



From left: Darryl Bolden, Inspector I, 17 years; Fire Marshal Chief Jimmy Hill; and Richard Erquiaga, Fire Inspector I.

Call Them Inspectors

■ Two are promoted to Inspectors.

Story and photos by Bev Haro, Club Counselor

FIRE DEPT. — Two members of the LAFD were promoted at a badge ceremony June 13 in the Julie Bennett Conference Room, City Hall East.

The two individuals who are promoting to Inspector I are Darryll K. Bolden and Richard J. Erquiaga.

Darryll began his career in the LAFD 17 years ago. He worked at several different stations, but his last position was Firefighter III in the Fire

Prevention Bureau, Fire and Safety Education Unit. His new assignment will be in the Fire Prevention Bureau, High-Rise Unit as an Inspector I.

Richard J. Erquiaga was a Firefighter III in the Bureau of Emergency Services, Fire Station 107, "A" Platoon. He spent seven years at Fire Station 107 and has worked in two out of the three divisions in the City. His new assignment will be in the Fire Prevention Bureau, Underground Storage & Hazardous Materials Enforcement Unit S, as an Inspector I.

Congratulations to both Darryll and Richard. The Club thanks Martha Lucero from Fire Marshal Chief Hill's office for assisting in this article.



Richard J. Erquiaga, Fire Inspector I, with his wife and father.



From left: Richard J. Erquiaga, Fire Inspector I; Fire Marshal Chief Jimmy Hill; and Darryll K. Bolden, Fire Inspector I.

The Pet Club

When Bad Things Happen to Good Pets



Shadow the mini-donkey was saved due to the generosity of the citizens of Los Angeles, and Animal Services.

Shadow, a mini donkey, proved that bad things, and then good things, can happen to pets.

On June 7, the East Valley Animal Services Center received a call that two stray small donkeys were running loose on the 210 Freeway, eastbound at La Tuna Canyon. The donkeys ran side by side into oncoming traffic, where a passenger car struck both of them. The female donkey was hit first and was so severely injured, she could not move her hindquarters or stand up. The second male donkey was also injured and suffered from a large laceration to his hindquarters.

Animal Control Officer Brown arrived on the scene, and he immediately assessed the situation and found that the female donkey was so severely injured that immediate euthanasia was performed. A few hundred yards down was Shadow, frightened, in shock and badly injured. The officer and a Good Samaritan stood by trying to keep Shadow calm while awaiting the arrival of a veterinarian whom Animal Services had contacted. When Dr. Susan Bauer, a Los Angeles equine veterinarian, arrived, she immediately examined Shadow and determined that the wound was severe and would be costly and time-consuming to treat. Dr. Bauer spoke with the donkey's owner, who had now arrived, and advised him of the little donkey's prognosis. The owner was overwhelmed by the night's events and decided he could not afford the care of Shadow, and so custody was relinquished to Animal Services.

Despite what would have been expensive veterinary care, Shadow deserved a chance. The little donkey was sedated and loaded onto the Animal Services trailer, where he was immediately taken to the East Valley Animal Services Center in North Hollywood. Dr. Bauer followed Shadow to the Center and

upon arrival began caring for his injuries. It took three hours of surgery to repair his damaged body, but he was brave throughout the entire ordeal.

East Valley asked for and received 53 donations from various people and organizations totaling \$1,405.56 to help with the cost of the veterinarian and other items. We would like to thank you, and please know that it was greatly appreciated by the staff of Animal Services. This shows the unity between this agency and the citizens of Los Angeles.

Shadow spent a month of healing from his wounds that he suffered has found a new home. Shadow was placed with many other mini mules at the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue Organization. The rescue is in Tehachapi and can be seen on their Website at www.donkeyrescue.org.

Mini-Donkey Facts

Miniature donkeys are thought to be originally from Africa. They were brought to the Mediterranean islands of Sardinia and Sicily to be beasts of burden. They pulled and carried heavy loads, and did light farm work. They are extinct in their native homeland, but are about ten thousand strong in the United States.

Mini donkeys are about 26 to 36 inches tall. Their weight ranges from 200 to 300 pounds.

Male donkeys are called "jacks" and female donkeys are called "jennets." Baby donkeys are called foals, just like horses.

A mini donkey's coat (fur) color is mainly gray-dun, but some also range in darker shades of brown, gray, black, sorrel, white and spotted. They usually have light tan markings around their muzzle and eyes, and some may have dark points instead of light.

Mini donkeys are considered a "herd" animal, and this means they can suffer from stress and loneliness if left by themselves. They should be raised with another donkey.

They need the following care: annual vaccinations, farrier (hoof care) visits and to be wormed. They should also be provided shelter and adequate food and water supply.

Send Questions

Karen Knipscheer,
Public Information Officer,
Animal Services

Karen Knipscheer has worked for Animal Services for 16 years; she worked in the field as an officer, then lieutenant, then captain. She was a district manager and a hearing examiner before recently becoming the public information officer. Feel free to welcome her; write to her at: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

