

The PAWSitive

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*** COVER STORY ***

Annual Park N Bark Rumbles at Main Shelter On May 30th



Cool cars rumble into the main shelter on Saturday, May 30, for the annual Park N Bark car show and special adoption event.

Live music, opportunity drawings, vintage cars and lots of homeless pets needing loving families are part of the tradition at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, located at 6851 Van Buren Blvd., in Jurupa Valley.

The car show starts at about 8 a.m. and runs until about noon. A live performance by local group The Sedans begins at about 10 a.m.

Animal adoptions are only \$19.65, a nod to the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Mustang. The shelter doors open at 11 a.m. and the adoption special runs until the shelter closes at 4 p.m.

Park N Bark is a partnership with the Riverside County Animal Services, the Animal Solutions Connection (ASK) Foundation and the Inland Empire Classic Mustang Club.

Car show application forms can be found at: <http://www.ieclassicmustangclub.com/Pages/Next-Car-Show.html>

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2: SNAKE EXPERT COMING TO MAIN SHELTER: “Living in Rattlesnake Country” is the title of a special, free public seminar presented by a world-renown snake expert.

Page 3: HAPPY “TAILS” WRITTEN BY ADOPTERS: They adopted from us — and they LOVE their pets. Read some heartfelt stories from those who saved a life.

Page 6: VOLUNTEERS HONORED: A celebration of our amazing volunteers at annual appreciation dinner.

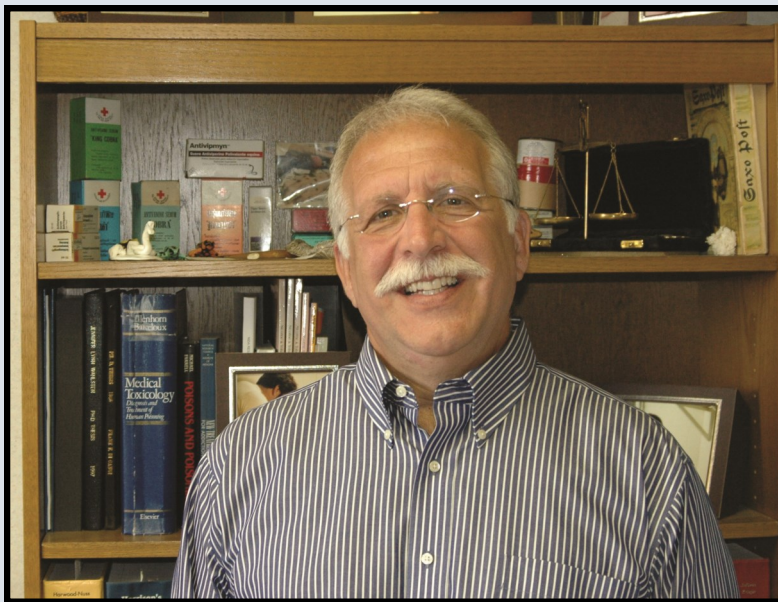
Global Reptile Expert Visiting Main Shelter in June

Everyone Invited to June 16 Educational Event

Ever wonder what you should do if you encounter a rattlesnake? What are the risks of being bitten? Why should we work to conserve species that are potentially dangerous to humans in our environments? In Riverside County, we are progressively encroaching on the natural habitats of wildlife, including rattlesnakes.

Learn more about rattlesnakes, what are the myths versus facts surrounding these fascinating animals, and what you can do to keep family and pets safe while living near their territory. The Riverside County Department of Animal Services is pleased to announce an upcoming presentation on “Living in Rattlesnake Country,” a free presentation provided by Dr. Dan Keyler and Kimberly McWhorter, an Animal Services’ program chief based at the county’s main shelter.

The free presentation happens on June 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter, 6851 Van Buren Blvd., Jurupa Valley. 92509. The shelter is located on the west side of Van Buren Boulevard where Clay Street ends at Van Buren Boulevard.



University of Minnesota Professor Dr. Dan Keyler

Dr. Keyler is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology, and is the Director of Research with Animal Venom Research International (AVRI). He is a senior clinical toxicologist with SafetyCall International, and a professor of experimental and clinical pharmacology with the University of Minnesota. Dan has authored numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications as well as book chapters involving immunotherapeutics, animal toxins, venomous snakebite, and recently coauthored a book on colubrid snake envenomations.

The professor has been actively involved with venomous snakes since his youth. His interest in the science of herpetology was spurred early on by the late Professor Sherman A. Minton Jr., with whom he kept in touch with via consultations until Dr. Minton’s passing in 1999. He also has a lifelong passion for timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*), and has been an advocate for their conservation. He has had multiple research grants to study the species in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. He served as Chair of the Envenomations Section with the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology 2002-07. He is a founding member and author concerning the medical management reviews of snakebites with the Medical Advisory Committee to the Online Antivenom Index. Currently, he is extensively involved in the Sri Lanka Antivenom Project with AVRI for developing a poly-specific antivenom in collaboration with the Instituto Clodomiro Picado, Costa Rica.

Kim McWhorter has worked for Riverside County Department of Animal Services since 2007. As the Program Chief overseeing Shelter Operations, she is involved with a variety of programs including adoptions, animal behavior, volunteer, and facilities maintenance. She has a master’s degree in public health from Loma Linda University and is board certified in public health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

Ms. McWhorter is currently working on her doctorate in public health at Loma Linda University. Outside of Animal Services, she volunteers her time as a founding member and Associate Executive Director of Animal Venom Research International (AVRI). With AVRI, she is working to develop a species specific snakebite antivenom for Sri Lanka through a multinational partnership. Her fascination with herpetology started at an early age. She enjoys traveling to view wildlife and experiencing different cultures.



Kim McWhorter of Riverside County Animal Services

HAPPY ADOPTION STORIES

We recently reached out to pet owners who have adopted from our shelters. We asked the adopters to please send us a photo of the pet they adopted from us and to submit a photo. We also asked the families to share something about their pet. Here are some of the “happy tails.” If you would like to send your story, please submit some photographs of your pet and a short tale to shelterinfo@rcdas.org (please use “HAPPY ADOPTION STORY” in the subject line. And THANK YOU!)



Dopey, adopted by the Barrientos Family

This is Dopey! He is 6 1/2 years old and was adopted on May 8th 2010: opening day! He received free grooming on site as part of opening day and had seven pounds of matted hair removed. Dopey hardly remembers his rough days of heavy, matted hair now. My daughters refer to Dopey as their brother and we refer to him as our furry son — and he is treated as such. Dopey now enjoys camping, relaxing, and enjoying life. He is a big cuddle bug and loves to be loved on. We are beyond grateful to the Riverside County animal shelter for providing us with such a special little family member.

Charlie, adopted by the Hanson Family

This is Charlie and we got him when he was 8 months old. He turned 3 in April 2015. He had only been at the shelter for four days when we saw him and many people were interested in him! Fortunately we got him. He is the best dog and a great addition to our family!



Cinna, adopted by the Cartwright Family



This is Cinna. I adopted him June 2013. Cinna is now a year old, and he's the biggest cat at my house. For a few weeks, I fostered Cinna and his brother, who I named Finnick. I was there when they were brought in a box, COVERED in fleas. They were SO tiny. They were my second fosters, my first two were named Zorro and Luna, and both got adopted the day I took them back. The same thing with Cinna and Finnick.

Peggle, adopted by the Marshall Family

This is our dog Peggle! She is 3 years old, and we adopted her from the Riverside County shelter in September 2013. She's a poodle/Chihuahua mix. When we went to the shelter to look at dogs, Peggle was one of the first dogs we saw. Upon seeing her, I knew she was perfect for us! She is very sweet, and has always been well behaved. She loves to play fetch, and loves to cuddle. She was the perfect addition to our family after our previous dog passed away. My husband named her Peggle after the video game, because when she plays, she bounces around like a Peggle ball. We love her!



Casey, adopted by the Messenger Family



I'd always heard about animals choosing their owners, but I didn't entirely believe it until I met Casey. I had been visiting the shelter, mainly just to browse. I wanted a dog, but was willing to wait for the “perfect” one. In one of the kennels, a cute little reddish brown dog caught my eye. He was the perfect example of an All-American mutt, and with those dark eyes and big wrinkles on his forehead, he'd perfected the “puppy dog” expression. Each time I visited, he would trot to the front of the kennel to greet me, “smiling” and pressing his shoulder against the bars to be pet. Another week passed, and each time I was surprised to see that the little brown dog hadn't been adopted yet. How were people missing such a cute, sweet dog? I finally convinced my husband to come to the shelter and meet him. As we approached his kennel that morning, I noticed several people already there, calling to the dogs. But I didn't see the little brown dog. My heart sank. Someone must have already adopted him. The people gave up and moved on, and I hurried to double check the kennel. Sure enough, there was the little brown dog, curled in the back, refusing to budge. As soon as he saw me though, he jumped up and ran to the door, wagging his tail and smiling. He had been waiting for me. Since we adopted him that day, Casey has been my little brown shadow. He goes on all our family vacations, has been backpacking in the Trinity Alps and is now a loving and protective big brother to our baby girl. We're thrilled Casey chose to spend his life with our family!

ADOPTERS PACK MAIN SHELTER DURING ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Visitors to the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter in Jurupa Valley helped save almost 200 animals' lives during our Anniversary Adoption Week special.

The county's main animal shelter had its grand opening on May 8, 2010. This shelter replaced the aging shelter on Wilderness Avenue in the city of Riverside.

To celebrate our fifth anniversary, we lowered the adoption rate for pets to just \$5 during the week of May 4 to May 9. (Dog adoptions are normally \$105 and cat adoptions are just \$15.) The \$5 special included the pet's spay or neuter surgery, a microchip and vaccinations.

The special was a major hit during what is normally a busy time for families enjoying such celebrations as proms, end-of-school-year activities and graduations. In other words, this is a quieter time for our shelters, especially during midweek days.

But wow, we were busy! All told, adopters took home 116 dogs, 46 cats and seven other critters. The buzz must have carried over to the county's other two large shelters in San Jacinto and Thousand Palms because adoptions at those shelters boosted the overall week's numbers to 198 dogs adoptions and 65 cat adoptions. THANK YOU ALL!



... MORE HAPPY ADOPTERS DURING THE ANNIVERSARY WEEK ADOPTION SPECIAL ...



VOLUNTEERS HONORED DURING ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER

An animal shelter can be a fantastic place to donate time. Socializing cats or taking a dog out of a kennel run for exercise are rewarding activities. Other volunteers perform key roles in our shelters. Some are official lobby greeters, providing a smiling face for visitors and offering directions to where the patron wants to go. Other volunteers provide valuable prep work inside the spay and neuter center, or assist with crowd control and answer questions during the extremely busy vaccination clinics.

Riverside County Animal Services is fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers providing key support for employees and programs at the county's shelters. Some have been with us for years! Some have donated thousands of hours of volunteer time.

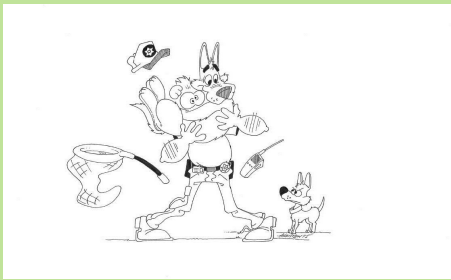
On April 30, the department celebrated the volunteers with an annual volunteer appreciation dinner. The night was sponsored by the Animal Solutions Konnection (ASK) Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization that specializes in helping homeless pets and programs benefiting homeless pets. The volunteer appreciation dinner is one of the ways the ASK Foundation gives a special nod to the volunteers who have dedicated their time to make the shelters much more enriching for animals during the times they're still waiting for a forever home.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES FUN PAGE

CAN YOU FIND THE DIFFERENCES IN THE SEEMINGLY SIMILAR DRAWING? San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus employee Adam Haisten is also a talented artist. He drew up this fun drawing for children (adults too!) to find the subtle differences. There are NINE differences between the two drawings. The answers are on page 8. Enjoy!





ANSWERS TO “I GOTCHA!” DRAWING DIFFERENCES FUN PAGE
PUZZLER: 1. Animal Control Officer’s belt (Badge and ID are reversed);
2. Officer’s ears; 3. Radio antenna’s end; 4. Officer’s cargo pants pocket
(missing on left side); 5. Lace loose on left shoe in second drawing; 6.
Forearm hair is straightened in second drawing; 7. The badge logo on the
officer’s flying hat changes to a square; 8. Frightened dog’s tail goes from
straight to bushy; 9. Small dog’s collar tag goes missing. (NOTE: There
was an inadvertent difference in the second drawing: the left sleeve opening is shaded in the second drawing.
Did you notice that too?)



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RIVCoANIMALSPIO

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:

@HELPINRIVCoPETS

**PLEASE LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK.**

WE HAVE THREE FACEBOOK PAGES:

COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS

RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

SAN JACINTO VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS

PLEASE CONSIDER ADOPTING YOUR NEXT PET AT ONE OF OUR SHELTER LOCATIONS:

BLYTHE: 295 S. CARLTON AVE., BLYTHE, CALIF. 92225 (760) 921-7857

COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS: 72-050 PET LAND PLACE, THOUSAND PALMS, CALIF. 92276 (760) 343-3644

SAN JACINTO VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS: 581 S. GRAND AVE., SAN JACINTO, CALIF. 92582 (951) 358-7387

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY/CITY ANIMAL SHELTER: 6851 VAN BUREN BLVD., JURUPA VALLEY, CALIF. 92509 (951) 358-7387

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR EACH SHELTER AND MUCH MORE HELPFUL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR OFFICIAL WEB SITE: WWW.RCDAS.ORG