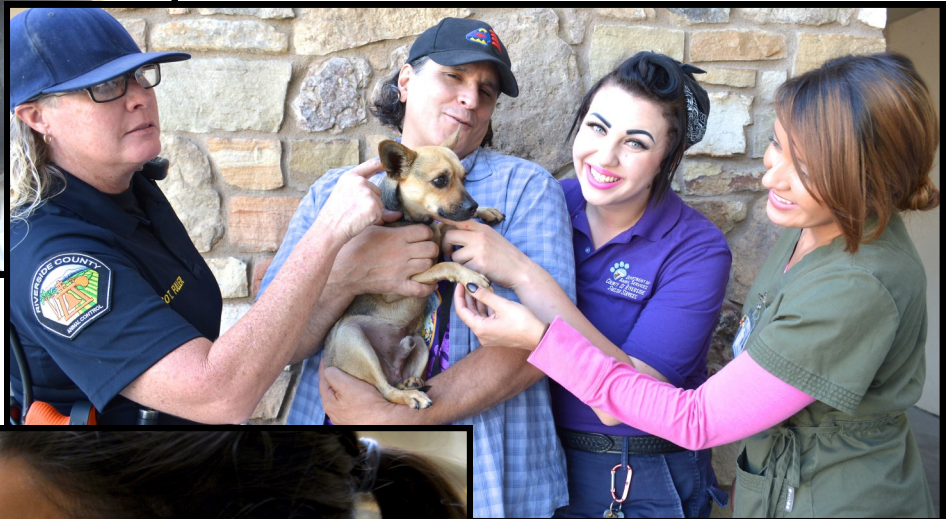




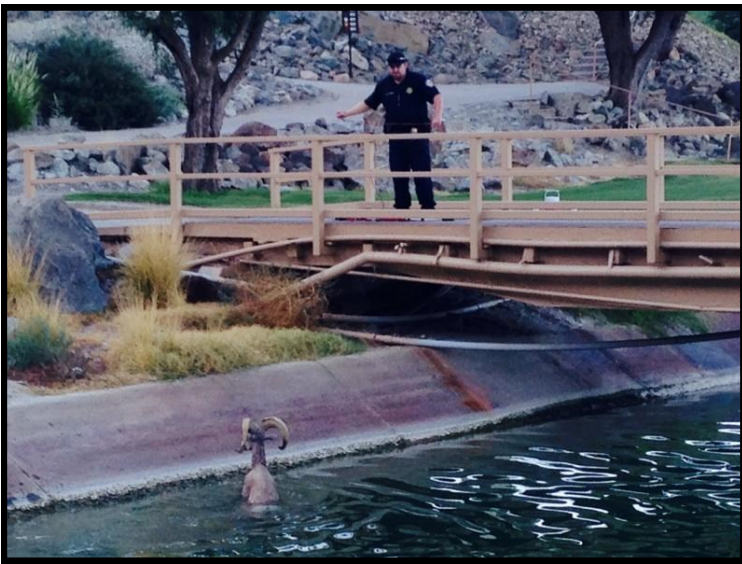
2014

Stories of the Year



**Yes, Oscar the
Dumpster Dog
made the cut!**

**See the complete list
by clicking on the
next page ...**



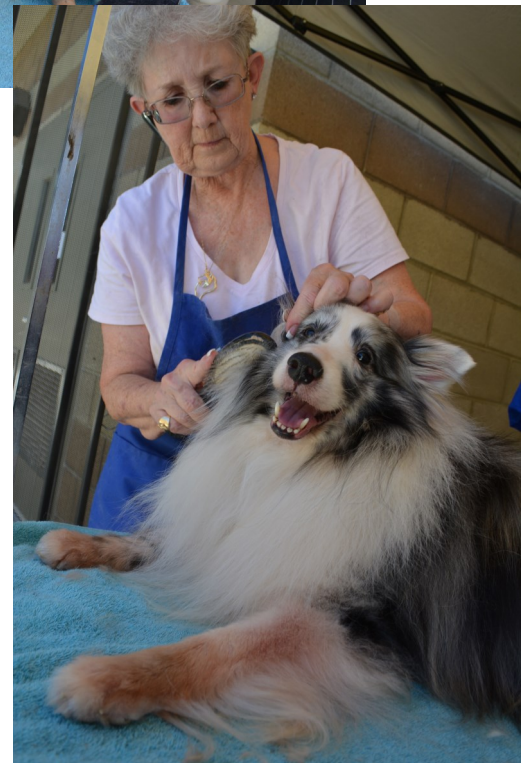
The Top 10

- 1. Gimme Shelties! Fire at Property Leads to 61 Impounded Shelties**
- 2. Oscar: Dumpster Dog Saved, Adopted by Gracious Southwest County Resident**
- 3. Peter: Dog With Mummified Paw Gets Adopted**
- 4. Bighorn Sheep Rescued from Canal in La Quinta**
- 5. Calnapping! Officers in Riverside Discover Strange Cargo in Compact Car**
- 6. Mastiffs Rescued from Nutrilite Ponds**
- 7. Coco: The Case of the Bad Dyed Dog**
- 8. Hunter: Was That a Bullet Hole in Your Head? Overnight Recovery**
- 9. Jughead: Sky Valley Roamer Gets Saved by Officers and then Second Lease on Life, Thanks to Animal Advocate**
- 10. Lola: Dog Saved from Coachella Valley-area Canal**





GIMME SHELTIES — When a fire broke out at a property in July, authorities contacted Riverside County Animal Services because the home was uninhabitable — and dozens of dogs needed to be impounded. All the dogs were shelties. There were 61 in total. Animal Services launched a cruelty investigation. The dogs were terribly matted, exhibited improper dental care and showed other signs of neglect. The case will soon head to the District Attorney's office for review. All the dogs ultimately were signed over by the owner for adoption or transfer to various rescue group organizations. It would be remiss of us not to mention the overwhelming support and assistance from members of nonprofit organizations dedicated to the love of the breed. More than a dozen women came to help properly groom the neglected dogs.





OSCAR: DUMPSTER DOG GETS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE — Officer Tiffany Fuller has seen her share of sad stories in her long career. But when a Good Samaritan in Jurupa Valley's Rubidoux area called Animal Services in October to report a Chihuahua at the bottom of a Dumpster, Fuller was floored. She said it just made her shake her head. Fortunately, despite the evil committed against the dog, he was otherwise healthy. It could have been worse. One more day in the Dumpster and he would have likely perished (trash pickup was the next morning). And whereas this story would break anyone's heart, we get to share the great news, too. This story connected us with Victor Rocha, who lives in southwest Riverside County. He drove to the shelter to adopt the friendly pooch and he said it's been a perfect fit with his wife and other pets.



PETER: The Dog With a Mummified Paw Gets Adopted — Another sad case with a beautiful second act was the case of Peter. He was the poor dog found at a property with an untreated injury that was so bad it had cut off circulation to one of his paws, essentially leading the paw to become mummified. An animal cruelty case is ongoing. When Peter was available for adoption, a news release was sent out to our friends in the media and that led to a wonderful adoption.

Here was the official news release put out to the media:

<http://www.rcdas.org/index.php/about-us/newsroom/news-releases/item/101-three-legged-dog-needs-a-home>





BIG HORN TAKES PLUNGE, NEEDS HELP — Animal Control Officer Kyle Stephens is new to the department, but has learned fast that any day can bring a strange challenge. That's what happened on a mid-August Sunday in La Quinta when a bighorn sheep found itself stuck in a canal adjacent to a golf course. As bystanders cheered him on, and also recorded his rescue attempt, Officer Stephens was able to wrap his control stick's loop around one of horns and safely pull the beast out of the slick-walled canal. He then quickly released the loop and gave the sheep plenty of room to catch its bearings. The sheep seemed to thank the officer, and off he scurried back into the nearby hills.



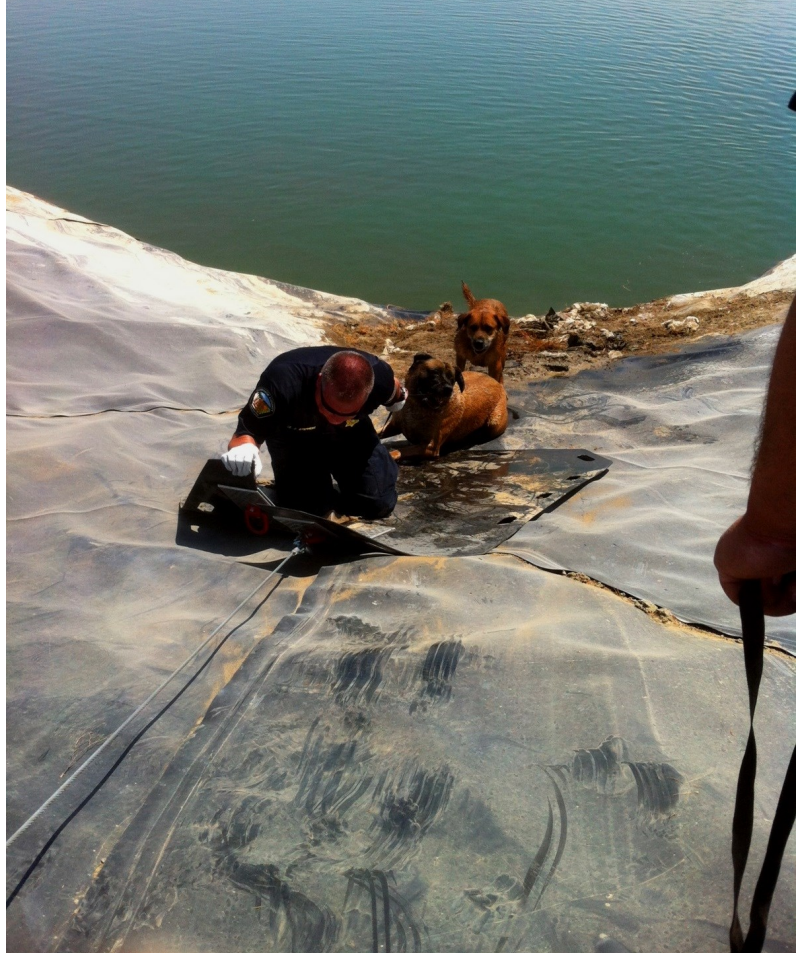
CALFNAPPING! — Veteran officer, Sgt. Cynthia Lee, was working the graveyard shift in early November when she received a call from the Riverside Police Department about a calf. Stray livestock is not necessarily a rare call. But a calf in the backseat of a compact car? That was a first for Sgt. Lee. The officers had suspected something suspicious was going on when they discovered two men in the car behind a closed business. Officers discovered the newborn calf — and its injured ears where identification tags normally would be — after a search was conducted. After the calf was fostered for roughly two weeks, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) requested if the calf could be sent to a sanctuary. Riverside County Animal Services Director Robert Miller OK'd the transfer and now the calf is living a pleasant life out on a ranch near the Antelope Valley.



MASTIFFS SCOOPED OUT OF PLANT POND —

The veteran officers that work out of our San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus are familiar with the Nutrilite facility in the Nuevo area.

Sometimes dogs are able to make their way undetected into the property and, especially on a hot day, mosey on over to one of the nutrient ponds. But there's a big problem with such adventures. The banks of the ponds are lined with a slick, rubbery surface. And the slopes are steeper than they look. In late July, Lt. John Stephens and several colleagues worked as a team to pluck two Mastiffs out of the drink. He was lowered on a wench and sled-like pad that prevented him from taking a plunge himself. Less than an hour later, both dogs were safely on his animal control truck. The microchipped dogs led to a fast call to the thankful owner. She was so happy, she brought cookies to the shelter employees the next day.





COCO: The Case of the Dyed Doggy — What a strange tale. This one happened just recently. For those who missed the December release, it was the Case of the Bad Dye Job on the Sweet Dog. The conversation between Riverside County Animal Services and a dog's owner went something like this: Us: "We've got your dog." Owner: "That's great!" Us: "Uh, you're not going to recognize her." The short version is that someone dyed the reddish-brown dog black. But a microchip led to the reunion and Coco was back home, albeit a dog of a different color. (See the before and after pictures of Coco, below.)

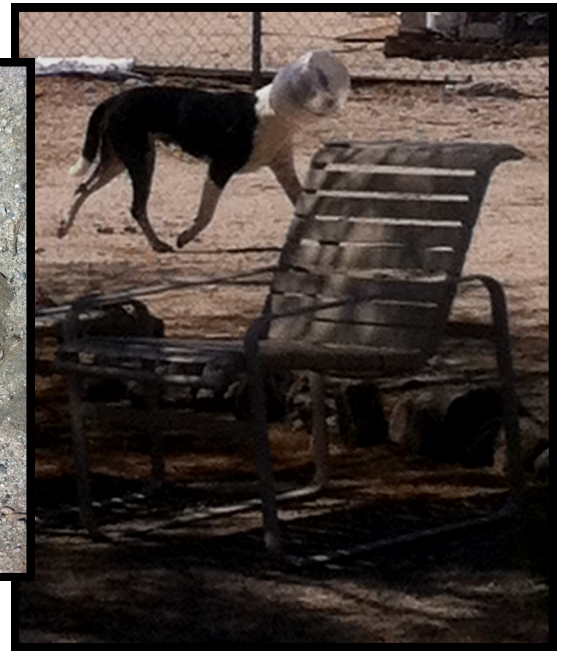




HUNTER: Dog Needed Serious Overnight Care, But Survives —

This dog was suffering. It didn't want to eat. It was lethargic. It appeared as if someone had shot him with some sort of bullet. That was one theory, based on the round-shaped wound it had on its head. But how could the dog have lived? Nonetheless, the Veterinary Services Team members at the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus made sure the dog got specialized, 24-hour care by sending him to an emergency clinic. The dog survived and then made a great recovery. Maybe the head wound was some type of unique bruise from escaping his own property? Several days later the owner, who had been out of town, showed up to the shelter. He was so thankful Hunter was safe. He was practically in tears. The October reunion was one of the most memorable stories for the employees based at our San Jacinto facility.





JUGHEAD: Saved from Likely Death, Officers Catch Up With Desert Roamer With Plastic Jug on His

Head — Officers couldn't get near him. They wanted to help him. But the dog with a plastic jug on its head was too nervous, too feral perhaps. But the triple-digit temperatures in Sky Valley on that Sep-

tember day would likely result in this Labrador-pit bull mix's death if that jug was not removed. He had to be thirsty. Frantic even. How long had that jug been on its head? Eventually, Lt. Luis Rosa and a colleague caught up with the elusive dog. He shot a tranquilizer dart and soon the jug was removed. The story does not end there, though. He landed at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, the county's desert shelter based in Thousand Palms. It was there that veteran shelter employee Marisa Sanabria provided the dog love and attention. She nicknamed him Joey. But Joey was not warming up to her socialization attempts. Ultimately, it was determined that his skittish nature and his unpredictable temperament would not make him suitable for adoption. A

Coachella Valley animal advocate, Lisa Robertt, stepped into the mix, though. One of her many connections led to a transfer. Now Joey is up in Canada, living at a sanctuary. He was once the dog with a Cheeseball Jar on his head. Now we hear he is a big fan of hockey.





LOLA: Tired Dog Saved from Canal

— Sgt. Miguel “Angel” Hernandez arrived to one of the Coachella Valley canals and saw why he was called out: A gorgeous German shepherd was stuck in the canal. Water rescues seemed to be a theme in 2014. And we’re happy to report that this July 3 rescue attempt ended successfully. Lola’s paws were so raw from attempting to claw her way up the slick, moss-lined canal walls that they showed signs of bleeding. Poor thing. But Sgt. Hernandez and a water district employee worked as a team and Lola was saved.



Honorable Mentions:

POLE KITTY (Kitten Saved from Hole in a Pole in Riverside during the summer).

RUBIDOUX FIRE ASSISTANCE (Officers Assist Evacuees With Their Pets in January). Please see photo essay on final page of this document.

NO KIDDING: Momma Goat Gives Birth on Animal Control Truck (San Jacinto-based officer's strange incident in July).

BLOSSOM: Stray Shetland Gets Re-united with Jurupa Valley Girl (December)

OVERHEATED BOXER: Officers and veterinary team members team up to save an overheated dog's life; The dog was rescued from extreme heat conditions in Indio on June 18.

Pole Kitty Rescue in Action ...



Blossom, the stray Shetland ... and the happy goats, adopted by a loving family in the San Jacinto Valley region. The goats were born on an animal control truck.

**Rubidoux Fire
Evacuation
Assistance
January 2014**



Officers rushed to a Rubidoux neighborhood in January after authorities mandated evacuations. The officers helped remove pets to temporarily house them at the county's main animal shelter in Jurupa Valley.