

# DANGEROUS DOGS

---

## HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

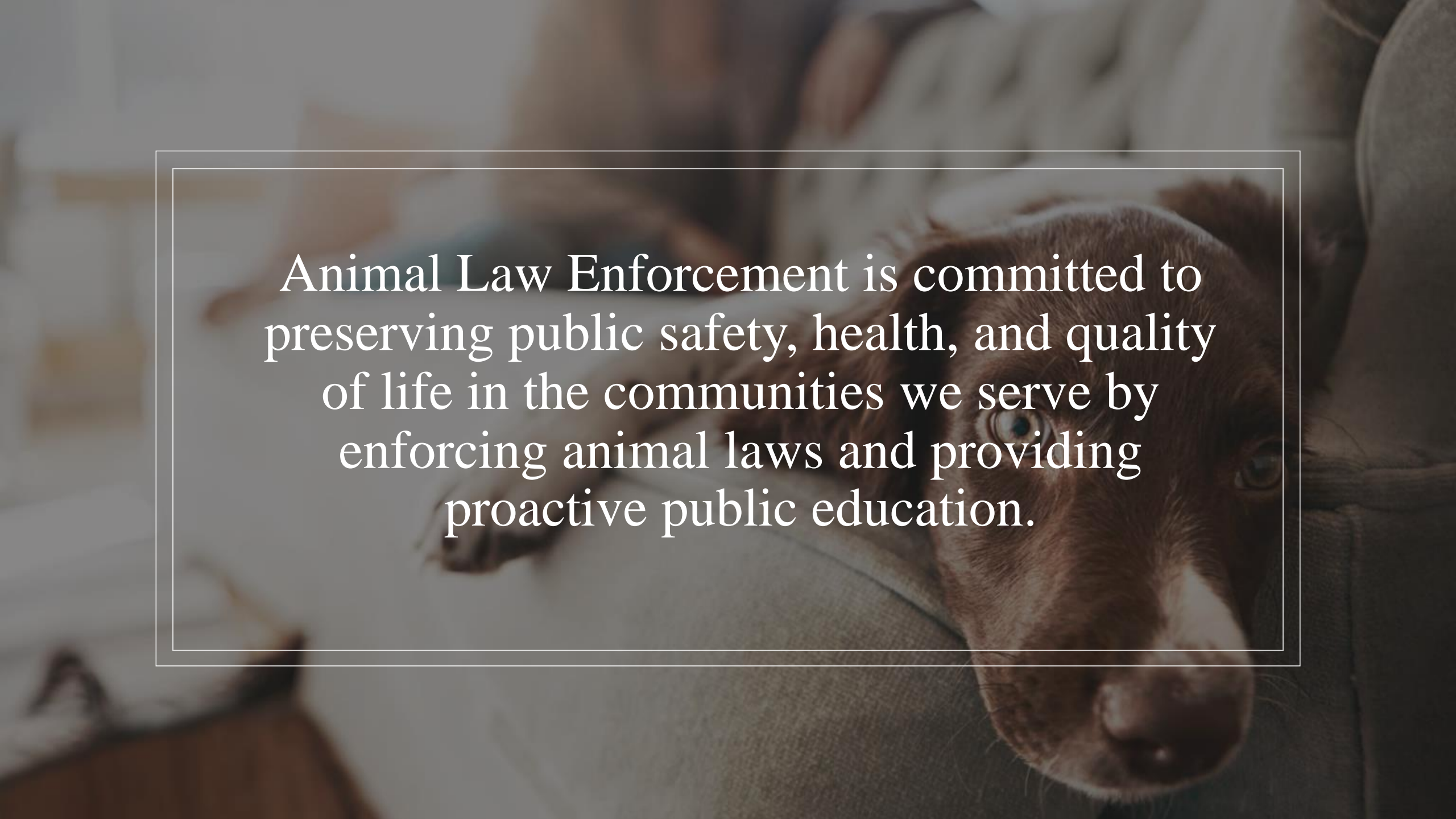
Jamie Norris

Director of Animal Law Enforcement

Lindsey Vigna

Assistant Director of Animal Law Enforcement



A close-up photograph of a brown dog with a white patch on its chest, lying on a light-colored couch. The dog's head is resting on the couch, and it is looking towards the camera with a calm expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the couch and the dog's body.

Animal Law Enforcement is committed to preserving public safety, health, and quality of life in the communities we serve by enforcing animal laws and providing proactive public education.

A Weimaraner dog is shown in profile, sitting in a field of tall, dry grass. The dog is looking towards the left of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape under a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Our goal today is to discuss Dangerous Dog encounters and opportunities for proactive measures moving forward.



# DANGEROUS DOGS

According to the [National Library of Medicine](#), more than 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year in the United States.

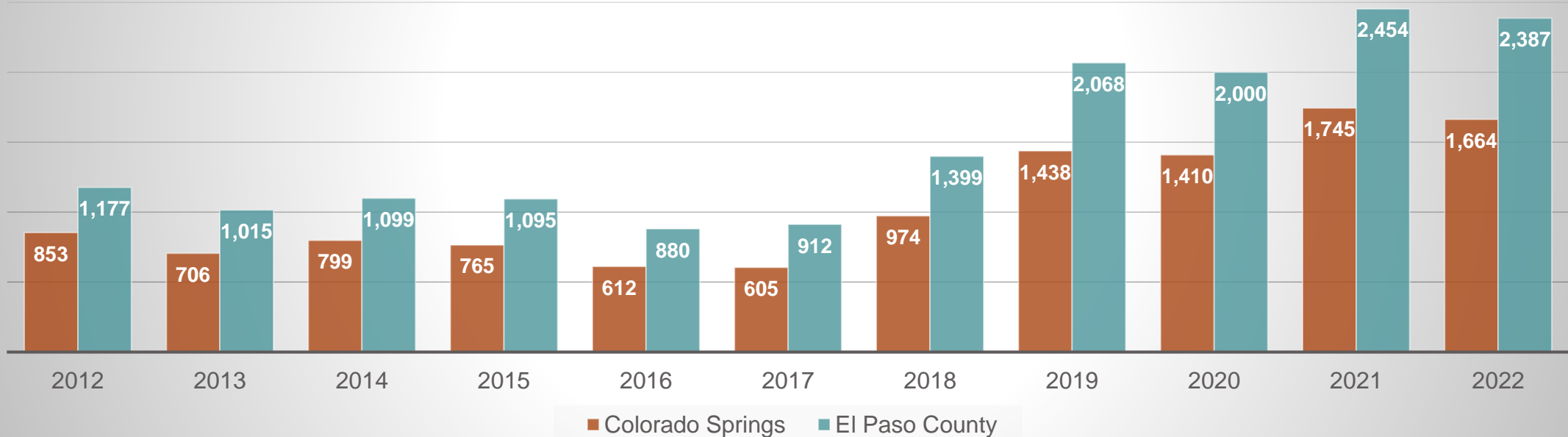
Here in the United States, each day around 1,000 people require emergency care treatment for serious dog bite injuries.

Dog Bites occur roughly every 75 seconds in the United States (CDC).



# COLORADO SPRINGS & EL PASO COUNTY COMPARISONS

## Dangerous dog Investigations & Aggressive dog at Large





# ANIMAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

## Immediate

- Securing the animal
- Ensuring victim's needs are attended to
- Collecting and preserving evidence

## Investigation

- Interview witnesses & collecting statements
- Research history
- Check containment
- Addressing violations i.e. enforcement, education & warnings
- Issuing citations

## Follow-Up

- Victim's Advocate
- Meeting with prosecutor
- Submitting evidence
- Making recommendations on sentencing



# 2022 RESPONSES & RESULTS

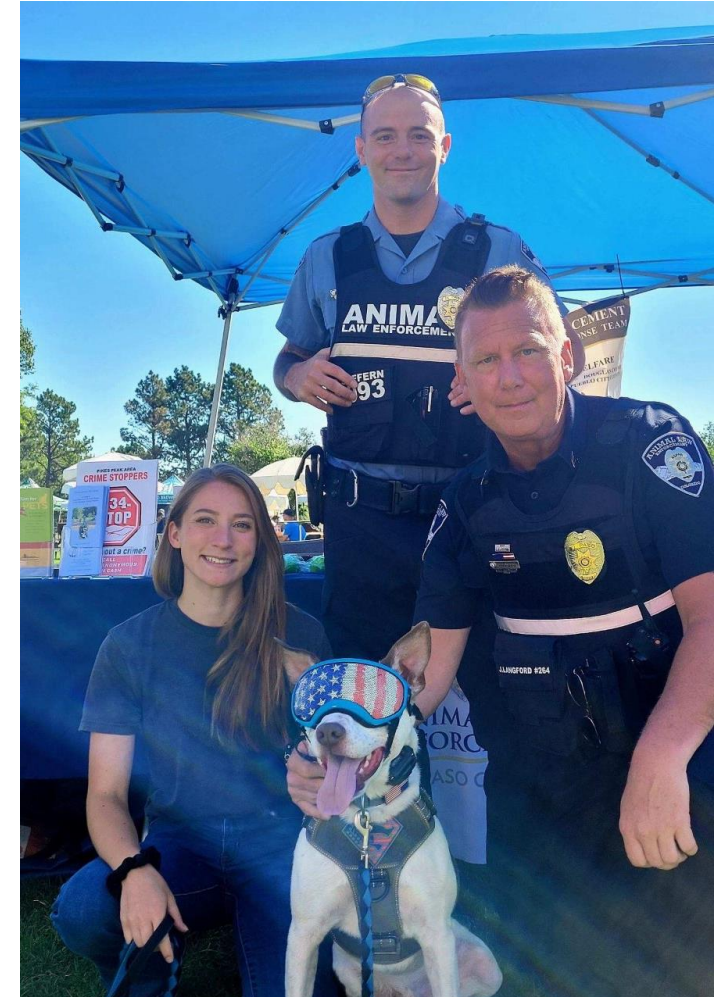
Animal Law Enforcement responded to an average of 4.5 calls for service per day in Colorado Springs regarding Dangerous Dogs; overall 6.5 responses per day in El Paso County.

A total of 178 Dangerous Dog violations were issued by Animal Law Enforcement  
108 of those violations were issued into District Court while only 70 were issued to Colorado Springs Municipal Court.



# PLAN FOR ACTION

- Proactive Measures
  - Proposal of an “At Risk” ordinance and PDA ordinance
    - Creates additional levels of charging
    - Puts owners on notice for future consequences
- Stricter penalties following sentencing
  - Revisiting fine amounts
  - Mandatory Education Classes
    - Responsible Pet Ownership Classes
    - Behavior Management Classes
  - Mandatory Spay and Neuter Requirements
    - AVMA reports that intact males are involved in 70-76% of dog bite incidents
    - Genetics
  - Mandatory Containment Requirements
    - Ensures consistent expectations and enhances public safety





2023 Dangerous Dogs

THANK YOU

