

Newsletter

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY & S.P.C.A.

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A Non-Profit Corporation

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Vol. 7 No. 2

Feb. 1972



LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE RESERVE

They were born out of necessity. They are very much alive and are truly a swinging and active organization. These words might well describe the SAN DIEGO COUNTY ANIMAL RESCUE RESERVE, a dedicated group made up principally of horsemen who are all individual voting members of the SAN DIEGO COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY AND S. P. C. A.

Prior to September 1970 no one at the Humane Society had given much thought to San Diego County experiencing a disaster of such magnitude as the raging inferno which swept over much of the County.

By two o'clock on the afternoon of September 26th, 1970 we suddenly realized that we were in no way geared to competently handle the evacuation of several thousand animals.

Within several days after the fire we knew that we must take steps to organize and be ready for another such disaster, one which we hope will never occur.

The idea of forming a group of competent and knowledgeable horsemen occurred to us. We needed men with equipment to move large animals. We needed facilities to properly house and care for these rescued animals. We also knew that we must have some means of directing and controlling these units and radio was the obvious answer.

The rules and regulations for the RESCUE RESERVE were taken from the by-laws of the San Diego County Sheriff's Reserve and the group was set up in much the same way.

Our next problem was to find a strong personality to take on the responsibility of actually forming the organization with the title of Reserve Captain. JOHN W. CUMMINS, owner of a large wholesale meat company in San Diego and long active in horse circles was selected to put the group on its feet.

Shown on our cover is a typical truck and trailer and equipment owned by each member of the RESERVE. Each member at his own expense must purchase a uniform shirt and numerous other pieces of equipment.



Shown above is Reserve Sgt. BOB KASER participating in a rescue training drill.

Along with monthly training meetings, our reserves also participate in emergency drills of various types.

Now 140 members strong, the Reserve has both men and women actively participating. At our annual Christmas Open House held in December at the shelter, we needed manpower between six-thirty and seven o'clock on a Sunday morning. Fifteen men from the Reserve were here bright and early and assisted us with all manner of things. Many of them returned in the evening to help dismantle our displays.

Should the Humane Society even sponsor another benefit horse show our ANIMAL RESCUE RESERVE will take an active and vital part in putting on this show.

The Reserve has been accepted as an organization by the Sheriff's Office and also

the Forestry Service. In the event of a disaster our Reserve would immediately become a part of Civil Defense in San Diego County.

One hundred trailers would be of little value without communications. It would be impossible to direct their activities or to get them where they are needed. For this reason one of our first concerns was a communications system. We knew that local government facilities are taxed to their utmost in a time of emergency. We are fortunate to have incorporated the services of the SAN DIEGO RADIO AMATEUR FM REPEATER ASSOCIATION. This organization is a group of very highly trained, capable and enthusiastic radio buffs. Among them they have thousands of dollars of mobile radio equipment. During a disaster a repeater association member will join with a trailer owner giving us approximately one hundred radio controlled rescue units.



Shown above is Lt. TOM BOYLE in charge of mobile radios. In the event of an emergency the base equipment is set up at the Humane Society and would be manned by Lt. BOYLE or an assistant. From the Humane Society shelter base of operations mobile units can be controlled throughout San Diego County. We are indeed fortunate to have the SAN DIEGO RADIO AMATEUR FM REPEATER ASSOCIATION as a part of the Reserve.



Shown above is Reserve member HUGH MARKS of Alpine evacuating a horse from a corral in a simulated fire. It should be brought out that only the most qualified horsemen are eligible for membership in the Reserve. These people will always be dealing with totally strange animals whose manners and habits are unknown to the Reserve member. The Reserve personnel will be working with these large animals in conditions of peril and fear on the part of the animal. It is no place for the horseman who doesn't know his business and know it well.



San Diego Union Photo

IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN!