



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Abandoning Animals is a Crime!

The current mortgage crisis has brought a troubling trend: animals abandoned after home foreclosures or evictions. Unfortunately this is a trend that the City of Salinas is also experiencing and Salinas Animal Services reminds pet owners that they have humane options and legal responsibilities when they are no longer able to care for their pets due to economic difficulties or foreclosures.

California Penal Code Section 597.1 requires that animals be provided with appropriate food, water and shelter. Penal Code Section 597s makes abandonment of any animal a misdemeanor. Newly enacted legislation (Civil Code Sections 1815 & 1816) requires immediate notification of an Animal Control Facility or Humane Society if abandoned animals are found.

“Our pets are not equipped to survive without care so, as the owners, it is our responsibility to provide for them”, says City of Salinas Mayor, Dennis Donohue. Sadly, Salinas Animal Services has responded to several calls regarding animals abandoned on properties in recent months. One such call led officers to an abandoned, starving mastiff on a foreclosed property in North Salinas. The dog (see attached photo) was left, tied with a chain on a concrete slab with no food or water. This dog’s owners were eventually tracked down, arrested, and prosecuted for the above charges. It could have been avoided had the owners taken responsibility for the dog and either surrendered it to a shelter or found it another home.



PRESS RELEASE CONTINUED

If you are a pet owner facing foreclosure, the following is recommended:

- ❖ Give yourself time. Don't wait till the last minute! Start contacting rental agencies when you first learn that foreclosure or eviction may be in your future in order to give yourself the best chance of finding pet-friendly housing.
- ❖ Check with friends, family and neighbors ahead of time to see if someone can provide temporary foster care for your pet until you get back on your feet. Be sure to agree to a specific time frame and check on your pet regularly.
- ❖ If you are moving into a rental property, ensure that pets are allowed. The SPCA for Monterey County offers pet friendly rental listings on their website at www.SPCAmc.org. (If you have a rental property that accepts pets, contact The SPCA for Monterey County to have your listing added at no charge).
- ❖ Salinas residents can contact Salinas Animal Services in advance of your move if you feel you must surrender your pet. Be sure to provide medical records, behavior information, and anything else that might assist us in finding your pet a new home.

Salinas Animal Services is located at 144 Hitchcock Road in Salinas and is the second shelter on Hitchcock Road. The shelter takes in lost and stray animals from within the City limits of Salinas only. Please call us at 831-758-7285 or visit us Tuesday – Saturday from 12-5pm. Visit the website as pictures are updated every hour: www.ci.salinas.ca.us.

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