2013 Animal Control in Review—

The animal control shelter is owned by the City of Owatonna and operated by the police department. The shelter, located at 1190 Industrial Road, is staffed seven days a week. The primary responsibility of animal control duties falls upon our community service officers, Chris Lee, Josh Steinberg and Chad Schlueter. In 2013, the department responded to 1921 animal related calls, a slight increase from the previous years. The graph to the side shows the vast majority of the animal control calls are for miscellaneous animal complaints, which includes caring for animals that have been impounded and are being housed in the shelter. The most recurring citizen complaint is for an animal (s) at large. The CSOs at the animal control shelter place a great deal of effort into re-uniting lost animals with their respective owner—many times because they are familiar with the animal, or by placing the animal on the Animal Control Facebook page or because the animal has been micro-chipped. We are also have an invaluable partnership with local animal rescue organizations, the Steele County Humane Society and S.A.F.E. Sanctuary in Faribault. If you’d like more information on the animal control shelter, are considering adopting an animal or looking for a lost loved one, click here to visit our Facebook page.

Child Abuse Leads to Arrest—

On January 23rd, an Owatonna school resource officer was contacted by the administration at a local elementary school regarding a student who had been assaulted. The investigation revealed an 11-year-old student had been assaulted at their residence by an adult female. The child was allegedly punched with a closed fist in the shoulder and then ordered to leave the house. The child put on their coat, grabbed their homework and left the house for school—while doing this the adult told the child to get out again. The child left the home without a hat or gloves and the air temperature was reportedly -17 degrees Fahrenheit with a -38 degree wind chill. The adult, a 34-year-old female, was arrested and later formally charged with Child Neglect—a gross misdemeanor and Domestic Assault—a misdemeanor.