



NEWS RELEASE



Immediate News

City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services

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11 Reserve Animal Control Officers to Help Make Los Angeles Safer

Volunteer Officer Program Graduates 1st New Class in 20 years

Families, friends and co-workers came together on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, to celebrate the accomplishments of eleven new Reserve Animal Control Officers (RACO): Sarah Amstutz, Jennifer Laury, Jennifer Curiel, Maricruz Contreras, Maribel Martinez, Steven Lewis, Eardley Norman, Dean Simonson, Roman Rincon, Paul Maradiaga, Luz Ruiz. RACOs also were awarded special certificates from Councilmember Richard Alarcón and Councilmember Paul Koretz.

The Reserve Animal Control Officer (RACO) program started back in the 1970's, but there has not been a new class of officers since the early 1980's. Captain Karen Knipsheer-Cox spearheaded the revival of this important volunteer program in November, 2010.

Graduates completed a rigorous 6 month training program that included physical challenges, class work, medical, background and psychological testing. RACOs are required to make a 1 year commitment of 16 hours per month to the Department following graduation.

"I'm pleased to welcome this class of Reserve Animal Control Officers," said General Manager Brenda Barnette. "We are experiencing a very difficult time in Los Angeles history with unprecedented budget challenges. These volunteers' willingness to invest of their time and energy to make a significant difference for the animals and people in our community is remarkable. They will help the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services fulfill our mission to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of animals and people."

For more information about becoming a Reserve Animal Control Officer, please visit <http://bit.ly/LAASRACO>.