



# THE SCOOP



Staff Contact: (714) 754-5128  
 Animal Control: (714) 754-5674  
 Animal Licensing: (714) 754-5300

[www.costamesaca.gov/pets](http://www.costamesaca.gov/pets)  
[www.pricelesspetrescue.org](http://www.pricelesspetrescue.org)  
[www.newportcenterah.com](http://www.newportcenterah.com)



(Gracie, left, and Eva, right, pictures courtesy of Priceless Pet Rescue)

## CATS OF THE MONTH

Gracie and Eva are young, torbie sisters hoping to find a new home together. Eva is a super snuggler, playful, and loves carrying toys in her mouth.

Gracie can be shy at first, but once she warms up to you she loves being held. Also, Gracie is particularly special, being a polydactyl kitty with an extra toe on each front paw.

If you are willing to brave the cuteness level of both cats, their former foster caretaker is willing to pay half the adoption fee for the second kitten. For more information on Gracie and Eva, please visit [www.pricelesspetrescue.org](http://www.pricelesspetrescue.org).



(Rocky, pictures courtesy of Priceless Pet Rescue)

## DOG OF THE MONTH

Rocky is just about the most handsome Husky you will ever meet. This 5-year-old is energetic like a typical Husky, so he is always eager to take his daily walks.

Rocky is house-trained, walks well on a leash, and is friendly when meeting new people. He is not fond of cats and may be too active for small children.

Rocky has been searching for his "forever" home since March and an owner with breed experience would be beneficial. If you are interested in adopting Rocky, please visit [www.pricelesspetrescue.org](http://www.pricelesspetrescue.org).

## PREPARE YOUR PETS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays are upon us, which means more household celebrations, visitors, and changes to our everyday routine. Below are tips to keep your pets healthy and safe this holiday season.

- Keep your pets' diet and exercise routine close to normal
- Provide your pets with a quiet retreat to escape the noise
- Secure your decorations (tree, tinsel, ornaments) and manage stagnant tree water
- Keep wires and batteries out of reach of curious paws
- Abstain from real mistletoe, holly, and poinsettias that are harmful to pets when ingested
- Secure medications and remind guests to do the same
- Pick up floor debris, such as confetti or wrapping paper
- Avoid leaving food and desserts unattended
- Place garbage in secure containers away from pets
- Select safe toys and pet treats to stuff their stockings

If you suspect your pet has eaten any of the following toxic foods, please note the amount ingested and contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

- Alcohol
- Avocado
- Chocolate, Coffee, and Caffeine
- Citrus
- Coconut and Coconut Oil
- Grapes and Raisins
- Macadamia Nuts and Other Nuts
- Milk and Dairy
- Onions, Garlic, Chives
- Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs, and Bones
- Salt and Salty Snack Foods
- Xylitol
- Yeast Dough

# ANIMAL SERVICES OPERATIONS



## Newport Center ANIMAL HOSPITAL & PET HOTEL SUITES

Animal Care Services will be hosting their annual Santa Paws Donation Drive from December 9-21, 2019 in order to collect new and used pet supplies to benefit Costa Mesa's impounded and adoptable animals.

A list of requested items will be posted online at [www.costamesaca.gov/pets](http://www.costamesaca.gov/pets). All food items must be sealed and unopened. Drop off locations will be at City Hall, Senior Center, Balearic Community Center, and the Downtown Recreation Center during normal business hours.

For more information, please call (714) 754-4918.



COSTA MESA ANIMAL CARE SERVICES  
**SANTA PAWS  
DONATION  
DRIVE**  
December 9-21, 2019

**Priceless  
Pets**  
A no-kill pet rescue

November is "Adopt a Senior Pet Month" and Priceless Pet Rescue (PPR) has plenty of wonderful senior dogs and cats over the age of eight years old ready to be adopted. This month, PPR is reducing the adoption donation fees on their mature friends: dogs - \$75, cats - \$25.

What are the perks to adopting a senior pet?

- Older pets are more mature and do not require constant monitoring like puppies and kittens
- Many are house-trained, less destructive, and know their basic commands
- Senior pets are socialized and have great temperaments, often good with kids and other animals
- Senior pets are more attentive than their younger counterparts and are eager to please their humans
- Senior pets still have plenty of love and years to give as your loyal companion

View available senior pets at [www.pricelesspetrescue.org](http://www.pricelesspetrescue.org).



Above: Senior pets Suri (left), Ike (top), and Richard (bottom)

## ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 2019 GOALS

The Animal Services Committee is constantly working to accomplish their 2019 goals. Nearing the end of the year, the committee has completed a majority of their goals thus far.

1. Complete contract agreements with Newport Center Animal Hospital and Priceless Pet Rescue in the first quarter of 2019. **COMPLETED** ✓
2. Produce a public service announcement, in print and in video, related to the three-pronged partnership with Animal Control, Newport Center Animal Hospital, and Priceless Pet Rescue. **COMPLETED** ✓
3. Educate the public on responsible pet ownership and care, with regard to City ordinances and frequently asked questions, no less than six times per year. **COMPLETED** ✓

4. Consider and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding ordinances related to the existing TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program. **IN PROCESS**
5. Research and create a list of service providers that can provide low-cost vaccinations and/or a voucher program for Costa Mesa residents for spay and neuter. **COMPLETED** ✓
6. Assist Animal Control with promotion and education related to coyotes and the Coyote Management Plan. **COMPLETED** ✓
7. Cooperate and coordinate with the Parks and Community Services, Animal Care Services, events, initiatives, and projects. **COMPLETED** ✓



# COSTA MESA BARK PARK

The Costa Mesa Bark Park hosted the Parks and Community Services Department's annual Barktoberfest on Saturday, October 12. More than 500 guests attended the event, which featured a pet vendor fair, dog adoptions from local animal rescue groups, and a canine costume contest.

More than 40 owners and their dogs participated in the costume contest that consisted of six (6) categories: Most Original, Best Group, Best Owner & Dog, Scariest, Cutest, and Best in Show.



In other news, Boy Scout Dean Romine has chosen the Bark Park for his Eagle Scout Improvement Project. Dean is currently raising funds in order to provide dog agility equipment inside the park to create physical, mental, and social benefits for dogs and their owners.

If you would like to donate to support Dean and the Bark Park, please use the below QR code to donate online.



Above: Dean (center) with his troop



## MONTHLY STATISTICS

Animal Care Services provides monthly statistics to track the animals entering the shelter, returning to their owners, transferring into the adoption center, and adoptions.

### SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2019 (09/01 - 10/31/19)

- Total impounds to shelter: 178
- Animals returned to owners: 31
- Animals transferred to adoption care: 99
- Total adoptions: 70

For more detailed statistics, please visit:  
[www.costamesaca.gov/pets](http://www.costamesaca.gov/pets)

Love Your Dog, Love Your Park  
**TAKE THE LEAD...**

Parks Make Life Better!

**& SCOOP THE POOP!**

### COYOTE SAFETY

**Tips to keep coyotes away:**

- Do not leave small pets in the backyard unattended
- Feed your pets indoors and do not leave pet food outside
- Pick up fallen fruit from trees off of the ground.
- Protect all water sources including pools

**If you spot a coyote:**

- Haze the coyote by making yourself big and loud.
- Log onto the Coyote Cacher to report your encounter.
- <https://ucanr.edu/sites/CoyoteCacher/>
- Email [coyote@costamesaca.gov](mailto:coyote@costamesaca.gov)

Visit [www.costamesaca.gov](http://www.costamesaca.gov) for more information.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

### AN UPDATE FROM COSTA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT

This year has been quite busy with the intake of cats and kittens comprising of 69% of Costa Mesa's impounded animals. Due to the high volume of cat impounds, all cats can no longer be released by citizens at the animal shelter located at Newport Center Animal Hospital.

All impounds must be picked up at a citizen's place of residence, or business, where the cats were found. In addition, cats will not be accepted at the front desk of the Costa Mesa Police Station (99 Fair Drive).

If you find a stray cat or kitten in Costa Mesa and can safely contain the animal, please call Costa Mesa Animal Control at (714) 754-5674. Injured, sick, or stray cats involved in bites will be handled as they are recieved.



# PAWSITIVE REINFORCEMENT BRINGS PAWSITIVE RESULTS

BY LINDA KWOUN, ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dog training has evolved in the last several decades as the general public has become more educated on animal behavior and their learning process. However, some dog trainers continue to base their training methods on outdated dominance theory and punishment approaches.

Most undesirable behaviors in our dogs are not related to priority access to resources (dominance theory), but instead are the result of accidental rewarding and reinforcement of the undesirable behavior.

So how do dogs learn? Dogs are actually capable of making association. To put it simply, they will make the connection that a certain behavior can elicit a treat, toy, praise or affection, so they are more likely to repeat that specific behavior.

For unwanted behaviors, you can simply redirect the dog by asking for an incompatible behavior (i.e. asking your dog to sit when they are jumping on people), or you can modify your dog's behavior. This can be accomplished with positive reinforcement training instead of punishing your dog.

Pet parents can learn to communicate with their dogs using a compassionate method so dogs can live in our world and, at the same time, build trust in us as their caregivers. Associating behaviors with punishment or pain is also learned,

This type of behavior modification can be effective; however, animal behavior science shows that punishment may result in your dog exhibiting other undesirable behaviors than the one you are trying to correct.

This approach eventually takes away your dog's ability to communicate their emotional status and may cause your dog to learn helplessness, shutdown, to freeze in fear of consequence, or to become aggressive. Furthermore, your relationship with your dog is based on fear and not trust.

We live in an instant gratification world, however, dog training is a continual process that requires patience, time, and care. Training your dog using these methods will be well worth your time in building a lasting bond with your dog.



**Torelli Realty Holiday Snow Land**  
December 14, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Balearic Community Center  
 **FREE!** 

## RESOURCES

**Animal Care Services**  
(714) 754-5128  
(714) 754-4918

**Costa Mesa Animal Control**  
(714) 754-5674

**Newport Center Animal Hospital (Shelter)**  
1333 Avocado, NB  
(949) 447-5959  
Hours: 9am - 5pm; Mon-Sat  
Closed Sundays

**Impounded Animals**  
[www.costamesaca.gov/impoundedanimals](http://www.costamesaca.gov/impoundedanimals)

**Adoptable Animals**  
[www.costamesaca.gov/adoptableanimals](http://www.costamesaca.gov/adoptableanimals)

**Grace Manor Tour & Christmas Boutique**  
SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 30TH 11-3PM  
GRACE MANOR OF LORDSBURG  
COME VISIT THIS PIECE OF LA VERNE HISTORY! ESTABLISHED IN 1919, PREVIOUS GUESTS OF THE HOME INCLUDE RONALD REAGAN AND THE KING AND QUEEN OF THAILAND.  
5077 OLD RANCH ROAD  
LA VERNE, CA

 Home Tour \$10

 Santa Photos \$15

- Santa Photos
- Petting Zoo
- Craft Vendors
- Family Photos
- Pet Adoptions
- and more!

 Priceless Pets  
A no-kill pet rescue



**SNOOPY HOUSE**  
December 13-22, 2019 | 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Costa Mesa City Hall | 77 Fair Drive  
Live music, free photos with Santa, and train rides for children



## LOOKING TO DONATE?

Donating to assist in the well-being and care of Costa Mesa's sheltered and adoptable animals is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Donate your time by becoming a volunteer with Priceless Pet Rescue. Visit [www.pricelesspetrescue.org](http://www.pricelesspetrescue.org) for more information on how to volunteer.
2. Donate pet supplies to Animal Care Services which will be distributed between the animal shelter and the adoption center. Call (714) 754-5128 for more information on how to help, and to find out which items are currently needed.
3. Make a monetary donation to the Costa Mesa Foundation for Animal Care Services online or in person at City Hall or the Downtown Recreation Center. Visit [bit.ly/CMPetDonations](http://bit.ly/CMPetDonations) to make an online donation.