

# Washoe County Regional Animal Services News Bulletin

September 2014



## The Job Of An Animal Control Officer

The primary responsibility of our Animal Control Officers is the enforcement of state and county laws pertaining to domestic animals. Officers will also respond to concerns regarding wildlife if it is an immediate threat to public safety or the animal's welfare. Officers respond to approximately **35,000** calls-for-service from citizens each year; over 3,000 of these calls are of an emergency nature. Officers are on duty 365 days a year.

Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County Residents can request animal control assistance by contacting dispatch (**775-322-3647**) for the following requests; loose dogs, contained stray dogs, dead stray animals, wild animals on the road, animal bites, welfare checks of domestic animals, animal abuse/cruelty, animals in a hot car, noise complaints, and other field related issues.

Officers also assist local agencies in the event of a fire, flood or other disasters.

Over the years there have been some very interesting calls for service. Dispatch received a call a few years ago about a cat on top of a house in Washoe Valley. When the officer arrived she looked up and saw two black leopards on top of the house instead of a kitty. Needless to say that was a startling sight for the officer.

There are times when ACO's handle calls for wildlife when the public may be in danger. Skunks, raccoons and bears, oh my. There is always the unexpected when you are an animal control officer.

When you see an officer in your neighborhood, they are there to protect you and your family. A loose animal, whether it is a horse, goat or dog, can be a danger to the public.

If you see a loose or injured animal contact our dispatch office to send out an officer that has the skill and knowledge to assist the animal in a safe manner. They know citizens want to help the animal, but when an animal is lost or injured, it may become agitated and can potentially cause injury to the person trying to give it aid.

Officers are trained to deal with all types of situations and would rather have the citizen safe than possibly headed to Urgent Care for an injury. The photo below is a cat that was on the freeway and was rescued by ACO Mittelsteadt without anyone getting hurt during the rescue.

Remember, safety is paramount for anyone involved with animals.



## Changing Ownership Of An Animal

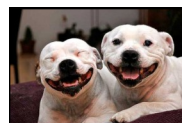
A few months ago you decided to make a change to your family dynamic and you adopted two dogs from your local shelter. You thought it was going to work out, but to your dismay, it was not a good fit for your family. You have now found them a great new home, but some changes need to be made.

Not only were the dogs altered and given all of their

vaccinations when you adopted them, they were also micro chipped. Unless you change the ownership of the dogs to the new owner you will always show as the current owner.

A Transfer of Ownership Form located at Animal Services and also on the website, [washoeanimals.com](http://washoeanimals.com) needs to be completed with your information and all of the new

owners information to change ownership. Be sure to turn the form into Animal Services to complete the change.



*We have a new home! The change has been made.*

## Getting To Know Us

*Oscar Tejada,  
Animal Control Officer*



Officer Tejada moved to Reno in 2007 where he was employed with the Nevada Humane Society in 2008. He began his career with Animal Services in 2010 and has been an Animal Control Officer for the past two years.

Oscar deals with a wide range of animals on a daily basis and loves every minute of it. He is never bored and being bilingual, he is an effective communicator for our Hispanic community.

Oscar is the proud owner of Prime, an American Staffordshire Terrier and Alex, an American Pit Bull Terrier that he rescued and has given a great home to. He loves to take them on walks where people approach him with questions regarding the breeds.

Whether it's a simple day at home or going on a great road trip, he enjoys spending time with his fiancé, his two sons and his dogs.

He will tell you that he never has a dull moment at home or at work.

*Next month we will be highlighting Nicolle Hansen,  
Kennel Assistant*

# DISASTER PREPARATION

## Planning ahead can save your pet's life in an emergency!

Emergency situations can happen at any time and although we can't always be fully prepared for every emergency, we can prepare an emergency kit to help your pet through a disaster. Some suggested items include:

- First aid kit
- Portable radio, flashlight & extra batteries
- Vaccination records
- Veterinarian's information
- Medications & dosage instructions
- Pet carriers & cages
- Leashes/non-nylon halters/leads or rope
- 2 weeks supply of food/water
- Can opener
- Non-spill food/water bowls
- Cat litter & box with scoop
- Newspaper/paper towels
- Plastic bags
- Duct tape
- Permanent marker
- Bleach/disinfectant solution
- Water buckets

**Always be prepared**

You never know what a day can bring

