

# **El Paso Animal Services**

**The Evolution of Animal Protection Officers** 

Goal 8: Nurture and Promote a Healthy, Stainable Community







# **Animal Protection Officer**(APO)

- Prior to 2016 Known solely as a 'Dog Catcher'
- Shelter Reform 2016 Shifted to APO
- ACO Training Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 829
- Euthanasia Technician Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 821
- Enforce City Ordinances, Title 7 "Animals"









#### Strategic Agency Partnerships

El Paso Animal Services' Field Division serves the City of El Paso but <u>is not</u> the only Animal Welfare / Animal Control Division.



#### El Paso County Animal Welfare Department

Serves County municipalities/townships:
Horizon, Clint, Fabens, Vinton, Anthony,
San Elizario, Canutillo, Tornillo, unincorporated



**Socorro Animal Services** 

Serves City of Socorro



**Tigua Animal Control** 

Serves Tigua Tribal & Fort Bliss

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Texas Parks & Wildlife-Game Warden Wildlife reports & concerns



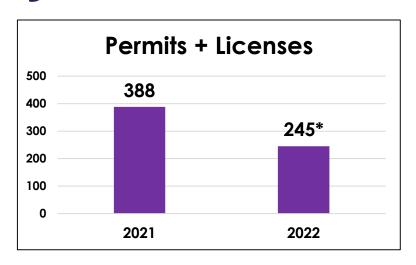
El Paso Police Department
Animal Cruelty Unit
Cruelty & neglect cases

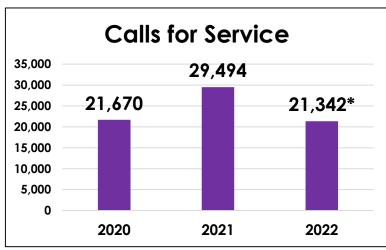


Texas Department of State Health Services Regional Zoonosis Control



#### By the Numbers



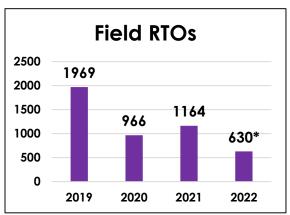


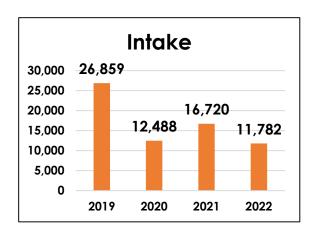




#### By the Numbers

- Field RTO- Return-to-Owner in the community (before the pet is impounded at the shelter)
- Intake













# We Are Public Safety





While many departments, businesses & organizations closed during the peak of COVID, Animal Protection Officers were still out, responding to calls and helping the community. We had to find new ways to continue many of our duties while also keeping our workforce and community safe and healthy.

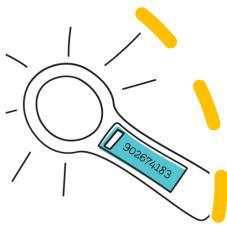
#### **APO Duties**

- Respond to Calls for Service 311
  - Domestic & Some Wildlife
- Investigate Neglect & Cruelty Reports
- Respond to Nuisance Concerns
- Assist Stray/Lost Animals
- Inspections & Permitting Title 7
- Dangerous Animals
- Disease Prevention
- Public Education & Outreach
- EPAS Prime\*
- Community Programs









## PetPkint



Found near Benito/Candeleria in Lower Valley. NO CHIP, let me know if he's yours. He'll be at the El Paso Animal Services shelter after 8pm.







2 MALES found in 79905 area. Both negative for tags/microchips. DM to reclaim. After 2:30pm dogs will be at 5001 Fred Wilson 79904 for reclaim.



#### **APO Tools**

- El Paso Code of Ordinances Title 7
- PetPoint & Microchip Databases
- Unit: Computer, Dispatcher Radio
- Animal Capture Devices
- Microchip Scanners
- Social Media
- The Community's Eyes & Ears!

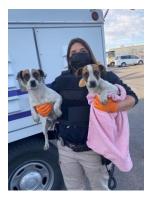




#### More Than a Dog Catcher

Animal Protection Officers do more than catch loose animals.

- Help families keep their pets
- Provide services to the community
- Reunite families
- Champion for those without a voice
- Educate the community on pet responsibility







APOs are at the helm of innovative animal welfare nationwide!



Innovative Changes in the Field

Animal Protection
Officers go the extra mile to make a big impact on the community.

#### Scanning & Reuniting

Found pets are scanned for a microchip and officers will also either canvass or even post on social media to assist in reuniting pets.

#### Resource Rovers

Focusing on providing outreach to the community, assisting people in keeping their family unit together.

#### Engagement v. Enforcement

Finding a way to help the community rather than strict enforcement in cases where a pet owner just needs help.







#### **QUESTIONS?**



## **Mission**

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community



Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



### **Misión**

Brindar servicios excepcionales para respaldar una vida y un lugar de alta calidad para nuestra comunidad



Integridad, Respeto, Excelencia, Responsabilidad, Personas



Desarrollar una economía regional vibrante, vecindarios seguros y hermosos y oportunidades recreativas, culturales y educativas excepcionales impulsadas por un gobierno de alto desempeño

