

The Pound Press Express

RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES



Animal Control Officer Kristina Hillegaart, above, rescued "Raindrop" from a storm drain on Interstate 215 in Riverside, right.



Pictures by Registered Veterinary Technician Kasey Littlefield and Officer Kristina Hillegaart

Storm-Drain Kitty Adopted

An animal control officer plucked a friendly kitty from a freeway storm drain in Riverside — and the story charmed a couple from Hesperia so much they rushed to the Riverside Shelter.

Art and Diane Wassenaar of Hesperia are very pleased with the cat nicknamed "Raindrop." (The couple renamed her "Miley.")

Animal Control Officer Kristina Hillegaart rescued the kitten from a drain on Interstate 215 in Riverside on Aug. 20.

Workers from the state Department of Transportation tipped off Riverside County Animal Services and the call center dispatched Officer Hillegaart to the scene.

The little kitty looked up through the metal grates right as the officer arrived. Officer Hillegaart realized there was a very small nook on right side of the grates and was able to reach in and safely remove her out of her trapped environment.

She is mostly white with some tiger stripes and patches of orange on her head. Adoption Counselor Rudy Godoy assisted the Wassenaars. "She's an unbelievably loving cat," Art Wassenaar said.



The Pound Press Express is an online flash newsletter published weekly by the Riverside County Department of Animal Services. It is sent via e-mail to anyone who would like to receive it. Want to be added to the e-mail list? Have a story idea? Did you adopt from us and you want to let us know how much you love your pet? Please e-mail Public Information Chief John Welsh at jjwelsh@co.riverside.ca.us

Staff Members Calm Scared Animals

Story by John Welsh
Public Information Chief

Entering the shelter as a homeless pet can be a frightening experience.

All your four-legged neighbors are barking and barking and, there you are, the new guy. That's why the staff at the county's four shelters try their best to make the newcomers feel comforted.

Kathleen "Cookie" Briney, right, recently handled this little startled fella earlier this month.

"He's just a little nervous," said Cookie, holding and talking to the pup at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus in Thousand Palms.

Cookie, a volunteer services coordinator, also relies on the wonderful volunteers that help walk dogs and socialize new cats and kittens.

It's all part of making the animals feel better — and increasing their chances of adoption, Cookie said.



NOTE TO POTENTIAL ADOPTERS:
The little doggie in Cookie's arms is a cream/white 3-month-old male terrier mix. His animal ID Number is A737654