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Report 1970 Activity in San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation--Exclusive to Valley News and Green Sheet:

Sept. 22, 1970--A termite inspector crawled under a house on Cedros Avenue, Van Nuys, and reappeared in record time.

"You have strange termites," he told the home owner.

The East Valley Animal Shelter was called. Animal Control Officer David Leon responded, crawled under the house, and captured a 4-foot boa constrictor.

August 7--Foothill Boulevard in Sylmar was alive with traffic, but not the kind ~~interested~~ intended for the sophisticated artery accustomed to horse power.

Seventeen steers, weighing in at approximately 600 pounds each, were sharing the Freeway with conventional Mavericks, Jaguars, Thunderbirds and Mustangs. Animal Control Officers arrived, impounded two of the steers, and herded the rest back to their pasture. A count revealed that two calves, valued at $60 each, were missing.

"Cattle Rustlers did it!" stormed the owner.

Since Marshal Dillon wasn't available, the matter was referred to the police.

Feb. 13--A frightened doe, headed for the crowded traffic lanes of Ventura ~~Blvd~~ Boulevard at DeSoto Avenue in Woodland Hills, was intercepted in a field by Animal Control Officers. The animal was taken to the

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Valley Animal Shelter and given rest and nourishment.

Three days later, it was released in Benedict Canyon where it joined a small herd to live happily ever after.

May 13--Kimberly-Lee is an American Saddlebred horse stabled in Woodland Hills.

One warm spring evening, a stablemate of Kimberly-Lee nuzzled the catch on the stable door, opening the way to a new adventure. Kimberly-Lee strolled three miles through the night before she was picked up and impounded by the Valley Shelter Animal Control Officers.

The equestrian beauty was valued at $4000, said her happy trainer when he arrived to redeem his nocturnal ~~xxf~~ wayfarer.

March 9--Ernest Jensen, ~~txxkxxxxxxxxxx~~ District Supervisor of the East Valley Animal Shelter, took a look at his morning (animal) count, and wondered if he was operating an urban animal shelter or a zoo.

In addition to the normal complement of several hundred dogs and cats, Jensen found he was boarding and feeding five ponies, a horse, deer, bobcat, two raccoons, two opossum and a flock of one hundred chickens and ducks.

Valley animal problems that daily confront the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation, under the guidance of General Manager Robert I. Rush, are diverse in nature and multiple in scope.

For ~~twxxyxx~~ twenty-one years, prior to 1970, animal control activity in the Valley was shouldered principally by the East Valley Animal Shelter at 13131 Sherman Way in North Hollywood. Relief in handling the work load that had peaked with Valley growth, was forthcoming in 1970 with the dedication (August 5) of the

ultra-modern West Valley Animal Shelter at 20655 Plummer Street in Chatsworth.

The "sister" Shelter represents a giant stride towards upgrading Valley service by the City Department of Animal Regulation.

The virtually sound-proof structure is geared to process 36,000 animals a year. Aesthetically compatible with urban surroundings, it occupies 22,235 square feet on a 3.3 acre plot.

Recognized as a prototype for future Animal Shelter construction in Los Angeles and other cities in the country, the highly functional streamlined facility was activated immediately. Totally complete in every detail, it embraces stainless steel animal cages: separate cat and puppy rooms; an animal observation room for quarantine purposes; a hospital room; and a kennel kitchen. Air conditioning prevails throughout.

Three corrals with enclosed box stalls house livestock. At the rear of the structure is a one-acre fenced pasture, which proved to be a timely refuge in the September Chatsworth-Northridge brush fire.

The building contains a radio communication center, used to corrdinate departmental field activities, and available for Civil Defense emergencies.

The Shelter is open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (holidays excepted) and visitors are cordially welcomed. The Shelter telephone number is 882-8800. The District Shelter Supervisor is George W. Mason.

Need for a Shelter in the West Valley was evident. In the fiscal year, 1969-70, a total of 53,137 animals

was processed at the East Valley Shelter. The figure represents ~~xxxxxx~~ 45% of all City ~~xxx~~ animals handled by the Department for the period.

With the activation of the West Valley Animal Shelter, new areas of responsibility for animal control were defined in the Valley and assigned, respectively, to the West and East Valley Shelters.

Department Manager Rush established the San Diego Freeway as a jurisdictional ~~f~~ dividing line. All communities west of the Freeway are serviced by the West Valley Shelter. These communities include Chatsworth, Granada Hills, Northridge, Porter Ranch, Reseda, Supulveda, Canoga Park, Tarzana, Woodland Hills, Mission Hills and Encino.

Valley communities, east of the San Diego Freeway, currently serviced by the East Valley Animal Shelter include North Hollywood, Pacoima, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Sunland, Sun Valley, Sylmar, Tujunga, Van Nuys, Panorma City and Lake View Terrace.

The public low-cost anti-rabies clinics in the Valley area were most rewarding in 1970. At ~~Thirx~~ thirteen locations (mostly, recreation centers) during the months of February, August and November, 8,694 dogs were vaccinated. Although Los Angeles has been designated an endemic rabies area, ~~not a single~~ only one rabid dog has been reported in ~~Four~~ Eight years within the City.

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The Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation, with the cooperation of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association and the County Health Department, has scheduled 1971 clinics in February, May, August and November for Valley locati ns.

Dogs, four months and over, must receive anti-rabies inoculations every two years. The clinic cost is $2 per dog.

The canine population in the Valley motivates the strict enforcement of animal control laws and licensing.

There are 135,710 licensed dogs in the Valley, representing more than 50% of the City's total licensed pets.

Rush reminded dog owners that the license worn by a pet is the animal's life insurance.

"A license left in a dresser drawer is virtually worthless," said Rush. "But the license affixed securely to the dog's collar gives him identity anywhere in the country, and an excellent chance to survive in event he strays or is lost."

Rush cited the leash law as another protective measure.

"Obey it," he said, "and your dog will enjoy longevity."

As long as there are trails and open areas in the San Fernando Valley, there will be horses in the vicinity.

"The horse symbolizes the last remaining frontiers of a region fast becoming urbanized," says Rush, "and he must be closely guarded as a precious animal heritage.

Personnel of Valley Animal Shelters are involved almost daily in rescuing horses that have strayed from their

homes. According to District Supervisor Ernest Jensen, the East Valley Animal Shelter averages at least 150 horse rescues a year.

The equestrian strays have constituted a major shelter problem. Footloose, they are a menace to themselves and to society.

"And the price for their freedom is costly," says Rush. The impoundment fee is $25, plus $3 a day for care and feeding.

"That money goes into the Department General Fund," Rush explains, "but, it's money we really don't need. The impoundment fee scarcely covers the man-hours and equipment involved in the rescue.

During one 90-day period, December, 1969--February, 1970, twenty-nine horses and eleven ponies were impounded at the East Valley Shelter. Rush advises new horse owners to seek the advice of experienced horsemen relative to safe and secure stabling.

Most owners, who redeem their errant steeds at the Shelter are appreciative and happy to find their horse safe and sound. However, redeeming a horse doesn't always spell complete happiness.

A woman and her teenage daughter claimed their equestrian property one morning after the wandering ~~horse~~ mare had been locked up safely for the night.

"How will we get her home?" the young lady asked her mother. "I've got her back. Now, you'll ride her home."

"You let ~~him~~ her get away," replied the mother, you got her back. Now, you'll ride her home."

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Without a saddle, it was a long ride from North Hollywood to "home" in Woodland Hills.

On the morning of September 11, 1969 at Van Nuys Airport, a helicopter, loaded with small wild animals, took off for Angeles National Forest, 35 miles away. That was the beginning of the Animal Regulation Department's Animal Airlift. Each week, thereafter, wild animals, non-poisonous reptiles and predatory birds, humanely trapped in the City, were relocated in the Forest via helicopter.

The wildlife conservation program is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world, and has attracted widespread attention from conservation supporters.

Through 1970, 712 specimens of wildlife have been relocated from the City to the Forest. According to District Supervisor George Mason, approximately of the cargo originated in the Valley.

Fire, one of man's deadliest enemies, can be devastating to man and animal, alike. Man can cope with fire and tame its fury, but animals must rely solely on instinct and human intervention for survival.

In the September ~~Chatsworth~~ Chatsworth-Northridge holocaust, personnel of all six City Animal Shelters were mobilized to direct and assist in the evacuation and rescue of animals in the flaming brush areas.

Because there was no time for detailed reports and accurate logs, no compilation or comprehensive summary on the number of animals saved, was available at the fire's end.

Valley Shelter District Supervisors Mason and Jensen estimated that, with the assistance of residents and members

of Equestrian Trails, Inc., Animal Control Officers were involved in the rescue of 250-300 animals.

At the conclusion of the devastation, animal survivors at the West Valley Animal Shelter included 28 horses, 27 head of livestock (bovines, burros, goats, sheep), 40 dogs, 10 cats, a flock of 19 chickens, geese and ducks, 3 rabbits and a guinea pig.

Not included in the inventory, but saved, were six goats. Animal Control Officers William DeYbarrondo and Richard Feloskys, while on a fire patrol, came upon the goats trapped in a corral. As the flames roared near, the men cut a hole in the wire fence and released the animals. Their rescue hadn't been completed, however, since there was no room for them in the small-animal collection vehicle.

Pondering their dilemma, the Contol Officers were interrupted momentarily with the arrival of a man in a luxurious trailer-camper.

When advised of the space limitations in the collection vehicle, the newcomer lost no time. He opened the door of his expensive trailer, and said "put them in here."

The three men herded the goats inside.

"That man," appraised DeYbarrondo, "just had to like animals."

Lauding the round-the-clock efforts of those involved in the fire, Mayor Sam Yorty said "Fire, Police and Animal Regulation personnel have done a tremendous job."

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Looking to 1971, Rush envisions new challenges and an ever-increasing need for service in the burgeoning Valley.

"We will continue to do everything in our power to assist Valley residents in all areas of animal welfare and control," he says. "The only things we ask in return are cooperation and understanding.

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