

Washoe County Animal Services

News Bulletin

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Secrets About Cats

Cats are definitely a breed apart from dogs and you will notice the difference immediately.

One of the questions you may ask yourself when you own a cat is, "Why does my cat ignore me?" It all comes down to how cats communicate: The same traits that make felines so endearing—intelligence, independence, individuality, and aloofness—also come into play when cats express their wants and needs. Cats prefer to show love in their own way, at their own pace. Clever cats know that if they ignore you long enough, it will actually *get* them attention.

Another question may be, "Why does my cat knead me?" Shortly after birth a kitten uses its paws to stimulate the mammary glands to stimulate milk flow. It also can show contentment and can have a calming effect when an adult cat does this to you. It is also a way for the cat to mark a person with the sweat glands in its' paws.

Some surprising facts:



Deep in thought

- Kittens are born with blue eyes. In this, cats are like people. Melanin, the substance that determines eye color, isn't in full play at birth. Once the eyes begin to open more melanin begins to express itself and the eye color can change.
- Cats have more bones in a key part of their spine than people do. They have a combined 20 thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, compared with 17 in people.
- Cats are capable of attaining speeds of more than 30 mph for very short distances.
- Cats have a free-floating collarbone, which can enable them to fit through an opening the size of their whisker span.
- An un-spayed female cat can produce up to 5 litters per year, averaging 1 to 8 kittens per liter. You can see how an explosion of kittens can occur very quickly. **Get your cat spayed early.**

Special points of interest:

- Free microchipping for Washoe County residents through January 2016
- SPCA low-cost vaccination clinic located at Scolari's in Sun Valley on Wednesday April 30th from 11am-6pm. Animal Services will also provide free microchips for your dogs and cats.

Getting To Know Us

Animal Services Supervisor,
Robert Smith



As Animal Services Supervisor, Robert oversees field and kennel operations, along with the enforcement of applicable County Ordinances, State Laws and Policy. His days can be filled with meetings, staff scheduling, training and budget challenges, along with day-to-day departmental responsibilities. He is currently working with staff and upper management on revisions to Washoe County Code, Chapter 55 pertaining to animals which will include additional laws enacted in the last legislative session.

Robert came to Washoe County from Corpus Christi, Texas where he was the Animal Cruelty Investigator and interim Field Supervisor. He was hired as Lead Animal Control Officer for Washoe County Animal Services in 2007 and became Animal Services Supervisor in 2009.

He is the proud owner of an adorable Chihuahua named Buster and a Golden Retriever named Tucker. They are quite the dynamic duo.

Next month we will be highlighting Lead ACO, Diana Monroe.

Providing Proof Of Pet Ownership

Should your pet ever find its' way to Washoe County Animal Services through a citizen drop off, or impounded by an Animal Control Officer, you will have to provide proof that this is your pet before it is released to you.

Having your pet microchipped

is one permanent way to prove ownership. Although you may have a collar and tag on your pet, there are many times that they arrive at our facility without a collar, or the tag is missing.

Dogs and all domestic animals and birds are considered

"Personal Property" by Nevada Revised Statutes. Be sure to always keep your information current with Animal Services. If you are a Washoe County resident, license your dog annually and microchip them for free until January 2016. Great proof of ownership.

DISASTER PREPARATION

Planning ahead can save your pet's life in an emergency!

Emergency situations can happen at any time and although we can't always be fully prepared for every emergency, we can prepare an emergency kit to help your pet through a disaster.

Some suggested items include:

- First aid kit
- Portable radio, flashlight & extra batteries
- Vaccination records
- Veterinarian's information
- Medications & dosage instructions
- Pet carriers & cages
- Leashes/non-nylon hats/leads or rope
- 2 weeks supply of food/water
- Can opener
- Non-spill food/water bowls
- Cat litter & box
- Newspaper/paper towels
- Plastic bags
- Duct tape
- Permanent marker
- Bleach/disinfectant solution
- Water buckets

You never know what a day can bring



Prepare your kit today