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[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Today's Paper](#)

[Sports](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Shopping](#)

[Services](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Visitor Info](#)

[Advertising Info](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Site Index](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

News
War on Terror
Metro
North County
State/The West
Nation
Mexico
World
Business
Technology
Science
Politics
Military
Education
Travel
Solutions
Special Reports
Features
Weather
Forums
Opinion
Columnists
U-T Daily Paper
Archives
AP Wire

Pepito the pooch foils runaway truck



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October 24, 2002

A man in the path of a runaway cement truck in Del Mar may owe his life to his dog. Alerted by his pooch, Pepito, the preoccupied pet owner was able to grab the dog and jump out of the way as the truck barreled toward the Americana cafe Monday morning.

After the truck lost its brakes coming down the 15th Street grade, the driver began honking and bumping against a median in an attempt to slow down. The light turned green as he reached the town's main street, Camino del Mar. The driver tried to turn the truck, but it fishtailed, flipped and slid through the intersection.

The truck came to rest about four feet short of the Americana cafe's outdoor tables, reports relieved restaurant manager Carrie Rosenberger. On the way, it wiped out a bike rack, trash can and sidewalk pole. Wet cement gushed from the truck, engulfing a restaurant customer.

It was a miracle that no one was seriously injured, Rosenberger says. The driver and customer were taken to a hospital for a medical check.

Also good news: Pepito's owner came back Tuesday evening for dinner.

A powerful ad

A commercial broker notified area leasing agents that the Chula Vista office of a local employment agency had rental space available with rather unusual

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