

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION
111 EAST FIRST STREET

DECEMBER 30, 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim McNameara -- Susan Bryant
Department of Animal Regulation
Telephone: 485-5771

Statistics reveal that the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation handled 130,914 animals in 1970.

This figure, although impressive in animal circles, doesn't tell the full story of the department's activity.

For example, the statistics don't reveal that:

The first lodgers at the new West Valley Animal Shelter in Chatsworth were a sparrow and five babies in a nest built in a window framework. Completion of the window was delayed until the brood became airborne.

A parrot, belonging to a Hollywood burglar was impounded at the burglar's apartment crammed with stolen goods. Arrested, the burglar wouldn't talk. Neither would the parrot when he was taken to the Ann Street Shelter. "He won't talk," explained Shelter Supervisor Don Payn, "because he's not a stool pigeon."

Phyllis Diller was named Queen of Be Kind to Animals Week last May. She may not be considered as a repeat Queen in 1971. "During a recent visit to the Zoo," she said, "an ostrich had one look at me and buried its head in the cement."

A dog, belonging to Ecuadorian Consul General Dr. Bolivar Valladares, stationed in Los Angeles, enjoyed diplomatic immunity and legal freedom

from animal licensing. The dog a mixed terrier named "Woofe" got his license anyway. "Diplomatic immunity won't help the dog if he is lost," said the Consul General, "a license will."

Based on the premise that dog is man's best friend, Los Angeles is one of the friendliest cities in the world. According to 1970 figures, there were some 350,000 dogs in the City, or roughly, a dog for every fourteen residents or one for every nine dwelling units.

"Jip," the canine star of the "Dr. Doolittle" motion picture visited the East Valley Animal Shelter during Be Kind to Animals Week. Jip, who made good in the movies, seemed right at home. He was. That's where the producers found him.

"Hercules," a nine-year-old miniature dachshund, was seen walking unattended on Santa Monica Boulevard and impounded at the Eleventh Avenue Animal Shelter. Through information on his license, Hercules was reunited with his owner, whose home was in Portsmouth, Virginia. The dog had commuted to Los Angeles aboard a truck.

At public low-cost anti-rabies clinics in 1970, where 20,788 were vaccinated against infection, the smallest dog inoculated was a 4-pound Chihuahua, the largest was a 165-pound Newfoundland. Three poodles were wheeled to one clinic in a baby carriage. One applicant at a clinic didn't qualify; he was a raccoon.

Valley Animal Control Officers (ACO's) recovered a stolen retired race horse in Tarzana. Name of the horse - "Opportunity."

Animal Control Officers of the West Los Angeles Shelter responded to a call for help on the UCLA campus. They found a six-foot python (4 inches in diameter) wrapped around a heating unit at Campbell Hall. The

snake was impounded, and later claimed by its owner, a student who had mislaid it.

A Valley termite inspector went looking under a house for trouble. He found it. He called the East Valley Shelter. An Officer responded, crawled under the structure and came out with a five-foot boa constrictor.

Two errant foxes found in the City were impounded at the Ann Street Animal Shelter. They were named Pat and Mike by the Senior Kennelman, whose name is John J. Horigan with antecedents in County Cork, Ireland.

A dog in Pacoima was responsible for activating a truck that pinned his mistress to the street. ACO's on the scene rescued the woman from beneath the vehicle. The truck, on an incline drive at the woman's home, was jarred into motion when the dog jumped on the rear of the pick-up.

A 23-year-old Los Angeles man doubts that his pet dachshund is man's best friend. The friendly dog joyously pointed out his master to police officers. The master, subsequently booked on possession of narcotics, was hiding under a car.

Animal Control Officer David Leon is one who believes in doing a job well. He answered a woman's complaint in Woodland Hills that "loose dogs were running rampant in the neighborhood." Leon patrolled the neighborhood and picked up six dogs in violation of the City's leash law. One of the dogs, "Skippy" belonged to the complainant.

Among unlikely animals that were found at large in Los Angeles in 1970, and impounded, were a 15-pound armadillo, a Tayra and 200 quack-less ducks.

It took the Department of Animal Regulation four months and three weeks to find and arrest two suspects on cruelty to animal charges. The

chase was ended when ACO's arrested a man and his wife at a Gardena high school parking lot. In their custody was a one-ton truck with 70 dogs confined in wooden cages. The truck was believed to have been the dogs' main place of abode from April 24 to September 14.

Charges of cattle rustling were leveled in Sylmar when ACO's were called to round up a herd of errant steers on Foothill Boulevard.

A teenager was taught a lesson. Her riding horse strayed from home and was impounded at the East Valley Animal Shelter. When the 15-year-old girl and her mother redeemed the mare, the youngster was directed to ride her home. "I hope this will teach you to keep the horse locked up," said the mother. The ride began at the North Hollywood shelter and terminated at home in Woodland Hills.

Kimberly-Lee took a two mile stroll one spring evening when her stable door was opened by a stablemate, a reported artist in lock-picking. Kimberly-Lee was rescued from the street by ACO's. Her happy trainer redeemed her and explained how she left the stable. He said the wandering thoroughbred was valued at \$4,000.

During the September San Fernando Valley fire terror, two patrolling ACO's freed six goats from an imperiled pen. While they were pondering the next step in the rescue (how to get the goats out of the fire zone) a man drove up in a luxurious camper-trailer. He solved the problem. The three men herded the six goats into the plush vehicle.

For the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation that is partially the way it was in 1970.