

# Livingston Police Department Department Update

Council Presentation

March 5, 2013

Chief Ruben Chavez



# Burglary Action Plan Status Report

## 2012/13 Statistics

January	25/4	May	11	September	2
February	14/0	June	11	October	4
March	18/1 (To Date)	July	6	November	3
April	14	August	3	December	9

(Includes vehicle, commercial, and residential burglaries)

- For Month of January, there was an **100%** reduction in burglaries compared with February the previous year.
  - February Statistics
    - 0

# Expansion of Highway 99

- <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/>
- Federal Highway Administration proposes expansion of State Route 99 from 2 lanes to 3 lanes from Hammatt Ave north to the Stanislaus County Line
- Comments from the public are accepted until March 12, 2013
- Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner  
Central Sierra Analysis Branch  
California Department of Transportation  
855 M Street, Suite 200  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Submit comments via email to:  
[scott\\_smith@dot.ca.gov](mailto:scott_smith@dot.ca.gov).



# School Safety

- The Police Department is assisting and providing feedback for prescheduled lockdown drills at all Livingston Schools
- February 27<sup>th</sup>
- March 6<sup>th</sup>
- March 13<sup>th</sup>





# Update of Animal Control Regulations

- Introduction of Revised Ordinance to:
  - Promote Responsible Animal Ownership
  - Provide Alternative to Enforcement Options Which are Easier to Administer
  - Encourage Owners to Spay or Neuter their Pets
  - Reduce Overpopulation of Stray Dogs

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013

## Lost dogs of Merced: Community must understand issue of stray dogs, cats

By RAMONA GIWARGIS

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**MERCED** -- They are known as man's best friend.

Regardless of size, color or breed -- they're guaranteed to greet you at the door with a wagging tail and wet nose at the end of a long day.

But Merced County's stray animal population -- dogs in particular -- is out of control, according to area veterinarians and animal control officials.

The result?

Innocent animals getting hit by cars, some being tortured or killed by other animals and people, and many starving after being abandoned or let loose by owners.

There's also the impact on people -- unnecessary car accidents and the possibility of dog bites.

Those who deal with the county's strays and care for them said the problem is only going to get worse unless the community comes together to understand the issue.

And then to take action to make it stop.

Kim Herzog, Merced police animal control officer, has seen it all. But even after 27 years on the job, it still keeps her on her toes. "It's always something new," Herzog said. "You never know. It depends on what calls come in."

On a sunny Friday morning, Herzog finds herself making the usual stops -- reminding a dog owner to confine her two dogs that keep "escaping" from the front yard into the street, picking up dead cats and re-uniting a microchipped dog with his owner.

Herzog loves her job, but she's just one person covering more than 23 square miles in Merced, five days a week.

### Overpopulation

Last year, Merced police animal control picked up 466 unclaimed dogs that went to the shelter. In comparison, 68 unclaimed cats were taken to the shelter. Roughly 237 dead animals were removed from roadways -- 83 dogs, 136 cats and 18 "other" animals, such as possums and raccoons.

On any given day, Herzog sees firsthand the consequences of people not spaying or neutering their pets and overpopulation from breeding.

"You have people that just will not spay or neuter their animal, and that's where you get all the strays running around," Herzog said.

Dr. Christine McFadden, a Merced veterinarian at Valley Animal Hospital, agrees that irresponsible breeding adds thousands of unwanted animals to the population.

"Anyone that lets their animal breed is adding to the problem, no matter how good their intentions are," McFadden said.

The solution is simple: Spay and neuter pets to prevent unwanted litters of kittens and puppies. If a dog has a litter of eight puppies, will all of them find homes? The experts say no, and most of those puppies will end up on Merced's streets.

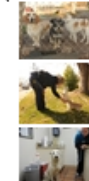


### Merced Sun-Star

BEA AHBECK

[CASSON/bahbeck@mercedsunstar.com](mailto:CASSON/bahbeck@mercedsunstar.com)

A loose dog runs in the street on Martin Luther King Blvd in Merced Monday. (2-11-13)



# Multi-Prong Approach to Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership

- Farmer's Market
- Safety Fair
- Kite Festival
- Bicycle Rodeo
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival
- School Presentations
- National Night Out
- Vaccination Clinics
- Residential Flyers
- Channel 2
- Kops for Kids



# Administrative Citations

- Provided as an alternative to criminal court
- Merced County have limited resources to process criminal citations
- Easier to Process
- Fine Schedule
  - First Violation: not to exceed \$50
  - Second Violation: not to exceed \$100
  - Third and Subsequent Violation in 12 month period: not to exceed \$200



# Increase of Licensing Fees for Unaltered Animals

- To Discourage Animal Overpopulation
- Updated to Recover Actual costs of Providing Animal Services
- Unaltered Animals Usually involve Breeding for Profit
- Altered Dogs
  - Annual - \$10
  - Two Year - \$15
  - Three Year - \$20
- Unaltered Dogs
  - Annual - \$150
  - Two Year - \$300
  - Three Year - \$450
- Seniors receive 50% discount (65 years)