

Our Stories

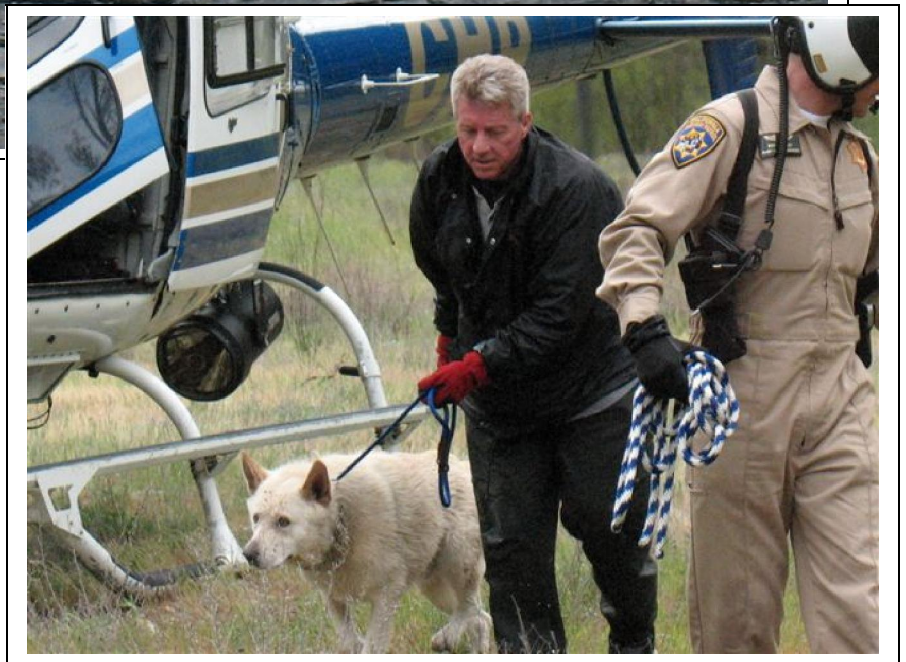
El Dorado County Animal Services

Dog Rescued

Below Ruckachucky

April 15, 2009 ---

El Dorado County Animal Services recently helped a dog who had been stranded for four days on a treacherous stretch of the American River. The dog, a white German Shepherd, may have either swam over or fallen down the Ruckachucky Falls, located on the edge of El Dorado County, that led him to his isolated spot 30 feet below where he was surrounded by nothing but a high rocky cliff and raging water. Someone spotted the dog and reported it to Animal Services. Rescue efforts began in earnest, and because of the rough terrain and bad weather, officers worked collaboratively with the State Parks Department and California Highway Patrol.



The CHP provided a helicopter to drop Animal Services Officer, Lt. Warren Candler, near the area. “I climbed down and over the rocks, and had to do a bit of swimming,” said Candler. **“I got to the dog and he came running toward me. He was excited and barking. When he reached me, he licked my face.** I put the leash on him and then we trekked back to where the helicopter could come back and pick us up.”

The dog was taken to the El Dorado County animal shelter in Placerville, where he was evaluated by a veterinarian. Other than a few bruises and lack of food, the dog appeared to be in good shape. The dog was friendly and happy to get some food. He was housed at the shelter until his owner was found. Because he was wearing a collar and rabies tag, his owner was found fairly quickly by Animal Services officers. The dog, whose name is “Dog,” was reunited with his owner on April 12, 2009.

“We’re happy we could help the dog,” said Candler. “All of us at Animal Services are grateful for the collaboration we received from the CHP and California State Parks.”