

City of Willcox Newsletter
November 2013

KILLER IN WILLCOX AREA IS TARGETING FAMILY PETS

Glenn Childers, Interim Chief, Willcox Department of Public Safety

What poses the greatest danger to your dog? The Willcox Department of Public Safety actually considers the worst threat to your dog a microscopic virus: Parvo. Parvo is actually very common: all dogs are prone to it; it is in the Willcox area, and it is deadly.

Dog Parvo is a very serious viral infection that attacks the animal's white blood cells, intestinal tract, and heart muscles to the point the organs stop functioning. The virus can live outside, in the ground, for a long period of time. All it takes is for your dog to sniff an area containing the virus to contract it.

When a dog is infected with the Parvo virus, it will suffer from severe diarrhea, vomiting, high fever, loss of appetite, and depression. Once it displays symptoms, the virus has already invaded the animal's vital organs, and death may only be a day away, especially in younger or smaller dogs. When the virus gets into the heart, it causes inflammation, and even if the dog receives treatment and survives, the damage to the heart remains for the rest of its life.

The treatment for Parvo is intense, beginning with a trip to a veterinarian where the dog will receive IV fluids and antibiotics. Parvo is resistant to common antibiotics, so large doses will be administered by the vet. The dog may require a blood transfusion to treat the infections, protein deficiency, and low red blood cell count. The dog will remain at the vet for days or weeks, and even all the treatment available cannot guarantee the animal's survival.

So what can you as a dog owner do to ensure your pet will not suffer from Parvo? It's very simple: Have your dog vaccinated against Parvo. A vet can do it. The vaccine is also available at Willcox's feed stores for under \$7 each. If you are not comfortable giving your dog a shot, contact us at 384-4673, and one of our Animal Control Officers will arrange to administer the shot for you.

Don't gamble with your pet's life. Please get all of your dogs vaccinated against Parvo, and together we'll stop this killer!

WHY ARE THE CITY POLICE CARS OUT BY KANSAS SETTLEMENT?

Glenn Childers, Interim Chief, Willcox Dept of Public Safety

The patrol cars driven by the police officers who work for the City of Willcox sure do stand out. With their traditional black and white paint scheme, and big red reflective "POLICE" lettering, they are hard to miss. They especially stand out to some county motorists who are

making their way to or from Willcox on Highway 186, and some of them have been asking what the City police officers are doing so far out of town.

The City of Willcox participates in Operation Stonegarden. Along with the officers of the Arizona Highway Patrol and the cities of Benson, Clifton, Huachuca City, Pima, Safford, Thatcher, and Tombstone, and the deputies from Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee counties, the Willcox Police Department is doing its part in assisting the federal government with attempting to intercept smugglers transporting humans, drugs, guns, money or stolen vehicles through the southeast corner of Arizona.

Operation Stonegarden was created by the United States Department of Homeland Security as a means to strengthen law enforcement in the border states, including Arizona. The Willcox Police Department has participated in the program since 2009, supplementing the Border Patrol in areas they are unable to cover and during key times of lower manpower, such as during their shift changes.

The officers working Stonegarden coordinate with Border Patrol to determine where and when assistance is needed. The officers work during what would normally be their time off, so no manpower is lost from the City's regular patrol shifts. Using information gathered from agents in the field, reports from citizens, and other officers and deputies working Stonegarden, Border Patrol determines where the additional coverage will provide the most impact. Often times it is on Kansas Settlement Road or along Highway 186, but in the past officers have worked on Airport Road, Fort Grant Road, and along Interstate 10.

Federal Stonegarden funds have also been used to purchase two-way radios, in-car video cameras, and tire deflation spikes, saving the City and its residents from purchasing the expensive items from the local budget. The officers' pay is reimbursed to the Police Department and the City is paid for the use of its patrol cars.

As the Federal Government beefs up its presence along the border, smugglers are forced to find the weak areas to infiltrate. Through Operation Stonegarden, the City of Willcox and the members of its Police Department are doing their part to ensure that our area is not determined to be one of the unguarded routes in which smugglers move their contraband.

More information about Operation Stonegarden can be found at www.fema.gov.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

City Council Meetings

Monday

Dec 2, 2013

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Monday

Dec 16, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive

Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, All City Offices will be CLOSED Thursday thru Sunday, Nov 28 – 30, 2013 for the Thanksgiving Holidays; and at NOON, Tuesday, Dec 24, and Wednesday, Dec 25 for the Christmas Holiday; and also at NOON, Dec 31, and Wednesday, Jan 1, 2014 for the New Year's Holiday