

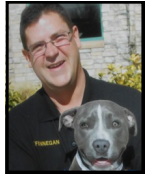


Washoe County Regional Animal Services News Bulletin

December 2014

Getting To Know Us

John "Tim" Finnegan,
ASA



Tim was born in Lowell, Massachusetts where he pursued a lengthy 23 year career as a Deputy with the Middlesex/Suffolk Sheriff's Office from which he retired.

He now calls Sparks home after moving here in 2008 with his wife, Cindy. He is a busy father of four and grandfather of three.

He began his career with Animal Services in 2010 where he became an Animal Services Assistant. You may see Tim patrolling our Washoe County neighborhoods assisting citizens with various issues.

Not only is Tim a great ASA, he also was elected to the Board of Directors at the WCEA (Washoe County Employees Association) in 2013.

Tim and his wife, Cindy, share their home with Max, the Pug, Daisy, a Bichon Frise, and Lucy, a Chihuahua. If that doesn't keep them busy enough, they also have Teak, a 35 year old Macaw and two Quaker Parrots named Queen and Harry.

Family is Tim's passion, and he always strives to do at least one random act of kindness a day. His proudest achievement was donating a kidney to his friend and co-worker in 2006. That is the definition of a real friend.

Animal Services is proud to have Tim on our team.

*Next month we will be highlighting
Cynthia Doak, Lead ACO*

CHRISTMAS DANGERS FOR PETS

The holidays' are a festive time for us and our pets, but we can overlook some potential dangers for our four-legged family members.

Here are the top 5 dangers:

1. Holiday tinsel & ornaments

Tinsel is not toxic, but can be attractive to you pet and if consumed it can bunch inside the intestines. Also, ornaments can become a choking hazard as well as be easily broken and the sharp edges can lacerate the mouth or throat, and cause serious damage.

2. Holiday lighting & candles

Electrical shock due to the extra cords to tree lights and other decoration may be another source of danger to your pets. If you have can-

dles on display, place them in a hard to reach area. Maybe choose to use the battery-operated tea lights instead of having a fire danger.

3. Gift wrap ribbon

Decorating your pet with holiday ribbon or bows can be a choking hazard. They can twist in the intestines, leading to emergency surgery or possible death.

4. Food hazards

Holiday goodies such as chocolate, bones and nuts can be toxic or fatal to pets. Giving your pets a high fat diet, such as parts of the holidays meals can lead to pancreatitis and other serious problems. Keep your pets on their regular diets and caution visitors about giving them treats or table

scraps.

5. Toxic holiday plants

Christmas tree pine needles, holly, mistletoe, and poinsettias are just a few of the toxic plants that can harm your pet.

Let's all be aware of these potential dangers and make this a happy, healthy, holiday season.



FREE MICRO CHIPS for Washoe County Residents.
Monday through Friday:
10:00am until 4:00pm

Winter Weather And Your Pets

Cold weather can be hard on pets of all types. Even your outdoor animals such as goats, horses, donkeys, ducks, and chickens. ALL outdoor animals should have shelter and heated water buckets where the water doesn't freeze. Always remember that they feel the cold just like you do. You reside in a nice warm house and when you go outside, you are able to return to that nice warm house. They are left out in the cold all day and all night, so providing them with just the basics of shelter, warm water and enough food is all that they ask from you.

You may have your dog accustomed to staying inside when you are at home, but you put it outside when you are leaving for work or running errands. When freezing weather arrives, putting them outside can place your pet in danger of serious illness or even death. **Any** small dog should not be left outdoors. They are inside dogs only and need that warmth to survive.

In the case of long-haired breeds such as Huskies, Saint Bernard's, or Newfoundland's, they can certainly handle cold weather better than shorthaired

breeds. When this area receives a foot or more of snow, cats and small breed dogs wading through the snow will feel the cold a lot sooner than the larger, longhaired breeds.

Also, very young and very old pets are not able to handle the cold for a very long period of time. Frostbite can damage your pet's ears, paws or tail. A chickens feet and combs can also freeze. Tissue doesn't show signs of frostbite for several days so be aware of how long your pet is out in the cold weather. Winter is beautiful, but can be dangerous as well. Take precautions and you and your pets can have a wonderful winter season.

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



IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

**Christmas Day 12/25/14
CLOSED**

**Also CLOSED Thursday
January 1, 2015**