

Woodlake Neighborhood Watch Newsletter
National Neighborhood Night Out - Oct. 4th!

AS IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT...

Health officials are trying to determine why there's been a dramatic increase in the number of people in Texas each year who contract a food-borne illness that's often linked to produce imported from Mexico and other warmer climes.

Although there have been outbreaks in several states in recent years, cyclosporiasis infection rates returned to normal levels after the sources were contained.

But in Texas, the number of cases shot up from 44 in 2012 to 351 in 2013 and has remained in the triple digits ever since.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by a parasite that infects people who consume contaminated food or water.

Food safety advocates question whether regulations abroad are enough to protect consumers as the U.S. imports a growing volume of produce from Mexico and elsewhere.

MOST WANTED BELL/LAMPASAS COUNTY AS OF: SEP 30TH, 2016

Our Feature Fugitive this issue is: 43 y/o Sergio Espinoza from Harker Heights, Wanted For: Aggravated Assault.

Espinoza is a 5'6", 220lbs, W/M, with Brown Eyes and Black Hair.



If you have information about this or any other fugitive, contact Crime Stoppers at 526-TIPS (8477) or go online anonymously at: www.bellcounty.crimestoppers.com.

FROMAUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety has Announced That: Justin Lane SLATTON, Jr., affiliated with the Latin Kings gang, was taken into custody on September 11, 2016, in San Angelo, Texas. Slatton was a suspect in a double shooting that occurred on April 13, 2016, at a residence in Temple, which resulted in the deaths of two men.

Slatton had already served time in TDCJ prison for Theft of Firearm.

On May 6, 2016, the Bell County Sheriff's Office issued two warrants for Slatton's arrest for Murder. On May 10, 2016, the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for Burglary of a Building.

Slatton's apprehension was the result of investigative work, which was assisted by a Texas Crime Stoppers tip received in August 2016, so a reward will be paid.



For more information, visit: www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=331.

WHAT IS THE RISK WITH STRAYS AND ABANDONED PETS?

Frequently a stray or stealthy, errant cat wanders around the neighborhood and occasionally a dog, unfortunately abandoned by their once-owners, find its way into the community. Pet abandonment is a crime though is rarely ever proven, enforced or investigated.

Stray dogs and cats are a public nuisance, however, and why it is unlawful for the owner of

a dog in unincorporated areas to fail to restrain or to allow their dog(s) and/or unvaccinated cat(s) to run at large.

The Animal Control or any peace officer may capture and impound to an authorized shelter, any stray cat or dog and issue a citation to the owner of the animal(s).

A stray cat or dog that is determined to be vicious, poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of any person, or is about to elude capture, may be destroyed by the use of the most reasonable means available.

Unless claimed or released by the owner sooner, an impounded dog or cat is kept at the shelter for at least 3 working days prior to release for adoption. After 5 working days (not including the day of impoundment), the animal will be scheduled for euthanasia.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER AN ANIMAL THAT LOOKS OR ACTS THREATENING, OR IF YOU FEEL UNEASY ABOUT THE SITUATION, STAY IN YOUR CAR OR HOUSE AND CALL ANIMAL CONTROL. A strange, frightened, and possibly sick, starving or injured animal can behave unpredictably. A sudden move on your part, even opening your car door, can spook them and cause them to bolt—possibly right onto the busy roadway.

Otherwise, if you can safely restrain animal: Create a barrier, a carrier, leash, piece of cloth, or length of rope to keep the animal in the area.

If you're unable to confine and the animal appears to be injured but is still on the roadway, signal approaching vehicles to slow down or divert traffic around them.

Use caution; there's the chance of getting scratched or bitten when approaching the animal.

When moving toward the animal, speak calmly to reassure them. Make sure they can see you at all times as you approach, and perhaps entice them to come to you by offering a strong-smelling food such as canned tuna or dried liver.

If you are certain you can get help from animal control very soon, try to lure the animal into your car or garage with food, close the door and wait for help. In most cases it isn't a good idea to attempt to drive somewhere with a strange dog unrestrained in your car; they may become frantic or aggressive.

Cats may do the same, as well as lodge themselves under the car seat, and it can be dangerous trying to extract them.

If you're not able to safely restrain the animal, call the local animal control regardless whether or not the animal is injured, and whether or not they are wearing an identification tag. Leave your

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phone number with the dispatcher, get an estimated response time, and if possible, stay on the scene to keep an eye on the dog or cat until help arrives. Make sure you report to authorities precisely where the animal is by using road names, mile markers or landmarks.

If you are able to transport the animal, take them to the nearest animal shelter. If you plan to keep the animal in the event no owner is found, notify animal control that you have the animal or that you have taken them to a veterinary hospital for treatment and to have it scanned for a microchip to help find the owner. Keep any identification, such as collar or tags.

Have the animal thoroughly checked. The animal may be carrying any of the following diseases: rabies, distemper, ticks, fleas, mange, ringworm and other fungal diseases, heartworms, kennel cough, intestinal parasites (roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, whipworms).

Then, before bringing the animal home, make sure you can keep your resident animals separate; the found animal could be sick, fearful or aggressive with other animals.

Once you have them safely at your home, take pictures and create a "found pet" flier to post around the area in which the animal was found.

If you've tried to find the owner without success, but are unable to keep the animal long-term, you can try to re-home the animal yourself or contact one of several rescue/re-homing associations.

A final note: if you're uncertain about what to do to help or keep an animal you see alongside the road, think of what you would want the finder of your pet to do if they happened to find them injured and without their collar.

BELL CO. ANIMAL SHELTER IS A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE CITY OF BELTON

I was fortunate that Deputy Connell, the facility supervisor/manager, was able to take some time to provide for me a guided tour through the facility. Impressed, more so, surprised that far more "state-of-the-art" environment exists inside the facility, unperceivable from the outside.

First of all, contrary to other kennels I've visited, there is an obvious lack of odor. As Deputy Connell explaining the building design and construction techniques are all impressions and observations he gathered from visiting many other rescue and shelter facilities throughout the region and country.

Every room has a specific purpose and its own separate filter/ventilation/heating and air-condition which eliminates the potential for cross-contamination of hair, vapors and viruses. Areas where animals are quarantined or kenneled are kept clean by hosing down the floor that has a slight grade to the back wall and under a stainless steel covered slough. The covered slough, which services about 6 separate kennels each, is also on a slight grade which dumps into a wastewater drain pipe then to a 20,000-gallon septic tank at the back of the property.

The 10,000 square foot Bell County Animal Shelter exists to promote the general welfare and to manage unwanted and unhealthy animals and is necessary for managing stray, sick and dangerous animals in the interest of the general health and safety of Bell County residents.

The facility boasts 48 "state-of-the-art" dog-runs and 63 cat cages.

For information on domesticated animals that may be available for adoption please call: 254-933-6780 for more information.

Animal Shelter hours of operation are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The Animal Shelter is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

The Bell Co. Animal Shelter is located at: 2509 S. Loop 121. Belton.

Deputy Connell also explained that his design will allow for future expansion without costly contract overruns by simply adding on to the existing structure, HVAC, electrical, plumbing and septic.

The various sponsors have worked together with them and with donors to provide all the food and cleaning supplies, blankets, towels and even cots, which have minimized his expenses. That savings will fund the additional employee for the kennel to open on Saturdays starting in November.

The shelter's first goal is to remove problematic animals and then to find suitable homes for as many animals as possible. Not all animals are suitable for adoption; therefore, the Bell County Animal Shelter is a limited kill facility. Those animals, which are unable to be adopted, will be euthanized in a respectful and humane manner.

"MOKES"; THE LATEST MALWARE THREAT

Last January, security researchers discovered a complex malware, backdoor spying software strain called "Mokes" that infects Windows systems to covertly steal confidential data.

It has been recently revealed that the sophisticated cross-platform malware strain now has a variant for OS X, (Macintosh).

This rare multi-system triple threat is particularly dangerous because it secretly takes screenshots, logs keystrokes, can take audio/video clips, access a computer's files, and even control a machine remotely if desired by putting the infected machine under the hacker's control.

These screenshots and key logs are saved in a temporary location on the computer, to be sent to and collected by the attacker's command and control (C & C) server using secure AES-256 encryption and could have devastating consequences. Sensitive information, including credit card numbers, user credentials, and passwords for banking portals and other web accounts can easily be deciphered and stolen using this data.

This isn't the first reported malware that infects Apple OS X. In June, a backdoor Trojan named Backdoor.MAC.Eleanor that disguises itself as a document converter. Apple issued urgent security OS X patches to address other vulnerabilities back in April.

As evidenced by "Mokes", cyber criminals have opted to diversify because of the increasing popularity of Macs and the development of cross-platform versions of the same malicious applications that target multiple operating systems.

The best way to protect yourself from such attacks is to avoid installing software from shady sources like cracked software websites or peer-to-peer file sharing protocols like BitTorrent.

It is also essential to keep your operating systems and applications up-to-date and patched with the latest security patches to close potential security holes that hackers could take advantage of. Good anti-virus and security software is also an essential tool.