



# Banning Shelter Cover-up!

## Employees Spend Own Cash to Provide Shade for Doggies

Story by John Welsh  
Public Information Chief

The San Geronio Pass region is famous for its strong gusts.

The Banning Animal Shelter employees are used to dealing with those intense wind conditions.

In fact, the winds ripped to shreds a special cover in an emergency holding area at the Banning shelter.

Oftentimes the animal care technicians used blue tarpaulin to help shade animals in the regular kennel run area of the shelter. But they recognized that, over time, the tarp would wear in the burning sun and the winds would rip and tear and render them useless.

So they pitched a project that would provide adequate shade for the dog runs — but also be much more durable. A mesh-like covering, similar to the materials found along the fences of tennis courts, proved to be a great alternative to the blue tarps. But instead of rolling the covering in one long section, the employees suggested to place the green mesh in sections, using PVC tubes and zip ties. That way, if one of the sections be-



**Banning Shelter employees proudly show off the nice new coverings for outdoor kennel runs.**

Photo by John Welsh

The project got going earlier this year, but due to some budget constraints, only about half the kennel runs were completed. So the Banning Shelter employees pooled some of their own cash together and headed to a home improvement store to buy what was needed to finish the job.

Bear in mind the Banning Animal Shelter features indoor-outdoor runs and the employees recognized that some of the dogs enjoyed being outdoors for fresh air despite the intense summer sun. Especially during the summer months, the sun was just too much. So the staff built sections of shade coverings to give the dogs the opportunity to be outside, plus have some shade, too, if so desired.

“The dogs seem to love the coverings,” Banning Shelter Operations Chief Linda Angell said. “I think it’s pretty wonderful these employees,

came damaged by the elements, it could easily be replaced instead of needing to replace the entire piece, explained Animal Care Technicians Rudy Gonzalez and Richard Elias.

despite the hard economic times, bought the materials with money out of their own wallets. Such an act of generosity is so moving and inspiring. I am so lucky to have workers that really do love these animals.”

The Pound Press Express is an online flash e-newsletter published weekly — and sometimes more! — 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](mailto:jjwelsh@co.riverside.ca.us)



Officer James Huffman and one of the Cocker Spaniels he impounded in an animal cruelty case earlier this year.



## Shaved Tabby Gets a Home

The Coachella Valley Animal Campus employees nicknamed him “Big Red.” Johna Sambor and her family now call him “Rusty.”

The La Quinta family adopted the 4-year-old tabby on Sept. 28 and Rusty immediately made himself at home. “He was absolutely fearless,” Johna said. “He didn’t run and hide. He is a very well-mannered guy.”

An officer with Riverside County Animal Services scooped him up from the field and discovered a very matted cat. Employees gave him a shave to clean up the matted mess, making the former Big Red an eye-catching fella.

— Story by Animal Services Secretary II Elissa White