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# Washoe County Regional Animal Services News Bulletin

WCRAS 775-353-8901

## Getting To Know Us

Jesse Horton,  
Lead ACO



Lead Animal Control Officer, Jesse Horton, began his career with Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) in 2010. His prior job experience didn't include animals, so this was a skill that he had to achieve immediately. Although he worked with the Carson City Sheriff's Office in the civil division and crime lab for six years, and was a bartender in his early years, neither experience prepared him for dealing with various types of animals everyday.

Officer Horton was born and raised in Carson City and moved to Reno in 2009. He learned a great deal in the four years at WCRAS, has a passion for leadership and loves working with people. Each day he gives 100% of his efforts to citizens and staff, and always with that dimpled smile.

Jesse is a fitness enthusiast and an avid jiu jitsu practitioner. Besides his grueling exercise schedule, his free time includes his other passion, riding his Harley motorcycle.

You may find Jesse out on patrol protecting the streets of Washoe County or inside our Dispatch Center located at the shelter assisting citizens with a variety of animal concerns.

Next month we will be highlighting  
John Finnegan, ASA

## Thinking Of Adopting A Pet?

If you have ever visited an animal shelter, you may have considered adopting one of the many adorable pets waiting for new homes. When you are standing in front of that delightful creature you may make a snap decision and you now have a new passenger in your vehicle on your way home.

Although there are times when that snap decision is the best one you could have ever made, other times it turns out to be a poor decision. Certainly not the fault of the pet, but a choice made in haste.

Adopting a pet should be a lifetime commitment. Since you are deciding to invest an enormous amount of love, time, and energy into a pet, you should take time to research what type of pet you need.

Maybe you are a very active individual and would like a pet that you can take with you on

hikes, runs, camping trips, etc. You shouldn't adopt a couch potato dog such as an English Bulldog, Pug or a cat. If you live in an apartment, a herding dog may not be the dog for you.

Doing research before adopting a pet is vital. [Dogtime.com](http://Dogtime.com) is a great website to visit when contemplating a dog adoption. Select the dog breed quiz selector to see what breed best suits your lifestyle.

Of course if you are away from home a lot, maybe fish, or another pet that requires little attention would be a better selection than a dog or cat.

Always remember that there are times when an adoption is a blessing since a pet can be the best friend you ever had. Just do your research so when your decision is made, the pet you adopt will have that "forever" home.



## FREE MICROCHIPS FOR WASHOE COUNTY

### Protecting Your Pet From Predators

In case you may be new to Washoe County, this is a beautiful County. We have an abundance of open countryside and a lot of various predators ranging from coyotes, raccoons, mountain lions, to large birds of prey.

If you own a pet, it is imperative that you are aware of these hazards. On a daily basis our facility receives calls from citizens who are missing their family pet.

Should your pets be allowed out through a pet door, or you have an indoor/outdoor cat, it is exposed to the dangers of these predators. The predators are only doing what comes naturally, mainly trying to survive.

Some recommendations are:

1. Higher fence
2. Keep cats inside
3. Be aware that predators can come in through a pet door
4. Always walk dogs on a short leash

Be aware of your surroundings.

## WHAT IS A MICROCHIP?

A microchip is a permanent identification for your pet. A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice. It consists of a tiny computer chip housed in a type of glass made to be compatible with living tissue.

The microchip is implanted between the pet's shoulder blades under the skin with a needle and special syringe. The process is similar to getting a shot. Little to no pain is experienced - most pets do not seem to even feel it being implanted. Once in place, the microchip can be detected immediately with a handheld device that uses radio waves to read the chip.

This device scans the microchip, and then displays a unique alphanumeric code. Once the microchip is placed, the pet should be registered with the microchip company, usually for a one-time fee. Then, the pet can be traced back to the owner.

**A microchip is NOT a GPS system.** You cannot locate your pet via the microchip. Microchips are designed to last for the life of a pet. They do not need to be charged or replaced.

No method of identification is perfect. The best thing you can do to protect your pet is to be a responsible owner. Keep current identification tags on your pet at all times, consider microchipping as reinforcement, and never allow your pet to roam free. If your pet does become lost, more identification can increase the odds of finding your beloved companion.

# 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**



## IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES

**Veterans Day 11/11/14 — CLOSED**

**Saturday 11/15/14 — FREE Microchip and Rabies Clinic. 9am—1pm**

**Located in the WCRAS Classrooms**

**Thanksgiving 11/27/14 & 11/28/14—  
CLOSED**