

Toro creates foundation for pet safety, issues plans for city ordinances

By **Anthony Victoria** - August 27, 2015



Photo/David Toro Councilmember David Toro (center-left) with councilmember Isaac Suchil (left), Colton Joint Unified School District board member Kent Taylor (center), workers rights attorney Eloise Gomez-Reyes, and Arrowhead Medical Regional Center foundation executive director Frank Reyes.

Recent community events organized by David Toro have demonstrated the leader's heartfelt advocacy for pet-owner preparation and safety.

The Colton councilmember has managed to adopt six dogs that were held at Riverside and San Bernardino County animal shelters. They all faced the possibility of being euthanized.

One dog, an American Dingo by the name of Fox, was found injured near some bushes by Toro.

"He had been laying there, so I went to check on him and found that his back leg was broken," he explained. "He must have got hit by a car. I called animal control to come get him. Something told me he would most likely be put to sleep."

Fox would be saved by Toro after the latter spent a substantial amount of time asking residents on social media for some advice and help on how he could help the struggling K-9.

His profound devotion to the well-being of animals has motivated Toro to create a non-profit organization to help these creatures find a home, as well as help residents register their pets and take advantage of Spay and Neuter services. It was spurred by his long term plan—a vision he intends on implementing well after his time in city government comes to an end.

"The foundation is based on the idea that this will extend beyond my council years," Toro said in a recent phone interview. "I intend to continue my work."

Earlier this year, through a \$15,000 donation from the Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team (S.T.A.R.T.), Toro launched his Spay and Neuter events with decent success. He said besides the continuance of these events, he will be presenting plans to form a committee to analyze the city's animal control ordinances. Toro said that currently the city has sent 247 animals that have gone to shelter since renewal of contract (71% have come out alive).



Photo/David Toro

Fox, an American Dingo, was rescued by David Toro.

"It's important we see how we can make the ordinances better to promote more responsible ownership," said Toro. "It will prevent pets from getting loose and going into the streets."

The committee, if formed, will look at key issues such as adoption, ownership, and treatment of pets and licensing concerns—a matter that will take a closer look at the pet microchip that helps identify lost pets. Shelters, animal control officers and veterinarians routinely look for microchips to return lost pets quickly to their owners, avoiding expenses for housing, food, medical care, out placing and euthanasia.

"Rob Miller with the Riverside shelter provide me with information that goes over methods that work," he said. "The overall goal is to make people responsible owners. Within two years we can have good showing and have a large portion of residents with licenses for their pets."

Moreover, Toro intends on approaching businesses to ask if they can provide information to customers. By businesses posting photos of animals at shelters, providing literature on animal education, and by providing information on how they could donate to foundation (yearly or monthly) at their store fronts, the council member explained it can spur a booming interest in animal control.

For more information, contact David Toro at (909) 996-7807.

Anthony Victoria

Anthony Victoria is the Community News Editor for El Chicano and Colton Courier. For news leads, he can be reached at: (909) 381-9898 ext. 208 or via email: victoriaanthony91@gmail.com

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