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On Monday October 9, 2017, the Livermore Police Department was contacted by Alameda County Animal Services asking that our Animal Control personnel join in a request for mutual aid from the Napa County Sheriff's Department. Napa County needed more personnel to respond to requests for service from the residents in the fire ravaged area. Napa County Animal Services officers fielded calls and escorted outside agencies to the areas needing assistance. Two Livermore Animal Control officers responded to the request for help.

Our personnel assisted in removing pets from homes where residents were unable to take their pets with them. The rescued pets were taken to a shelter with the hopes of reuniting them with their families. Napa County officers guided outside agencies to the locations in need of assistance. Our officers also navigated through dangerous and fiery terrain to assist residents in rural areas with evacuating their horses. The majority of their time was spent helping horse owners load and transport their horses, and identifying resources to transport horses that had no means available to them.

LPD Animal Control Officer Kathy Stiles-Holmes stated, "The scene was very surreal. You don't really get how devastating fires are until you see it up close. I have an even deeper respect for the men and women who run toward these fires when everyone else is running away to seek cover. It was definitely a reminder to make sure that you have a plan in place prior to when a disaster strikes."

Officer Kathy Stiles-Holmes provides the following information and reminders for our community members who have pets in regard to preparing for any emergency.

- Know ahead of time how you will transport your animals.
- Make sure that you have cages, trailers, or anything else needed to be able to get animals out in a hurry.
- Make sure that you have several days' worth of food, water, and medication if necessary, for your pets.
- Practice your emergency plans, including hitching the trailer, catching horses, loading the horses, etc.
- Practice loading horses in different stressful situations in advance.
- Make sure your pets are microchipped in the event that you are separated.
- Don't wait. Nobody ever thinks it will happen until it actually does.

The Livermore Police Department continues to send positive thoughts to all of those affected by the North Bay fires.