



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

## In This Edition:

- > County shows its strengths at state conference
- > Sheriff's Toy Drive teams up with Pet Smart
- > Make your holiday furry and bright!

## SPECIALREPORT



*This colorful sign welcomes visitors to the interactive Monterey County display created for the California State Association of Counties Conference in Monterey.*

## County Notes

- > Holidays can be fun for people but dangerous for pets.

County Animal Services reminds you to keep pets in mind when decorating or celebrating. [Check out this list of hazards](#) and ways to keep your pet safe this holiday.

## County Puts Best Foot Forward at State Conference

Monterey County showcased its best and brightest this week as hundreds of county executives from around the state gathered in Monterey for the annual California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Conference.

Monterey County played host for the event and county staff had many key roles: from the hard-working conference planning team which put together a fun and interactive display at the event to staff tapped by conference planners as topic panelists and facilitators.

The County display focused on the County's four economic 'engines:' agriculture, tourism, research and education. Dramatically illustrating these four key industries were six-foot colorful and informational banners created by the Economic Development Department and lively video stories playing

on two large screens courtesy of the County Government Channel. Visitors to the display area could take a selfie next to cut outs of famous folks with county connections such as Marilyn Monroe (she was an Artichoke Festival Queen!), enjoy artwork, wine and agricultural displays and, to top it all off, take home a sea otter snow globe and cookie decorated with the county seal.



Conference planning team member Lynda Campos stands by one of the economic information banners created for the county conference display.

Even the county librarians got into the act, helping out at the booths as well as providing a drawing for a library prize package that includes the beloved mascot Monty. Thanks also to the Management Council and Agricultural Commissioner's Office for support.

Two county staffers contributed to the education portion of the event. Health Department Public Information Officer Karen Smith was a panelist for a well-attended session on county use of social media and Communications Coordinator Maia Carroll was one of four facilitators for a Women's Leadership Forum Media Workshop.

Monterey County is a member of CSAC, which is a county advocacy organization that also provides extensive support and education to all counties in the state. The four-day conference was packed with workshops with timely topics of interest to those working in county government as well as top-notch key note speakers.

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## Sheriff Launches Holiday Toy Drive

They are soft, cuddly and wanted by the law - so much so that the Sheriff's Office has launched a drive to bring them. We are talking about the Sheriff's annual Teddy Bear Toy Drive, and it appears that once again our deputies will again get their man, er, toy.

The Sheriff's Teddy Bear Program has been in place for more than 20 years, collecting bears for Sheriff staff to have one hand throughout the year to give to children in need. Deputies and detectives use these toys to provide also comfort for a child who has experienced domestic violence or other traumatic event. Toys are also given out during the holidays to youngsters who might not otherwise receive a gift.

This year, the Sheriff's Office is also coordinating with Pet Smart in Sand City and officially kicked off the toy drive this week at the store. Customers can purchase the store's special *Luv-A-Pet* annual holiday version of the plush Canine Chance and Feline Lucky and can donate them to the Sheriff's Office Teddy Bear Program.

Several special members of the Sheriff's force were on hand for the kick-off event, including a few who feel quite at home at Pet Smart - the department's K9s.

You can also bring a new, unwrapped toy to one of the drop-off locations which are located at our Sheriff's Office Stations.

Central Station - Salinas  
1414 Natividad Road  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Coastal Station - Monterey  
1200 Aguajito Road, Suite 103  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

South County Station - King City  
250 Franciscan Way  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



*Deputy Shaun Moran and Argos (left) and Deputy Jorge Perez and Kilo (right) attend the Teddy Bear Toy Drive kick-off in Sand City.*

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## May Your Holiday be Furry and Bright...

Do you have room in your heart and home this holiday season for a new addition? Animal Services is hoping you'll consider adopting one of the many pets at the county shelter as the best gift you can give to yourself, your family and an animal longing for a forever home.

To make it easy, Animal Services is offering a holiday special rate - all adoption fees at the shelter are half off through December 31<sup>st</sup>.



During this holiday special, adoption fees for cats are \$40 and dog are \$72. These fees include the pet's spay/neuter, vaccinations, and a microchip.

The goal is to find new homes for the animals in the shelter, in particular, animals who have suffered being abandoned by their owners.

"The shelter is full from recent animal abandonments so we are hoping this special encourages people to give back by opening their home to a new pet during this holiday season," says Mike Richards, Operations Manager for Monterey County Animal Services, who adds staff is working hard to improve the situation for animals who have been abandoned for no fault of their own. "Our goal is to cut our euthanasia rate in half. We have many animals who just need a loving home and would make a good 'forever' friend."

For more information on the Holiday Special or to check out the adorable pets at the shelter, visit [www.mtyhd.org/pets](http://www.mtyhd.org/pets), or come in and see for yourself at 160 Hitchcock Road in Salinas.