



Perris News

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Animal Control Helps Educate the Public

Every day presents its teachable moments.

Perris animal control officers responded to more than 5,000 calls for service in 2008, and most provided the opportunity to educate the public about the proper care and feeding of critters, the importance of getting their immunized, spayed and neutered and the pleasure that comes from owning a well-behaved, well-groomed and loyal pet.

The City's three animal control officers—Al Rojas, Crystal Cockroft and their supervisor—are busy, often driving from call to call. During the course of a typical day, they will check out reports of vicious dogs, mistreated and neglected animals and discuss the ways to transform a pet from an animal to a well-groomed, well-behaved and loyal member of the family.

Sometimes they might have to chase down an escaped pig, iguana or cow or tow a horse left on a vacant lot. Other times, they might be called upon to euthanize a sick dog or cat at the end of its life. But through it all, they say educating people about their rights and responsibilities as pet owners remains a top priority.

"The best part about the job is educating the public," Rojas said during a ride-along on his rounds earlier this month. "It's the only way we're going to bring about a change in how people treat their animals. I take pride in the work I do, because I know we're doing this to make the City a better place to live."

Animal control services are just one of the public benefits provided by the City of Perris. In the fiscally frugal City, all services—from police and fire protection to parks and recreation to graffiti removal and street maintenance—cost residents approximately \$1 a day.



Rojales inspects a residence where the dog chained a dog to a fence, which could be dangerous for the pet.