



# CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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**April 3, 2013**

**For Immediate Release**

**National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week – April 7-13<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The National Animal Control Association has set aside the week of April 7-13<sup>th</sup> 2013 as National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week. The City of Chico Animal Services would like to remind everyone to give thanks to our animal control officers (ACO's) who work tirelessly to improve the safety and welfare of people and animals. It is also a week to honor those professionals who have died in the line of duty.

Animal control professionals provide an invaluable service to citizens in cities and counties all over the country. ACO's work hard on behalf of animals and always have their safety in mind. Capturing roaming (and sometime dangerous) dogs, investigating animal neglect or cruelty, educating pet owners about the laws and proper pet care, mediating disputes between neighbors over pets, rescuing sick or injured animals, and reuniting lost pets with owners are just a few of the many services that animal control professionals do on a daily basis.

Animal control officers are often at personal risk when doing their jobs, as they can be exposed to many animal-borne diseases, deal with vicious animals, and often deal with individuals who are engaged in criminal activities, are armed, and can present an immediate threat to officer safety. Most recently Sacramento County Animal Control Officer Roy Marcum was shot and killed during a routine call.

Besides personal risk, officers work in all types of weather, and often deal with very upset and emotional members of the public. "Animals bring out very strong emotions in people," says City of Chico Animal Services Manager Tracy Mohr, "both positive and negative. Each day an Animal Control Officer puts on their uniform they never know what they will face. It takes dedication and a real love of animals to do the job of an ACO."

So take time to reflect on the sacrifices our animal control officers make every day to serve our community, and let them know how much you appreciate what they do.

**Supervisor:**

**Watch Commander:**

**Prepared By: Tracy Mohr**

**Date/Time: April 3, 2012**