

PETS

Continued from A-1

development director said. Since summer, the shelter has needed 20 to 30 calls a day, compared to just a few each day a year ago...

The foreclosure casualties became evident in the fall, Chavez said, when the shelter's numbers failed to drop as usual following the teeming kitten and puppy season.

The trend mirrors the housing crisis, with 2007 bringing record-high foreclosures county, state, and nationwide.

Separation difficult

The separations are hard on animals and humans alike, Chavez said. One man who recently dropped off his pets of nine years...

"Half the staff had to turn around and walk out of the room. It was hard to take," Chavez said.

The surrendered animals have strained the shelter's capacity, Chavez said. She doesn't mind sharing her space.

Many partner rescue groups also are full and unable to take more animals she said. Rowland urged people who do have room for a pet to consider adoption.

The North County Humane Society, serving Oceanside and Vista, also reports being atypically full for this time of year.

Family pets in the shelter, including a purebred maltese, lhasa apso and chihuahua, that would normally be adopted quickly are having difficulty finding homes...

The unusual number of dogs means that small dogs are housed four to a two-dog kennel, and the stray cattery has also become a makeshift doghouse.

So far this month, the shelter has taken in 395 animals, compared to 262 for all of January 2007, Hood said.

She is unsure how many animals are the victims of foreclosures, but most people surrendering pets recently have checked the "moving" box on the shelter's required form.

"They're really not more forthcoming than that... I wouldn't be either," Hood said.

She does not think military deployments have caused the increase, because deployments have been an ongoing issue.

In order to help displaced and financially strapped families keep their pets, the shelter will soon distribute a list of area apartments that accept larger pets and free pet food as needed.

Some shelters unaffected

Not all shelters have seen the foreclosure effect.

John Carlson, regional director of the San Diego County animal shelter in Carlsbad, said that he number of surrendered pets was slightly down in the second half of 2007 compared to the same period in 2006...

Dawn Danielson director of San Diego County Animal Services, said animal surrenders and abandonments were lower at all three San Diego County shelters.

The Rancho Coastal Humane Society in Encinitas, where Danielson serves as chairwoman, has also seen a drop in surrendered pets, she said.

The housing market's impact on animals does not appear to be exclusive to Southern California. The Humane Society of the United States pet-friendly apartments.

And preparing proof of responsible pet ownership, such as veterinary records, may help convince future landlords to accept animals.

If no other arrangements can be made, turning animals into a shelter is the most humane move, the group says.

"No one likes to think of leaving their pet at a shelter," Stephanie Strain, a national Humane Society spokeswoman, said. "But if you can't take him with you, it is far more humane than leaving them in an apartment or a house alone."

Contact staff writer Sarah Gordon at (760) 901-4067 or sgordon@nctimes.com. Comment at nctimes.com

BORDER

Continued from A-1

given to let people know of the new rule, some business groups say.

"One of our main concerns is the lack of public awareness," said Diana Laurin, policy and protection coordinator for the Border Trade Alliance, a Phoenix-based group that advocates for cross-border commerce.

Laurin said her group favors keeping the oral declarations of citizenship in place and other options for proof of citizenship, such as a new passport card and more secure driver's licenses, become more widely available.

Border officials said the new passport card will be available starting Friday. It will allow people to enter the United States via land and sea ports and will cost much less than the passport book. But it cannot be used to travel by air overseas.

On Tuesday, border officials distributed fliers telling people of the new requirements. A top border official also held press conferences in Arizona and San Diego to publicize the changes.

In San Diego, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner Jayson Ahern said customs officers will also have latitude to let people enter the country once they've been properly vetted.

"In this post 9/11 environment it will no longer be acceptable to make an oral declaration of citizenship" when crossing into the United States, said Ahern, who is heading a national effort to improve border security.

The effects of border wait times resulting from the new requirements are difficult to



BILL WECHTER / STAFF PHOTO

Customs and Border Protection Officer Bernard Alvarez hands someone coming into the U.S. at the San Ysidro port of entry Tuesday an informational sheet on the new border regulations that take effect Thursday.

assess, said Hector Venegas, borders program manager for the association. Because most of the border traffic is made up of daily commuters traveling to and from work, most of them already carry documents that conform to the new rules, Venegas said.

Cards for frequent-traveler programs, such as Nexus, Senti and Fast, will continue to be accepted to allow speedy travel through the border.

Moreover, "full implementation of the passport requirement will be less strict than originally intended," Venegas said.

The new requirements are part of an effort to streamline the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The 2004 law was designed to "get control" of the

borders by verifying the citizenship and identity of everyone entering the U.S. by land, sea or air from Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

When the law's requirements for air travelers took effect in 2007, they were quickly met by a massive backlog in passport applications. Some fear that will happen again this year as Homeland Security tries to go forward with the changes for land and sea crossings.

A spokesman for the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the agency in charge of processing passport applications, said it has beefed up its efforts to meet demand for the documents. He said wait times for 2009, and the department was forced to settle for birth certificates combined with other forms of ID as proof of

citizenship.

The shifting deadline part of the reason why people are confused cause delays, said Raposa, a spokesman for the city of Rosarito Beach depends on U.S. tour much of its revenues.

"We try very hard people updated, but been very hard to know to tell people," said Raposa, former reporter for the County Times.

Many Mexican businesses have seen a decline in tourism from Southern California, Raposa said. It is difficult to judge what effect the new rule will have but any further loss could hurt the local economy. Call (760) 526-4200 or CBP-5541 from 5:30 a.m. Monday through day.

U.S. Navy Announces Alternative Arrangements for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Requests Public Input



On January 15, 2008, the Department of the Navy accepted alternative arrangements, approved by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These alternative arrangements specifically address the use of mid-frequency active (MFA) sonar and its effects on marine mammals during Navy exercises in the Southern California (SOCAL) Operating Area.

Information on the Navy's proposals for the SOCAL Operating Area including the full text of the Decision Memorandum is available at www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com.

The Navy will prepare a post-exercise assessment after each exercise. By this Notice, the Navy requests input from the public on the process for reviewing the post-exercise assessments. The Navy is also offering the public the opportunity to discuss the implementation of these alternative arrangements. Input on reviewing the post-exercise assessments and any requests to meet with Navy and CEQ representatives about the alternative arrangements may be submitted by contacting Mr. Alex Stone at (619) 545-9128 or in writing to:

Naval Air Station North Island Attn: Alex Stone, CPF Environmental McCain Boulevard, Building 678, Room 218 San Diego, CA 92135

For more information about the Navy's Decision Memorandum, visit www.SOCALRangeComplexEIS.com.

Advertisement for SUN SPOTS ACQUINTIC KERATOSIS. Includes text: "If you think you have sun spots, you really have ACQUINTIC KERATOSIS. A DANGLED WARNING SIGN FOR SKIN CANCER."

If you have 5-20 spots on your face that look like small, crusty, discolored, scaly patches of skin that can be raised, rough, or sensitive to touch, you may qualify for a research study being conducted in the Vista area.

- You Will Receive At No Cost: • An examination of your skin • Investigational Study cream • Compensation for your time

Health insurance is not needed.

AK Clinical Trial logo and phone number 888-210-2130. Website: www.AKClinicalTrial.com

Advertisement for car donation: "DONATE YOUR CAR AND HELP SOMEONE ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY. YOU'LL BE DOING THE MOST GOOD.™" Includes contact info: 1-800-SA-TRUCK

Advertisement for Milgard Windows: "REPLACEMENT WINDOWS. #1 Dealer of Milgard Windows in San Diego County. Affordable, Quality Workmanship, Professional, Courteous service that YOU, our customers deserve."