



# *News Release*

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*Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services*

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Contact:**

**Vanessa Rogier, (408) 277-3065  
Cell 408-406-3618**

## **Happy Hollow Zooteens Donate Over \$18,000 to Support San Jose Police Department Canine Unit**

*San José* - On Tuesday, January 30, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo's Zooteen program formally donated over \$18,000 to the San Jose Police Department to purchase ballistic vests for their canine officers.

The money was raised through Happy Hollow's non-profit organization, Happy Hollow Corporation, which supports the operation of the Vesta Dog program at Happy Hollow. Happy Hollow's teen volunteers, called Zooteens, started a local chapter of Vesta Dogs in 2004 and fundraised the money with the purpose of protecting the dogs of the San Jose Police Department's Canine Unit.

At Happy Hollow, Zooteens teach the public about global animal issues, and through this project they were able to take direct action and support animals locally. Through educational booths, donation boxes, partnerships with other community organizations and with the support of the officers of the San Jose canine unit, they raised over \$23,400. They have purchased one ballistic canine vest for the Capitola Police Dept., two for the East Palo Alto Police Dept. and four vests for the San Jose Police Dept. Today's donation of \$18,883 will allow the police department to purchase twelve more vests as needed in the future.

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Shannon Noll, Education Coordinator for Happy Hollow, proudly explains about the program, "Zooteens are young adults who are passionate about animals and animal conservation. At Happy Hollow they learn about and then teach our visitors about conservation on a global level. The Vesta Dogs program gave them an opportunity to work on a local issue and make a positive impact on our local community. We are very proud of their accomplishments!"

For more information, please contact Vanessa Rogier at 408-277-3065.

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