

The PAWSitive

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*** COVER STORY ***

Neglected Dog Gets Loving Home

Ernesto Perez didn't have to do anything. He could have ignored the pathetic-looking German shepherd mix.

Instead, he got involved. He and his girlfriend, Miriam Rodriguez, made sure the neglected, injured female dog got a second chance.

The couple knew the dog needed immediate assistance. Something was terribly wrong with her neck. Her fur was gone. There was exposed skin, tissue. She smelled horrible.

It turned out she had what is known as an "embedded collar." Something had restricted the natural growth of the young dog. In cases similar to this, the constraint — often a collar that has not been expanded or cannot expand — embeds itself into the dog's neck so deeply that it will cause necrosis, or the skin to become dead.

How bad did she look?

"I thought her head was going to come off," said Mr. Perez, 19.

Story continues on Page 2



Riverside County Animal Services employees pose with Ernesto Perez and the dog he helped in early June. Also pictured: Registered Veterinary Technician Tonya Ornelas, left, Miriam Rodriguez (Mr. Perez's girlfriend), Veterinary Technician Itzel Vizcarra and Animal Care Technician Connor Portsche. All three employees took a special liking to the dog.

ENJOYING OUR COVER STORY? PLEASE SEE OUR INDEX FOR OTHER COOL STUFF, PAGE 2

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 3: The Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T.) paid for another rescue ride for almost 50 of our dogs. Each month large transports leave our main shelter, all in the effort of saving more lives.



PAGES 4-6: Check out some of the fun photos from our Park N Bark event. The car show and special adoption day on

May 30 featured cool rides and fuzzy friends.

PAGES 7 & 8: June was one of the busiest months for us with lots of



interesting tales from all of our shelters. We probably don't have enough room to share each and every one of them. But here are a few.

Page 10: BARK! Here's the latest fun "Find the Differences" puzzle for children to enjoy — and maybe some adults too? The animal-themed drawings are created by Riverside County Animal Services employee Adam Haisten. Enjoy!



Ernesto Perez, Rosie, and Miriam Rodriguez. Mr. Perez discovered the neglected dog in his neighborhood after coming home from work. Registered Veterinary Technician Krystal Angeles, below, was one of several Riverside County Animal Services employees who bonded with the poor gal.

(Story continued from Page 1)

"That's how deep it looked."

Mr. Perez and his girlfriend used turkey slices to coax the poor dog out from a hiding spot outside their home, near the city of Perris. She was very shy and nervous. Finally, the dog trusted him enough to take a nibble. The third piece enabled him to get a leash around the dog.

Mr. Perez called Riverside County Animal Services and Officer John Hergenreder responded to the unincorporated Perris neighborhood. The officer retrieved the dog and transported her to the Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter in Jurupa Valley.

Once at the main shelter, Dr. Sara Strongin examined the dog's wound and sedated her. An "object was deeply embedded in the tissue around the neck and could be visualized from the dorsal aspect of the wound," she said. "Upon removal, the object appears to be a shoelace. The shoelace was likely tied around the dog's neck when she was a puppy."



The dog was treated with antibiotics and provided close care within the veterinary receiving area for more than a week. Eventually, she showed signs of improvement.

Meanwhile, Mr. Perez never forgot about the dog. He wanted to adopt her, he told employees. He even asked to visit her. He had connected with her that first day outside his home and he couldn't forget her.

On June 26 he and Ms. Rodriguez came to the shelter and officially adopted her. They plan to name her "Rosie."

"She's going to be treated well now," Mr. Perez said. "From now until as long as she lives."



SAVED BY S.T.A.R.T.

On June 11, another 50 dogs hopped aboard a truck transport sponsored by the Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T.). The Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization has saved more than 6,300 animals since it began working with Southern California-based shelters and beyond. On June 11, Riverside County's main shelter employees and S.T.A.R.T. volunteers said a hearty and happy goodbye to the fuzzy buddies that were heading up north to a handful of Pacific Northwest-based shelters and rescue groups. Some of the dogs were already spoken for by adopters working with such groups as Oregon Dog Rescue, Lovable, Safe Haven and others. To learn more about S.T.A.R.T., visit www.startrescue.org

PARK N BARK RUMBLES ...



Park N Bark energized the county's main animal shelter on May 30. Visitors enjoyed the vintage car show, rocked out to a concert by local group The Sedans and rushed the shelter to try and score the dog of their dreams. Dog adoptions were only \$19.65 that day, a special nod to one of the sponsors of the event, the Inland Empire Classic Mustang Club. (2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Mustang, hence our \$19.65 adoption special.) Visitors loved the special price. All told, 77 homeless pets found loving homes and families that day (56 dogs and 21 cats). We want to also thank The Animal Solutions Konection for co-sponsoring the event.

... AND ROCKS!

Park N Bark Car Show Event Helps 77 Homeless Pets Into Loving Families



The Sedans' performers helped make Park N Bark a lively event for adopters, such as the young woman and her new pet, a sweet terrier. To learn about the history of The Sedans, see where the group is playing, or book a gig, please visit the band's Web site: <http://www.thesedans.com/>

PARK N BARK WINNERS and those who just showed up to have a good time ... (or adopt!)



Matted Messes No More



We are fairly good about sharing our news stories on our official county Web site, our Facebook pages and Twitter. But sometimes a tale or two gets lost in the shuffle. Here on page 7 and page 8, are some of the stories that we think you may enjoy reading about. **MATTED DOGS:** See those dogs on top of this page? Terrible, right? Who lets their pet get like this? Well, we see these types of neglect cases all the time. Emily Huffman, one of our registered veterinary technicians at our Coachella Valley Animal Campus in Thousand Palms, spent a good while taking care of that brown dog. It's not just a matter of grooming. It can also provide the dog much more comfort during its stay at our shelter. Not to be outdone, Animal Care Technician Catherine Schmidt turned that messy sheep dog into a much more comfortable canine (above right) at our main shelter.

STUCK IN THE MUCK

Officer Tiffany Fuller captured a few shots during an assistance call with her colleague, Officer Will Luna (facing the camera), in a section of the Santa Ana River in Jurupa Valley. Some unfortunate equestrian enthusiasts got stuck in some mud and eventually made contact with Riverside County Fire Department/CAL Fire. The two animal control officers helped guide the horses out to higher and drier ground. They both had some serious muddy shoes when they returned back to the main shelter, but both said they were happy to be a part of the rescue effort.



AWESOME KID!!!

Our main shelter was treated to a special visit from a special kid on June 17. Hana Hinkle (pictured with Adoption Counselor Brittany Fonseca) used her birthday as a day to get gifts — not for herself, but for our homeless shelter dogs. Her parents helped unload all the goodies, but it was Hana herself that distributed plush toys to the dogs individually. Of course, she couldn't resist saying hello to some cats when she was here too. We think she's a humane hero. What do you think? We love her!



If you follow our news releases on our Facebook page, you might have heard the story about Shackleford the cat. One of our officers rescued her from a car engine. The shy cat was adopted by this nice woman, Cindy Torretto, above. Read the full release here:

<http://www.rcdas.org/index.php/about-us/newsroom/news-releases/item/142-cat-amputee-needs-special-adopter>

COFFEE SHOP TAKEOVER IN RIVERSIDE



We were thrilled to be invited to a unique event at Back to the Grind Coffee House in downtown Riverside on June 17. That was the day on-air personalities and crew members from Los Angeles-based FOX 11's (KTTV) "Good Day L.A." invaded the city and "took over" the coffee shop. We took some of our dogs and were one of the featured groups broadcast on live television. It was a very early morning for us. But we loved it.

Adoption counselors Kellsey Hoesman, Daylin Valencia and Catherine Schmidt (top left) (and fuzzy friend) helped give our homeless pets some wonderful live television exposure during the FOX11 "Good Day L.A." coffee house takeover in mid June in downtown Riverside.

Cruelty Case Update:

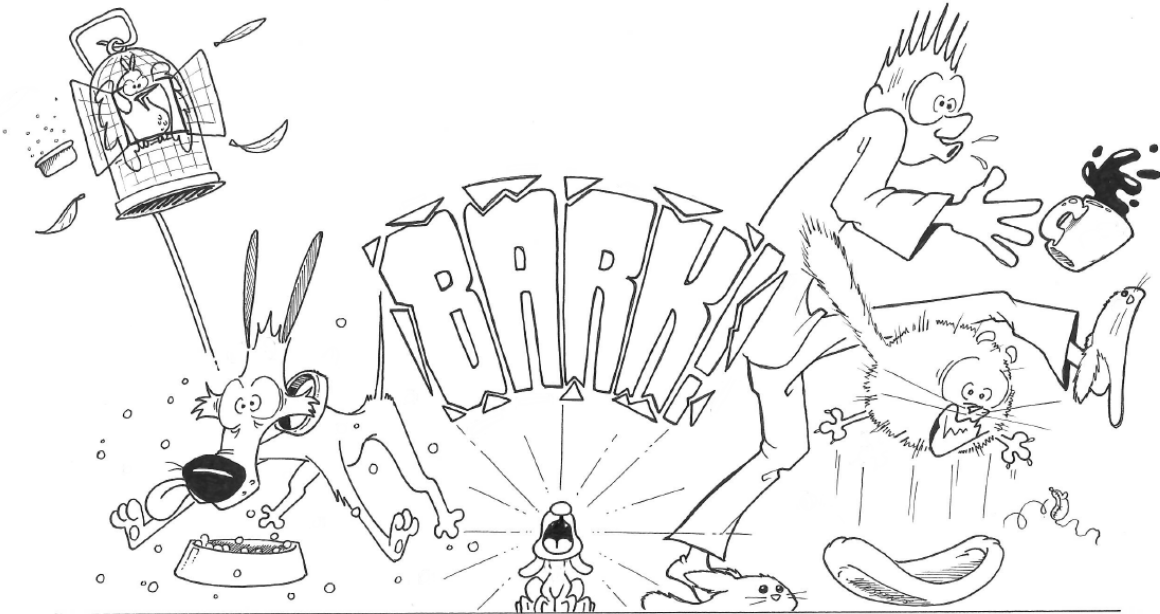
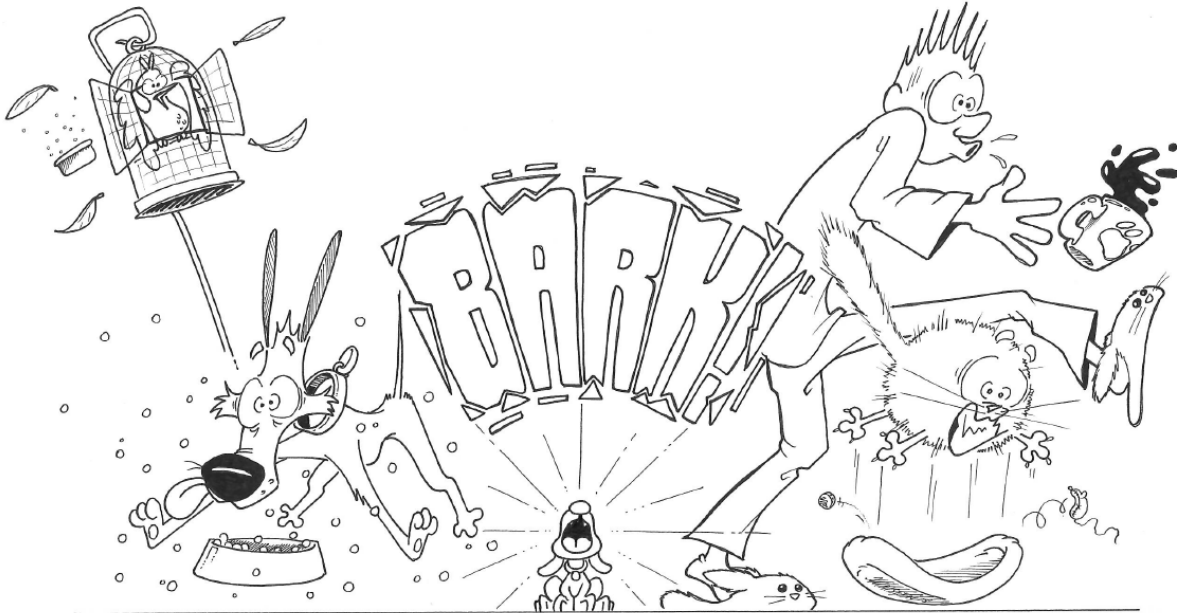
Man Arrested for Allegedly Beating Dog; Dog, Rusty, Succumbed to Injuries From Shovel

Animal Control Officer Kyle Stephens (below right) responded to a neighborhood in Whitewater in early June to retrieve a seriously injured animal. When he saw the small dog, it looked as if the animal suffered the same fate as so many others he had seen on the streets: hit by car. That's how bad the dog looked. Only this dog was NOT run over by any vehicle. It was, according to witnesses, purposely hit by a man with a shovel. Two days later, the stray dog known as Rusty was dead. Rusty succumbed to his injuries. Officer Stephens worked with his supervisors to prepare a cruelty case to hand over to the Riverside County District Attorney's office. The D.A. filed charges and a superior court judge issued an arrest warrant for Efrén Rodríguez Martínez. Only trouble was, the suspect was no longer around. His fugitive status ended on July 7 — his birthday — when Riverside County Sheriff's deputies arrested him in Coachella. For more details and updates about this case, please click on the news releases tab on our Web site: www.rcdas.org.



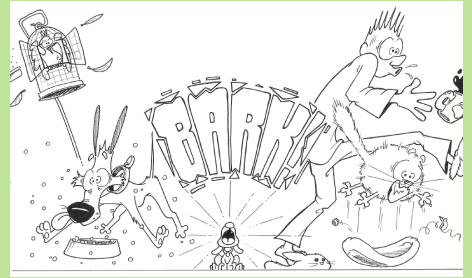
RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES FUN PAGE

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 10 differences between the two drawings. The answers are on page 8. Enjoy!



ANSWERS TO “BARK!” DRAWING DIFFERENCES

FUN PAGE PUZZLER: 1. Less kibble exploding in air; 2. Missing feather; 3. Dog’s eyebrows disappear; 4. Cat’s ball toy goes missing; 5. Paw print on coffee mug; 6. Bunny slipper missing an eye; 7. Cat missing a leg; 8. Puppy collar vanishes; 9. Dog’s tag; 10. “BARK” text missing some accent pieces.



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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