

LIFE BEYOND THE WATER MAIN

by Ryan Loader, District Manager, Ford Meter Box

Many water utility superintendents have hobbies but for Nolan Gardner, Water Superintendent of the City of St. George, Utah, his hobby may rank as one of the more interesting.

Nolan has worked for the St. George Water Department for more than 21 years. His many duties have included everything from reading meters to pouring thrust blocks to repairing broken waterlines.

But life's not all about work, right? Growing up in Utah has given Nolan a strong desire to appreciate the outdoors and all of its wildlife. An avid hunter and sportsman, in the early 1970's, Nolan began participating in the effort to help control the predator population that is a major problem to local farmers and ranchers. Over the years, he soon realized he had a knack for calling coyotes and has since entered and won or placed in many local, state, and national competitions.

However, hunting alone has not fulfilled Nolan's love for the great outdoors. Nolan has been strongly supportive and personally involved with many organizations that focus on "habitat protection, enhancement,



Nolan poses with Roco (left) and Sunny.

and acquisition, predator control, and reasonable management of hunters."

Such organizations include the Dixie Wildlife Federation (now a chapter for the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife organization), of which he was president for over 10 years. Proudly, Nolan admits this organization is one of the oldest known wildlife organizations in the Western United States.

Another organization is the Utah Trappers Association, which sponsors

events throughout the year that encourage many of Utah's youth to actively and responsibly participate in the joys of hunting.

Perhaps of all the events throughout the year, none other than the Annual Youth Coyote Hunt is more appreciated by its participants. This event is well sponsored by local businesses and national organizations. It's also filled with loads of prizes, and most importantly, memorable moments hunting with family and friends. Last year more than 106 youth and 109 adults joined in the fun. Nolan admits that regardless of the outcome on that day, "everyone comes away a winner."

