



# Pet Gazette

## Microchip Month!

WHO – Your pets

WHAT – Microchipping- A microchip is a small chip implanted under the skin that hold an identification number.

WHEN – the entire month of July

WHERE – Animal Care Center, Best Care, & Country Oaks Animal Hospitals

WHY – To get our clients prepared for this hurricane season and to ensure any lost pets be returned to their rightful owners.

COST – Only \$12.00 per pet



## Hurricane Safety Tips for Your Pet

Identification is critical. Be sure your pet has a collar and ID tags along with the rabies tag/license. Collars can come off or break, we recommend you have your pet micro chipped & registered to increase the chance your pet will be returned to you in the unfortunate event you are separated during a storm.

Vaccinate your pet. If you need to leave your pet at a boarding facility they will require your pet is current on vaccines and will need proof. Keep a copy of your pets' vaccine records with your other important documents in case of evacuation.

Invest in a carrier or cage that is big enough for your pet to move around in. This will help protect your pet from wandering off and relieve your stress of worrying about where he/she is at all times. Some facilities may set up a temporary shelter area for your pet; however,

you may need to provide the carrier or cage to keep your pet in. Make all attempts to take your pet with you. This is very important, so plan ahead and make sure your pet is a part of your evacuation plan.

To find a "pet friendly" hotel or motel, go to [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com). Most shelters will not allow you to bring your pet with you. Be sure to plan ahead if you are in an evacuation area. Most kennels will operate on a first come, first serve basis. Making a reservation at a boarding facility "just in case" could take a space away from a pet that truly needs it. Bring your pet to the facility as soon as you make the decision to leave. Don't wait for the last minute, space may not be available, or if the weather is getting bad, they may close to insure the safety of employees.

Be sure to take a leash with you. Even the best-trained animals can run away when frightened. You will want to keep your pet on a leash when taking it out to relieve itself.

Be sure to take a two-week food supply for your pet. Shipments could be stopped or slowed down due to damage after a storm.

If your pet requires a special diet, be sure to keep a good supply on hand during this time. If your pet is eating canned food, be sure to bring a non-electric can opener.

Water is essential to your pets well being. Be sure to bring them bottled water along with your own. Don't forget their food & water bowls.

Take a two-week supply of your pet's medications. Be sure to keep medications filled as they run low to avoid having to go without necessary medications if a quick evacuation is needed. You should write or type out medication instructions to leave with the caretaker to avoid any confusion.

Be sure to take newspaper, cat litter, litter box, a litter box scoop, and plastic trash bags for handling waste.

Be sure to put your identification on all items you bring with you to a shelter.

Keep a photo of you and your pet in with your evacuation documents for identification.

Bring your pet a comfort item, such as a favorite toy or t-shirt with your scent. Their favorite treats are always a welcome distraction.

### Did You Know

1. Atlantic Hurricane season starts June 1<sup>st</sup>.

2. Category	Wind	Storm Surge
I	74-95mph	4-5ft.
II	96-110mph	6-8ft.
III	111-130mph	9-12ft.
IV	131-155mph	13-18ft.
V	156+mph	19+ft.

3. Hurricane preparedness websites available:

[www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com),

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

[www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)

[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

## Potty Training

One of the hardest parts of having a puppy is potty training. Here are some helpful hints to help potty training run a little smoother.

### Schedule:

- have a specific schedule that is followed
- have a small area outside that is Fido's "potty area"
- leash walk Fido on leash in this area/use command "go potty" while eliminating
- reward Fido for eliminating in "potty area" (treats and gentle praise)

### Signals and times to take Fido outside:

- first thing in the morning
- 10-15 minutes after meals and drinking water
- after play time/chewing
- after naps
- before bed time
- wanders off on own
- when comes out of crate

### Avoid accidents:

- consistency/ keep to Fido's schedule
- lots of rewards and praise when goes outside

- do not punish for going inside (you may unknowingly make her fear to go in front of you)
- feed 2-3 times daily until fully potty trained (so we know when Fido needs to eliminate)
- limit water intake before bedtime
- feed last meal 2-3 hours before bedtime
- keep in confined or in small area at night or when out of the house
- watch Fido for "potty signals"

### What to do if Fido goes inside:

- accidents are a normal part of potty training
- accidents must be caught 2-3 seconds after (or during accident)
- calmly tell her no and take her outside to her spot
- praise and treats if she eliminates (remember "go potty" command)
- if she does not eliminate do not give reward
- clean accident area thoroughly (lingering smell may cause future accidents)

### Crate:

Fido's crate should be large enough for him to turn around comfortably but small enough so he can't urinate or defecate on one side and sleep on the other. While potty training, avoid blankets or any bedding in crate. When completely potty trained blankets may be put in crate as long as Fido does not shred them! Avoid putting water into crate. Crate should be in quiet low traffic area. This will enable Fido to go to his "quiet place".



## Canine Separation Anxiety

Are you afraid to leave your dog at home alone because of his "bad" behavior? Does he do things like howl, be destructive, inappropriately urinate and/or defecate while you are away-even if you are only gone for a couple of minutes to check the mail or mow the lawn. Your dog may not be acting badly at all; he may suffer from Canine Separation Anxiety. Canine Separation Anxiety is a condition that affects many dogs and often goes untreated. Dogs that are affected by Canine Separation Anxiety have a hyper-attachment to a family member or members and when left alone they experience extreme anxiety and stress. Affected dogs may howl, be destructive, inappropriately urinate and/or defecate or be behaviorally depressed. These symptoms usually occur as the owner leaves or shortly after. If your dog has been diagnosed with Canine Separation Anxiety, there is an effective treatment. A medication called Reconcile, which is a chewable tablet given once daily, used in conjunction with a behavior modification program has been proven to significantly improve your pets behavior within 8 weeks.

Contact your veterinarian if you feel your pet may suffer from Separation Anxiety.



**Reconcile™**  
(fluoxetine hydrochloride)

## Calling all Pets

We know your pets are wonderful, amazing and talented, tell us about them. We will be picking a special pet superstar for each issue of Pet Gazette to be our highlighted pet of the month. So owners now is your chance to tell the world what you already know, that your pets a superstar.

Please send a picture and a short story about your awesome pal to: [tiffany@countryoaksah.com](mailto:tiffany@countryoaksah.com) if you would like us to pick your pet to be our next pet of the month



## Coolee Schafer

Coolee is a one-year-old Pit Bull terrier mix. When he was 11 weeks old he was surrendered to Country Oaks Animal Hospital, because his owner was unable to care for him. When he came to us he had a broken jaw and was very sick. Joanna Flower, who is a Technician and the Behavior Consultant at Country Oaks Animal Hospital adopted him. Dr. Curry and Dr. Campos fixed all his booboos. Coolee has completely recovered from all of his injuries. Coolee now has many talents, he fetches his toys on command, he sings, plays dead, and enjoys pulling Joanna's two children, Kayla and Gary on their scooters. He goes to work with Joanna everyday and plays with the dogs that go to doggie day care. He loves doggie day care because he gets a chance to play and run with his friends, when he comes home he is tired and ready to cuddle with Joanna and her family. Coolee's extended family includes, Catillac and Squiggles two feisty felines who were also adopted from Country Oaks Animal Hospital.

# Meet the Staff

## Christian Cerpa

Meet Christian he was born in Caguas, Puerto Rico, and moved to America in 2003. He has been with Country Oaks Animal Hospital for two years. He currently works as their kennel manager and is also a technician assistant. In the fall Christian will be attending classes at St. Petersburg College to become a Certified Veterinary Technician.

Christian has one dog at home named Chirimonga and two parakeets. In his spare time he enjoys working on as well as racing cars. He is in the process of working on his current vehicle. Christian is a very valuable asset to our pet care team.



## Robert Snyder

Robert is 18 years old and just graduated from River Ridge High School. Robert is a true Floridian, he was born right here in sunny New Port Richey. He has been employed at Country Oaks Animal Hospital for 2 years, he works as an Animal Care Attendant, a Technician Assistant and also a Receptionist, he does it all! Robert is a very compassionate and caring person, he enjoys taking care of our hospitalized patients and he also takes care of his dog Coal, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy. Robert also enjoys working on cars. He and Christian have a lot of the same interests, they often visit the racetrack together with Dr. Campos.



Brought to you by:

Country Oaks Animal Hospital

Best Care Animal Hospital

Animal Care Center

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