



COUNTY OF TULARE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE #4 August 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

How to Spot & Report Elder Abuse

Elder abuse can be physical, psychological, or financial actions that cause harm to a person who is 65 or older. If you know or suspect an elder to be a victim of abuse, report it to the authorities. If you are unable to contact the authorities, you can report your suspicions to a mandated reporter. Mandated reporters are county welfare employees, law enforcement personnel, clergy members, and health practitioners. If an elder is in immediate harm, always call 911!

Signs of Abuse

Physical:

- Malnutrition or dehydration, bedsores; unexplained weight loss
- Unseen but suspected physical injury: Painful reactions when touched
- Bruises, skin tears, or broken bones or teeth

Financial signs:

- Suspicious banking or financial transactions
- Money missing from accounts
- Unusual ATM or credit card transactions
- Unexpected changes to estate planning documents/property deeds
- Missing possessions

Behavioral Signs:

- Agitation or anger
- Confusion or disorientation
- Defensiveness
- Depressed or withdrawn
- Fearful or hesitant to talk openly
- Non-responsive or implausible excuses

If you suspect elder abuse in a nursing home, you can file a complaint with the Licensing and Certification Division of the California Department of Public Health. For more information you can visit the California Department of Aging:
<https://bit.ly/3iz9IOX>

Mosquitos in Our Neighborhood



As we move into August, the fear of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illness is at its highest. The good news is that we currently **do not** have any mosquito-borne diseases being locally transmitted in Tulare County. However, we must remain vigilant, because mosquitoes capable of transmitting malaria, yellow fever, and Zika live in our county. Here are some tips to stay safe and avoid getting bit:

- **Use an EPA-registered insect repellent.** Any EPA-registered insect repellent works against all mosquitoes and are not harmful to humans if used as directed. For a full list of what ingredients work to prevent mosquito bites, go to <https://bit.ly/2Vj9dKg>, or cdph.ca.gov.
- **Avoid being outside at dawn and dusk.** The mosquito species *Culex*, which is one of the species that can potentially carry and transmit mosquito-borne illness like West Nile Virus, are only active in the early morning and evening. Unfortunately, mosquitoes can be active throughout the entire day, but the majority of mosquito attacks occur within those two time frames.

If you want more information about vector control, or if you want to report mosquito activity and mosquito-borne illness, you can visit the Delta Vector Control District website at <https://bit.ly/2Xclu2L> or you can call (559) 732-8606. For those in the city of Tulare, call (559) 686-6628 or visit www.tularemosquito.com.

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On July 20, Governor Newsom arrived at Traver Joint Elementary School to sign SB 156, a piece of historic legislation that will provide the funding to construct broadband infrastructure for thousands of Central Valley residents. The state’s investment in broadband will be a \$6 billion multi-year project, which will create a state-owned network linking unserved households and small businesses with local internet providers. SB 156 is just another step in our state’s goal to limit the “digital divide” between urban centers and rural California.

SB 156 is the most recent bill to be signed by our governor, but other ideas are currently being debated to help limit the divide. Another such bill is Assembly Bill 14 (AB 14). AB 14, which the Tulare County Board of Supervisors proudly supports, would re-focus the state’s utility commission to improve the quality of internet for households that use dial-up connections, internet download speeds lower than 10mps, and internet upload speeds lower than 1mbs. Much like SB 156, AB 14, if signed by the governor, will create a middle-mile network to link internet providers with consumers for an affordable cost. If you are interested in learning more about SB 156 and AB 14, you can go to <https://bit.ly/3lMkYE4> and <https://bit.ly/3sbwQ3F>.

Community Care Coalition



The Community Care Coalition (CCC) was established in April of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to address the need to combine resources, response, and planning efforts throughout Tulare County. The CCC is made up of over 50 partner organizations, located both in and outside Tulare County, who are engaged and committed to focusing

on coordinated service-delivery efforts to identify and meet the diverse needs of Tulare County’s communities. The partners are inclusive of the spectrum of services ranging from multiple County departments, health care, education, community-based organizations, and nonprofits.

The CCC has assisted in response efforts and planning on items such as Healthy Harvest (Housing for the Harvest), outreach and distribution related to rental/mortgage and utility assistance, testing and vaccine efforts, ongoing community education on supportive services, food

assistance/distribution, and PPE and household necessities. Moreover, the CCC assisted with family support opportunities such as parent groups, awareness efforts related to COVID-19, ongoing community resources, integrated referrals, and coordinated response efforts that allow for the leveraging of available resources across the CCC partners to fill gaps were identified.

This coalition, while created as a response to COVID-19, is anticipated to continue to support ongoing COVID-19 effects throughout Tulare County, implementation of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), efforts on ongoing resources and community providers, and is targeted toward a continued coordinated care approach.

This team of amazing partners is dedicated to collaboratively serving the needs of the residents from the most populated to the most rural areas of Tulare County.

The Community Care Coalition can be followed on Facebook by searching Community Care Coalition or @tularecountyccc. Questions for the CCC or ideas for future informational townhall sessions can be emailed to asktularecountyccc@gmail.com.

*Submitted by HHSA

No More Hot Dogs

Tulare County summers can be sweltering, and our animals need extra care. The Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency has some tips for caring for your animals this summer:

- **Never leave pets in parked cars for any period of time:** The temperature in a car can reach 120° in a matter of minutes. If you see an animal in a parked car during the summer, call your local animal control or the police immediately.
- **Every animal needs shade and water:** Any animal that is outside needs protection from the heat and sun, and plenty of fresh, cool water.
- **Know and recognize the signs of heatstroke:** Signs of heatstroke include heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, restlessness, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, and unconsciousness.
- **If heatstroke occurs, take action immediately:** Take the following steps immediately to gradually lower your pet's body temperature, and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.
 - Move the animal into the shade or an air-conditioned area
 - Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck, and chest, or run cool water over your pet
 - Let your pet drink small amounts of cold water or lick ice cubes
 - Take your animal directly to a veterinarian
- **Limit exercise to early morning or evening hours on very hot days:** Remember that both asphalt and cement sidewalks get very hot. These surfaces reach high temperatures and can burn your pet's paws.
- **Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer,** and may require sunscreen on nose and ear tips.



An animal's normal temperatures are from 99 to 102.2. As a result, they may more quickly reach fatal temperatures of 105 to 106. An animal should never be tied up where it cannot access shade and water; the water should be kept shaded. We have also seen pets with e-collars that suffer heat stroke because the collar traps heat around the head. Dogs only have sweat glands on their paws, so most of their cooling efforts are achieved via panting. All animals should be checked frequently, as should their water sources. Some animals tip over their water bowls and can become dehydrated quickly.

If you see an animal in distress, please call Tulare County Animal Services at (559) 636-4050. Log on to www.tcanimalservices.com to start the foster and adopt process, to find out information about vaccinations and spay/neuter, or to look at available services and resources.

Last, Tulare County Animal Services is always in need of dog and cat toys, treats, and newspaper and towels. To donate, please drop off items at our shelter location at 14131 Avenue 256 in Visalia.



Animal Adoption Corner

The adorable Ginger is a one-year-old, 50-pound pup who is spunky and enjoys playing with other nice dogs her size. She is a social butterfly with people and would love a home of her own with a moderately active family.

Are you ready to take Ginger home? Call the Tulare County Animal Shelter at (559) 636-4050 and set up a time to come meet her so that you can see her friendly personality shine!