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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 10, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CH Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

Re: **Pima Animal Care Center Inquiries**

There have been questions from the Board regarding the current and future capacity of Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) and related capital and medical treatment facilities that could be realized as a result of a successful November 2014 bond election.

In the development of a comprehensive and detailed bond ordinance, staff continues to refine the final programming of space and improvements proposed. As we work through this process, additional information will be forthcoming throughout the summer and into the early fall.

In the interest of sharing information that will help answer some of these questions at this early stage of the process, I would like to share responses to an inquiry from the District 1 office. As always, staff would be pleased to address any outstanding questions that may not be discussed below.

How many dogs/cats can PACC currently handle, including the new tent?

An exact answer is difficult, since PACC is the only open-admission shelter in the County and does not turn away animals that present for care. This simply means we continue to take animals, regardless of actual capacity. There have been single days in which PACC handled in excess of 500 dogs and 200 cats. To better understand capacity, the shelter currently has 267 dog kennels and 120 cat cages, including isolation and treatment spaces. Of these, 32 are isolation dog kennels and 24 are isolation cat spaces, which are considered inadequate by the professional staff.

How many animals will the new facility be able to handle if the Bond is approved?

Again, there is no exact answer, since PACC does not turn away animals; and the operations are designed and will continue to manage the space to the demand. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010/11, the facility accommodated more than 29,000 animals. Over the past two completed fiscal years, the number of animals in the facility has decreased at about five percent per year, to just below 28,000 in FY 2011/12 and nearly 26,500 in FY

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2012/13. It should be noted that the figure for FY 2012/13 refers to all animals handled by PACC, which includes approximately 2,500 animals that were deceased when picked up or turned in to the Center. It is anticipated the new facility will handle a like number of deceased animals, accommodate the approximately 6,000 animals returned to owners or outside rescue groups, and ultimately shelter approximately 15,000 animals for an average stay of 10 days, including approximately 140 animals daily that require isolation and treatment space.

The 2012/13 Annual Report states: "Our live release rate was 64 percent - significantly more than the 55 percent of the previous year." How many animals (out of the nearly 25,000 cared for by PACC) were adopted in Fiscal Year 2012/13?

The annual report for FY 2012/13 reported PACC cared for nearly 24,000 animals during that fiscal year. This refers to only the live animals handled, which was 23,644. PACC handled a total of 26,333 animals, of which the remaining were animals deceased upon turn in or pickup. Of the live releases, 6,180 were adopted; 1,982 were returned to owners; and 4,242 were rescued by outside groups.

Additionally, 10,107 were euthanized, and the remaining died en route or in their kennel due to serious injury or illness.

The proposed new facility is only one element of a robust program to change the way we operate PACC. We are evaluating – and, when needed, modifying – not only the fiscal environment, but all of the operations we conduct in order to better serve the public health needs of the community.

It is important to note that our positive outcomes have continued to climb following the close of the last fiscal year. During the period July 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, we achieved a 76 percent live release rate.

"The clinic has two surgical stations & a full complement of state-of-the art medical equipment. During this year, the clinic performed more than 6,150 spay/neuter surgeries, averaging 30 a day." If we handled nearly 25,000 animals and all are spayed/neutered prior to adoption, who performed the other sterilization surgeries?

The 4,242 rescued animals were generally altered at the rescue groups' veterinarian at the rescue groups' expense. Several of the adopted animals were also altered at local veterinary clinics at the adopter's expense. Also, some owners redeeming their pets chose to redeem them unaltered, and several pets were altered prior to being impounded at PACC.

How is that funded?

At the expense of the rescue group or adopter.

What new specialized medical equipment is required for spay/neuter services?

Digital x-ray and blood testing equipment provides necessary skeletal, internal, joint, and immune compromised and blood deficiency information to surgeons prior to sterilization surgery.

How many spay/neuter surgeries do you anticipate will be done daily when the new facility is completed?

Staff plans to complete extensive research on modern shelter clinic operations, including consultation with other jurisdictions with current facilities to discern the best mix of kennels, clinical, surgical and animal auxiliary spaces to provide efficient, effective care and alteration services to the health and behavior-challenged animal population PACC experiences and expects to continue to experience.

Please confirm that spay/neuter services will be limited to PACC animals.

Current policy limits spay/neuter services to animals within our care. It should be noted, however, that other jurisdictions have found it beneficial to reduce the homeless animal population by offering and performing alteration services to privately-owned pets in a manner that does not compete with the private sector. Staff will continue to evaluate this and other possible modifications to existing policies that might provide revenue and/or limit the homeless animal population for future consideration by the Board.

In addition to spay/neutering, what other care & surgeries are provided in-house by PACC?

In-house staff at PACC provides diagnostic services and required medical care resulting from those services. Care includes antibiotic treatment for simple upper-respiratory illness for cats; more complex, viral-based diseases such as parvo virus and calicivirus; and surgical services that include eye enucleations, removing bullet and other weapon fragments, for internal injuries and blockages, and to set broken bones and perform amputations.

What veterinarian type services will be provided in-house in the new facility?

PACC will continue to provide existing veterinarian medical rehabilitative and recuperative care services.

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Will these services be limited to PACC animals only or will they be offered to the public?

Medical services provided at PACC would be limited to animals in our care only.

What additional staff/positions will be required?

We will not need additional staff as a result of the construction of a new facility, since the facility should provide for more efficient operations.

Do you envision any outsourcing?

We currently outsource spay/neuter services, and the construction of a new facility will not alter this policy.

If yes, for what services?

Spay/neuter services.

Currently Pima Paws for Life provides Kennel services for animals with kennel cough/URI. Will the new facility be able to accommodate these animals or will we still require a separate contract for kennel services?

While the specific design of the new facility is not yet determined pending additional consultation with a variety of experts, it is our hope that the new facility will be able to accommodate these animals.

Currently Pima County contracts with AWASA for \$200,000 annually for spay/neuter services. An additional \$50,000 may be awarded to two secondary suppliers. Please confirm that this funding is used strictly to provide low cost spay/neuter services for pets privately owned by Pima County residents.

The funding is used to provide low cost spay/neuter services for both privately-owned pets and free roaming cats in Pima County.

I understand Pima County funding will continue upon completion of the new facility and that the County wants to triple funding for spay/neuter services through allocation of funds from other cities & towns. That would increase total funding to a minimum of \$600,000. Oro Valley is contributing an estimated \$16,000 toward funding for spay/neuter services. Funding remaining to be raised would then be roughly \$384,000. What outreach have you had with other cities/towns for increasing the current level of funding and how have they responded?

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Staff has been evaluating how much each jurisdiction might expect to be assessed as incremental expense due to the expanded spay/neuter program in the FY 2014/15 PACC budget. Letters to the various jurisdictions will be issued no later than April 30, 2014.

Where is the source document mandating LEED silver energy conservation standards for County building construction and thus the Pima Animal Care facility?

On May 1, 2007, the Board of Supervisors passed and adopted Resolution No. 2007-84, which states, on Page 3 of 5, Paragraph 2.f):

*"The Pima County Board of Supervisors supports implementation of a green building initiative and other sustainable initiatives regarding county facilities and vehicles, including the following goals and aspirations...Designing and building all new occupied County buildings, including additions over 5000 square feet, for which design is initiated after July 1, 2007, to achieve a minimum of LEED™ Silver certification level."*

What is the correlation between the number of LEED points achieved and measured energy savings?

The National Building Institute reports that on average, the energy use intensity (EUI) of LEED™ buildings are 25 to 30 percent lower than the national average. As the number of points earned increases, so does the certification level. The higher the points and certification level, the lower the EUI. The table below shows the the LEED ratings, the range of points required for the rating, and the decrease in the EUI.

<b>LEED™ Classification</b>	<b>Points Range Required</b>	<b>Percent Decrease in EUI</b>
Certified Building	40 to 49	26
Silver Rating	50 to 59	32
Gold Rating	60 to 79	≥44
Platinum Rating	≥80	≥44

How much can Pima County expect to save with Silver certification VS Certified at this facility?

Every building is unique, and the new animal care facility is not yet designed. Therefore, dollar estimates for energy savings cannot be determined at this time. However, pursuant to the table above, with a Silver rating, the County's energy costs will be six percent lower per year than with a Certified rating.

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Why does the County want Silver certification? Return on investment?

The County's desire of a Silver rating is twofold – 1) decreased energy use and the cost savings associated with same; and 2) implementation of the Board's directives described in Resolution 2007-84 in recognition and acceptance of the County's *"responsibility to continue implementing and promoting sustainable practices that protect the County's natural and built environment."*

Do we use the adjacent TEP parcel now to exercise the animals?

No. Pets are exercised on PACC property and the adjacent City of Tucson Christopher Columbus Park.

What is the risk to Pima County of not purchasing this property?

The use of the Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) parcel as a venue to exercise animals is important; but perhaps of even greater value, is the potential acquisition of improved road access. While TEP has allowed staff and patrons to use its land to enter and exit Silverbell Road at the Sweetwater traffic signal, there is no guarantee such an arrangement will continue in perpetuity. The road provides access to PACC's intake, clinic, administration, and staff and enforcement vehicle parking areas. Ownership of the TEP property will eliminate the potential need for the County to create a new exit point from Silverbell and a roadway to access these services.

CHH/mjk

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services  
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Health Department  
Lisa Josker, Interim Director, Facilities Management Department  
Kim Janes, Manager, Pima Animal Care Center