



# Washoe County Regional Animal Services

July 2017 Newsletter

## Getting to know us:

**Animal Control Officer  
Brandon Vanassche**



**B**randon was born and raised in Ohio. He served in the Navy as an Aviation Administration man for four years. During his years of service, he volunteered at a local animal shelter in Whidbey Island, WA. He then decided to follow his family out to Fallon, where he worked in Fernley as an Animal Control Officer. After a few years of patrolling Fernley's streets, he decided to join the team here at Washoe County Regional Animal Services. Brandon has been here a year now and has been a great addition to WCRAS!

Brandon likes to spend his time with his family, travel and ride his Harley. His favorite place to ride is in Sturgis, SD. In the future he plans to attend the Daytona Beach Bike Week.

**Next Month: Tracy Fox**

## 4th of July tips for your Pets

The 4th of July is a wonderful celebration for our country, but can be a terrifying night for our four legged friends. When fireworks go off, even from a distance, we can feel the vibration and hear the loud noises. Dogs hearing is 4 times that of a human. Every time one of those fireworks go off, to your pet it can feel very close and threatening. Humans can see the sky light up and know what that is, but our dogs don't. They only hear these extremely loud, unusual, threatening noises and possibly feel the vibrations. Some pets will panic, shake uncontrollably and worst of all, will do anything to run from where they currently are.

Last year WCRAS took in 32 stray dogs on the 5th of July because dogs were so afraid of the fireworks and escaped from their enclosures. We would like to reduce the number of stray dogs this holiday. Here are a few tips that may help keep your pet safe:

We recommend leaving your dog inside your home the evening of the 4th. There are also "thunder shirts" that your dog can wear that were made for this particular purpose. If your dog is known to stress and shake during thunder storms, be prepared for your pet to panic during the fireworks. He may even try to dig out of his yard during the fireworks. A crate may be a safe alternative. Place his bed, toys and a familiar blanket inside of it. Staying home with your pet is another great way to comfort them during a stressful time. Let's work together to keep pets safe this holiday.

## Shelter Statistics for June 2017

Animals at large	865	Noise complaints	203
Contained Stray	367	Animal Welfare	625
Animal Bites	226	All Other	722
Total calls for service: 3,008		Total Animal Intakes 1,389	

Send your cutest or funniest photo of your pet dressed up for the holiday to: [pets@washoecounty.us](mailto:pets@washoecounty.us) The winner will be featured in the August Newsletter!

May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to do what is right.

- Peter Marshall



## What can you do for your pets while you are at work?

The majority of pet owners work 8-10 hours every day. About half of pet owners will come home to a mess after working all day. Or they may find a noise complaint has been issued to their residence for their dog barking. Ever wonder why? Your pet is so great when you are home! Odds are, they are bored! They may even have some separation anxiety. Here are a few solutions that may help:

**1.** Try running them or taking them for a walk in the morning before you leave. For those of you who work a little later in the morning, you may even take your dog to the dog park before work. These options will help tire them out for a good portion of the morning that you are gone. Most pets sleep 12-14 hours per day so if they sleep 8 hours at night then they will sleep another 4-6 hours while you are away.

**2.** Keep toys, and pet puzzles available for them to play with (brain stimulation games are sold at pet stores in the area). They will especially enjoy them when the toy rewards them with treats. The toys and puzzles can keep them occupied for some time, allowing them to nap just before you come home. A cat perch will be good cat climbing exercises.

**3.** They will more than likely be ready to play again the minute you get home. You may want to run or walk them again as weather permits (walk them later when it is cool). The dog park is a good option if you have a friendly dog.



\*\*\*Getting your pet into a routine of running or walking before and/or after work may help them adjust their sleep and play patterns. Most pets would enjoy a buddy to play with and that may also help to pass the time and to keep from being lonely.

## Upcoming Events for July and August:

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*Tuesday July 11th, 2017: Free Microchip Clinic for pets of the homeless*  
*315 Record Street, Reno, 8:00am to 11:00am (WCRAS has partnered with VCA Lakeside Animal Hospital for this clinic)*  
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*Tuesday July 18th, 2017: Free Pet Food Distribution for seniors donated by NHS*  
*Senior Center (1155 E 9th St, Reno) 8:30am to 11:00am (Must be 60+ and have ID)*  
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*Wednesday July 26th, 2017: Free Vaccination Clinic for pets belonging to seniors*  
*Livestock Event Center in the Exhibit Hall, 9:00am to 1:00pm (Must be 60+ and have ID)*  
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*Tuesday August 1st, 2017: Low Cost Vaccine Clinic for all resident pet owners*  
*WCRAS (2825 Longley Lane in the classroom) 3:00pm to 7:00pm*  
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