

Livingston Police Department Department Update

Council Presentation

April 2, 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	18/3	July	6	November	3
April	14/0 (To Date)	August	3	December	9

(Includes vehicle, commercial, and residential burglaries)

- There was only one residential burglary in March and that suspect was arrested and admitted to the theft.
- Officers continue to patrol areas that had previously been prone to high incidents of residential burglaries.

National Drug Take Back Day

April 27th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Livingston Police Department Lobby



National Distracted Driving Enforcement Campaign

- “It’s Not Worth It” Campaign
- Convenience of driving while texting or talking on phone is not worth a collision, injury, or death
- Takes Place the Entire Month of April
- Special Enforcement Dates:
 - April 3rd
 - April 16th
 - Zero Tolerance
- Educate the motoring public on the dangers of driving while distracted
- Statewide effort



School Safety

- The Police Department assisted with prescheduled lockdown drills at all Livingston Schools
- All 5 schools and the Child Development Center participated in the drills



School Presentations and Field Trip to the Police Department

- As part of on-going efforts to mentor youth, the Police Department attend classes and make presentations
- The students of Campus Park take tour of Police Department



Community Enhancements And Safe Environments Program

- C.E.A.S.E. Program
- A long term program to CEASE the violence in Livingston
- Developed as Comprehensive youth protection Program
- Collaboration with the school districts in Livingston to keep students safe
- Provide safe environments for youth
- Continue probation/gang sweeps
- Continue to mentor students
- Conduct workshops for parents
- Expand involvement with Boy Scouts of America- Charter for 217
- At-Risk youth mentorship Program
- Open Gym at High School
- Install Surveillance Cameras
- OTS Grant
- ABC Grant
- Tobacco Stings



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

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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
- 4th of July Festival
- School Presentations
- National Night Out
- Vaccination Clinics
- Residential Flyers
- Channel 2
- Kops for Kids



Administrative Citations

- Warnings will be issued for most first time violations (exception-dogs running at large). This will allow correction of dog licensing and vaccination violations
 - 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 - \$50
 - Two Year - \$85
 - Three Year - \$125
- Seniors receive 50% discount (65 years)