy but he needs to be the only dog in his family. With summer coming, he'd be great for cleaning ice cream cone drips!

Both boys need to be neutered, but the service is included in the \$80 adoption fee.

