

Beyond Animal Control: Daily Community Education

Officer Todd Stosuy
Field Services Manager
Santa Cruz County, California

My Background

- Emergency Medical Technician 10 years
- Two Bachelors Degrees-
Administration of Justice and
Sociology
- Minor in Criminology
- New Brunswick and South Brunswick
Police Department Intern

My Background

- First Grade Teacher 1 year
- Cruelty Investigator PETA 2 years
- Animal Control Officer/Field Services Manager 11 years
- NACA President for the past 4 years
- On NACA Board since 2008

Open Door: Open Heart

Serving Santa Cruz Counties Neediest Animals



Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

- Open door admission shelter
- Intake approx 6,500 animals a year



Field Services Division

- Respond to approx 11,000 calls for service a year
- 24 hour emergency response
- Provide proactive community services



Some Common Officer Thoughts

- I have so many calls to do, I can't spend time helping people. I just need to issue a citation or notice to comply and run to the next call
- If an animal has food water and shelter there isn't anything else I can do to help

Some Common Officer Thoughts

- I hate people, it's the animals I like
- People who cannot afford a pet shouldn't have a pet

Things to Keep in Mind

- We have a unique opportunity to make culture shifts by positively influencing communities we work in
- This can affect entire communities and the way they think, treat and interact with their animals

Things to Keep in Mind

- Citations and impounds are not a measure of success



Things to Keep in Mind

- Notices to comply are not a measure of success, especially if the animal ends up being surrendered to the shelter



Things to Keep in Mind

- Animal Control Officers are on the FRONT lines daily in their communities



Things to Keep in Mind

- We can help people and their animals live happier lives without enforcement



Things to Keep in Mind

- The MAJORITY of people love their animals and want to do what is right for them



Real Measures of Success

- Less shelter intake - if animals are in happy and non neglectful homes
- Lower euthanasia numbers – if due to animals being kept in happy homes
- Helping YOUR community!

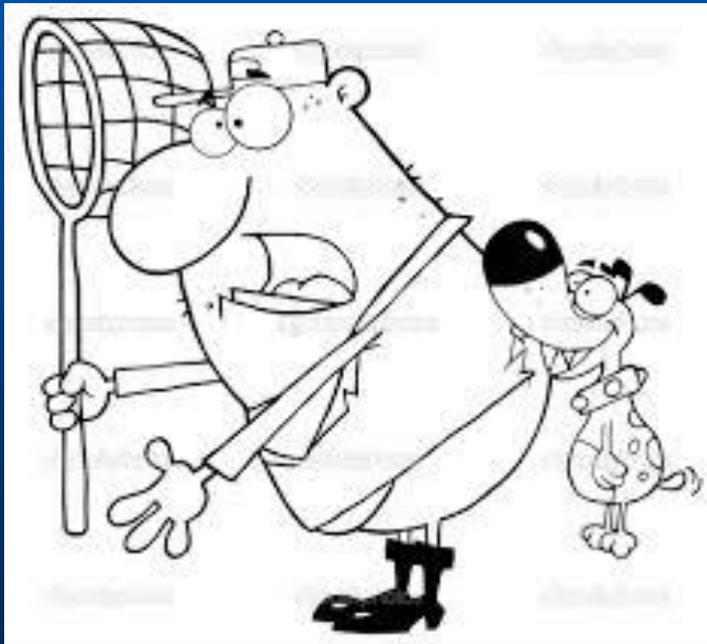
Animal Control

Dog Catcher at the 1939 World's Fair



Animal Control

- It has taken a long time to shake our “dogcatcher past”



Animal Control

- It has taken a long time to be seen as legitimate law enforcement officers



Animal Control

- It is difficult to have come so far, and then think about stepping back
- But, is acting less enforcement really stepping back?
- Or are we as a profession continuing to expand and grow?

Animal Control

- We speak for those without a voice
- As such, wouldn't they want us to help them out, and not just cite or issue a notice to comply to an owner and walk away?
- Wouldn't they rather stay in the homes that love them, instead of being brought to the shelter?

Citations

- Make our life easier
- Don't always fix the problem
- Create mistrust of shelter and therefore less utilization of our services
- Some people ignore citations and are not worried about warrants or collection agencies

Impounding Animals

- Now the shelter has to either adopt or euthanize
- Owner will likely get a new pet and treat it the same way
- Mistrust of shelter and therefore less likely to utilize services
- Doesn't solve the root of the problem

Notices to Comply

- Depending on the length of time given to comply, the animals immediate needs are not being met
- Create unnecessary follow-up
- Creates an additional workload
- Don't solve root of the problem, only complying because you made them

Common Situations

- The following situations are not illegal
- The following situations are common cases we see daily
- We can make a HUGE impact on the life of the animal and their human family by taking time to relate as a human and provide information and resources

REMEMBER

There is more to
life than just
food, water and
shelter



07/16/2014 15:25





04/01/2014 15:22



06/19/2014 10:15

Day to Day Work

- 1 compartment in each ACO truck filled with free items
- Flea medications, bowls, leashes, collars, tags, food, enrichment toys, runners, etc

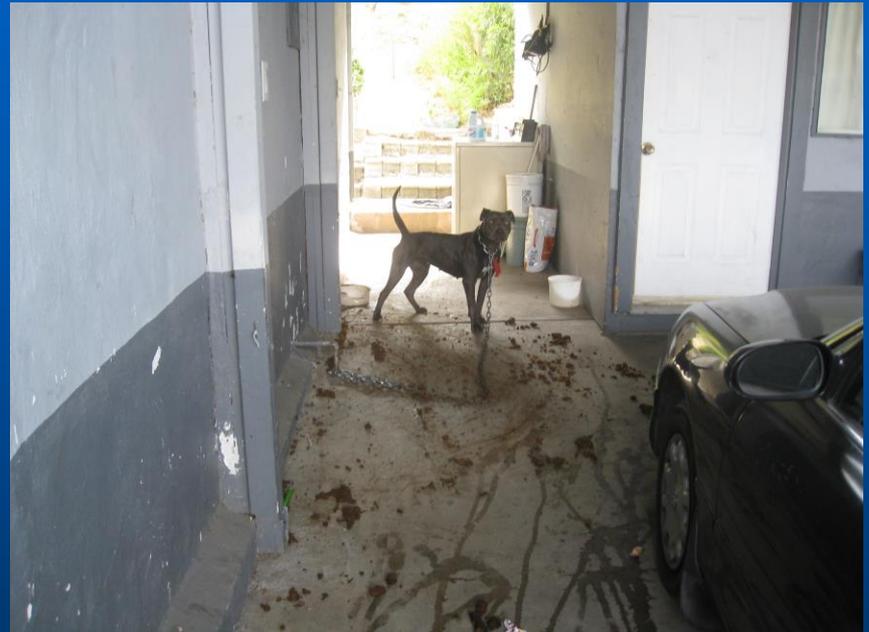


Day to Day Work

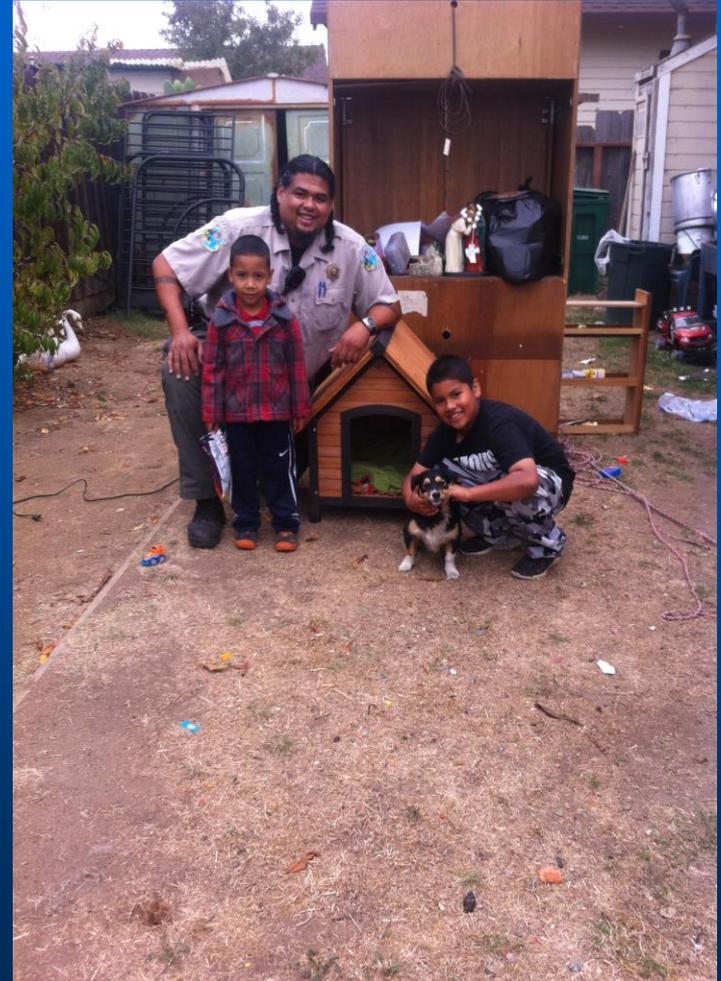
- Less punitive
- Fewer citations and notices to comply
- Work closer with the community we serve
- Far better compliance rates and improved lives for animals and their owners
- Less animals being surrendered to the shelter

Day to Day Work

- Varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction
- Sometimes, enforcement is still required



Day to Day Work



Day to Day Work



Questions?

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