

On February 11, 2012, Animal Care & Control received a report of a stray German Shepherd running back and forth across Pacheco Pass Highway in Gilroy. Fortunately, the Shepherd ran to an area where a concerned resident was able to secure the lost dog.

When the Animal Control Officer arrived, he immediately scanned the Shepherd to see if she had identification. A sense of relief came over him as he discovered she was microchipped! Through the microchip registration information, Animal Control knew her name was Mika, and that she lived in Gilroy. Although the initial attempt to contact Mika's family was unsuccessful, Mika would be safe at the Animal Shelter in San Martin until they could be reached. Shortly after Mika arrived at the Shelter, another attempt to contact Mika's family proved to be successful and her family was assured Mika was doing well and she would be safe spending the night at the Shelter.

The following day, Mika's family came to pick her up and thanked the Animal Control Officer for keeping Mika safe. They stated that Mika frequently rides in the back of the pickup truck with the appropriate leash and collar to safely secure her. While the family was traveling on Pacheco Pass, they thought Mika was lying down resting in the back of the truck. After arriving at their destination, they discovered only Mika's empty collar – Mika was nowhere in sight. To their disbelief, Mika was gone – they feared the worst! At some point during the drive, Mika had managed to free herself from the collar and jump out of the moving vehicle. Mika's family immediately drove back over Pacheco Pass and frantically searched for her. They were so relieved when they received the call from Animal Care & Control that Mika was safe and sound.

As an Animal Control Officer, returning a family pet home safely is one of the most rewarding aspects of the job. In Mika's case, all the events worked in her favor - Mika was rescued by a concerned resident, her family ensured she was microchipped, and the microchip registration information was up-to-date. The tiny microchip provided identification and it was Mika's ticket home! If your pet is lost, please visit [www.sccountypets.org](http://www.sccountypets.org) for tips to help you locate your lost pet. If you would like to help the pets that come to the Shelter without identification, consider a [donation to help animals](#) in the County of Santa Clara Animal Shelter.

Animal Control  
Officer Jamison  
Stiehr with Mika and  
her family!

