PIMA COUNTY

ANIMAL CARE

Annual Report 2012/2013

Pima County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Ally Miller, District 1
Honorable Ramón Valadez, District 2
Honorable Sharon Bronson, District 3
Honorable Ray Carroll, District 4
Honorable Richard Elías, District 5

Pima County Administration

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Kim Janes, Manager, Pima Animal Care Center

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Our Mission

Pima Animal Care Center is committed to providing timely service to residents and compassionate care to animals, while working to support public safety, find homes for homeless animals and educate the community about responsible pet ownership.

Here are some of the ways we approach that mission:

- Protecting public health and safety by enforcing laws and ordinances;
- Responding to and investigating complaints of animal abuse and cruelty;
- Providing shelter for abandoned pets, none of which are turned away;
- Working with more than five dozen rescue and animal welfare partners to find loving homes for homeless animals;
- Picking up stray dogs to increase safety for the animals and your neighborhood, while providing an opportunity for lost pets to be reunited with their owners;
- Promoting and supporting low-cost spay/neuter, vaccination and licensing services;
- Encouraging volunteers and donors to assist in our mission.

Pima Animal Care Center is a Division of the Pima County Health Department and is organized into four major sections: Enforcement, Animal Shelter, Licensing and Public Outreach/Education.

The main office of Pima Animal Care Center is located in Tucson, with a substation in Ajo.

I am very pleased to present to you the Pima Animal Care Center Annual Report for 2012/2013.

It has been an exciting year, full of change, energy and opportunity. While this organization has always been committed to safeguarding public health and providing second chances for homeless and at-risk animals, we have redoubled our efforts with the help of creative staff, devoted volunteers and compassionate rescue groups.

This report reflects the accomplishments we've experienced during this past year and we are pleased to be able to share this trajectory with you.

The Center operates with an annual budget of $6.1 million - up from $5.9 million in the previous fiscal year. The Center is organized into three primary areas of service:

• An enforcement arm that administers animal control laws;

• A licensing staff that protects public health;

• A shelter facility that provides a second chance to abandoned or homeless animals

The Pima County Board of Supervisors and Administration have long been supportive of efforts to improve the facility and services, whether supporting low-cost spay/neuter efforts, showcasing our animals before regular Board meetings or installing solar panels to help reduce utility costs. Fiscal year 2012/2013 was no different, with the Board providing additional revenues so that we could continue meeting our goal of protecting the public and saving more lives. In fact, we adopted or rescued more than 12,400 animals by the close of the fiscal year, a record for us and one we hope to surpass next year.

Pima County's website was updated this year, so we have a new look and can more readily keep the visiting public up to date on news and events. But one thing hasn't changed: The convenience of going online to make donations, license dogs that are up to date on their rabies vaccinations, and see if any of our dogs or cats might be a good fit for your family. Please visit us at **www.pima.gov/animalcare** to see our new look.

Making life better for animals in this community is going to take all of us working together, from shelter staff, to volunteers, rescue partners and the public at large, who are best equipped to open their hearts and homes to our animals and be responsible pet owners. We look forward to continuing to explore new policies and partnerships as we improve services for the residents and animals of Pima County.

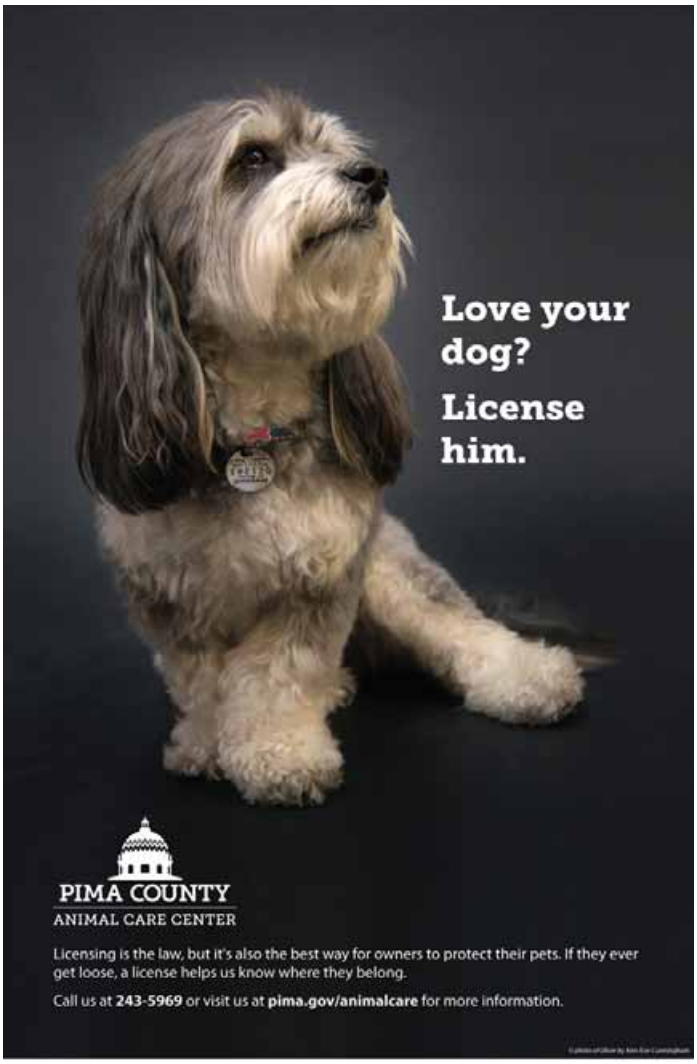
Kim Janes, Manager
Pima Animal Care Center

Public Services

Pima Animal Care Center is committed to ensuring the community is provided with information about adoption opportunities and responsible pet ownership. Our public services division consists of two dominant service areas: community outreach and licensing.

Community Outreach

Change can't happen if people don't have the right answers or know the right steps to take. Community Outreach staff is responsible for providing the public with the information they need to learn about our adoptable animals, how to be responsible pet owners, and how to comply with animal laws and ordinances.



During Fiscal Year 2012/13, the Community Outreach program successfully:

- Interacted with more than 13,000 residents at more than 100 educational events, from vaccination clinics to career fairs and youth events;
- Made an additional 108 community presentations to talk about dog bite prevention, responsible pet ownership and career opportunities
- Offered 14 shelter tours

Licensing

Licensing isn't just the law. It's one of the best ways to protect public health, since owners must demonstrate that they have vaccinated their dogs against rabies. Licensing happens to also be the most effective way to keep pets safe, since it's how we can return them if they get lost or run away.

Licensing staff is responsible for many moving parts, including issuing license renewal notices, receiving fees, processing licensing renewals and tracking rabies vaccinations for all licensed dogs.

Pima Animal Care Center issued 111,681 licenses in FY 2012/13, slightly lower than the previous year's numbers at 112,353. While we're holding steady, we do know there is room for improvement, since we are reaching only an estimated 50 percent of dogs in the community. Licensing remains very affordable, at $15 for an altered dog and $10 for senior dogs or dogs belonging to senior or disabled residents. Unaltered dogs are $60.

In an effort to start raising the visibility of the need for licensing, we held our first poster dog competition to encourage people to license their pets. Oliver, a former Pima Animal Care Center alum, was selected by popular vote to be the face of licensing for 2013.

Licenses issued in Pima County in FY 2012/13

TOTAL LICENSES	111,681
ALTERED	101,366
UNALTERED	7,883
DUPLICATE/TRANSFER	2,296

Shelter Services

Pima Animal Care Center takes, at no cost to the owner, all animals that present to us, no matter their condition, age, breed or temperament.

Some animals are turned in by their owners or by good Samaritans who find them. Others are picked up by our enforcement officers. Animals that arrive without identification are held for three days before they are evaluated for adoption.

Animals with identification are held for seven days while we attempt to contact the owners using licensing or microchip information. All animals, regardless of the mandated holding time, are assessed for adoption.

This past fiscal year, Pima Animal Care Center cared for nearly 25,000 animals at our shelter. We set a goal of saving a record 12,000 animals, including adoptions, rescues and returning lost pets to owners and by the end of the year, had met that goal. Our live release rate was 64 percent - significantly more than 55 percent the previous year.

PACC stages numerous off-site adoption events at community events and with our local business partners. These events result in numerous adoptions.

Our fundraising arm, PACC Partners, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to raising money for programs, additional services and supplies that increase quality of life for our pets.

One of the big successes this year was raising sufficient revenues to put in a classical music sound system that plays soothing music for pets, to try to reduce the stress and noise associated with shelter life. There are ongoing efforts to provide platform beds for dogs to rest upon in their kennels.

Volunteers constructing dog beds from PVC and canvas to make our kennels more comfortable. These workshops take place several times a year.

The comfort, health and happiness of our shelter animals is extremely important. Happy, well-socialized animals are more easily adopted.

Clinic Services

The veterinary clinic is an important component of the services Pima Animal Care Center provides for the community.

We maintain a 2,400 square foot clinic that provides on-site health screenings and spay/neuter services for animals received at the shelter.

The clinic has two surgical stations and 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.

Dr. Bonnie Lilley and a staff of nine oversee the care of animals at Pima Animal Care Center and supports public health by watching for zoonotic diseases that may appear in the community.

Lifesaving medications for common illnesses in dogs and cats can cost hundreds of dollars per dose, creating financial challenges.

No-Cost Spay and Neuter Program

With continued leadership and funding support from the Pima County Board of Supervisors, Pima Animal Care continues to reduce the number of unwanted pets in Pima County through the No-Cost Spay and Neuter Program.

Through the no-cost voucher program, 2,625 domesticated dogs and cats, and 360 feral cats, were altered. Including the shelter pets that left our clinic after sterilization surgery, for fiscal year 2012/13, more than 8,700 animals were spayed or neutered.

A financial alliance was established among the State of Arizona, Pima County, the Animal Welfare Alliance of Southern Arizona, local veterinarians and local community organizations. The program targets areas where the population is financially disadvantaged and provides no-cost spay/neuter services to help families reduce the risk of unwanted litters.

The estimated pet population for Pima County is more than 500,000 animals, making population control measures a top priority for PACC. The successes of the variety of population control activities have been encouraging and PACC will continue to partner with AWASA and local community organizations to reduce the number of unplanned and homeless pets.

Enforcement

This service unit enforces animal welfare codes and ordinances throughout Pima County and for incorporated cities and towns, through intergovernmental agreements with local municipalities.

There are several important elements of the law to remember:

- Once dogs reach three months of age, they must be vaccinated and licensed;
- Dogs must be leashed, but may not be tied out;
- Animals must be provided proper food, water, shelter, medical care, exercise space and ventilation

Dispatch:

The dispatch office receives and prioritizes calls from the public regarding animal welfare concerns, then relays this information to the field enforcement officers for investigation. The most frequent calls received by dispatch were related to loose animals, including leash law violations, and stray or wild animals. Calls to investigate animal welfare and cruelty were the next most common type of requests.

Our 25 enforcement personnel fight the horrors of animal neglect and cruelty in Pima County and help to prosecute offenders. They remove dead and diseased animals from our neighborhoods.

Field Enforcement:

Officers responded to and investigated a variety of calls that included rabies control, bites, animal cruelty and neglect investigations, leash law violations, dangerous dog evaluations and animal noise and waste complaints:

FY 2012/13:

- Pima Animal Care Center had 25 certified field officers enforce regulations, laws and ordinances for Pima County and local municipalities;
- Field enforcement officers traveled more than 5,600 miles per week, adding up to about 300,000 miles for this fiscal year.

Ajo Substation

The rural community of Ajo, Arizona is located approximately 100 miles west of Tucson. Pima Animal Care Center has an established substation supporting animal care needs in western Pima County. The substation is located within the Pima County Sheriff's substation and is staffed by three certified field officers who assist residents with licensing, adoptions and enforcement needs.

Volunteer and Rescue

Volunteers and rescue groups help us save lives. It's that simple. They provide vital support for the health and well-being of our animals and we remain deeply grateful for their commitment and passion.

Volunteer Organizations:

Pima Animal Care Center this year invested in a Volunteer Coordinator who helped grow our program from 95 volunteers to nearly 200 in any given month.

The program heavily recruited through 24 open houses held at the shelter.

Volunteers are critical, assisting with adoptions, exercising shelter pets to keep them active and healthy, helping with licensing tasks and supporting the clinic.

Volunteers are the backbone of Pima Animal Care Center. Nearly 200 committed individuals give freely of their time to help create a better life and provide essential services for animals in need in Pima County.

Rescue Groups

Pima Animal Care Center is fortunate to be able to draw upon the energy and expertise of a variety of animal rescue groups, who help find homes for specific breeds or for animals that might present to our shelter with special needs, whether medical or behavioral. They care for and rehabilitate these special pets and help them find loving homes.

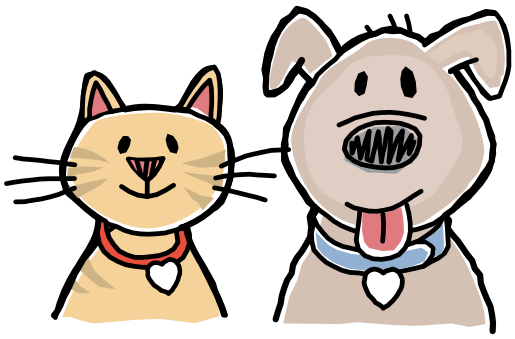
The successful program, which includes 66 different animal welfare organizations, demonstrates the strength of these relationships. Staff will continue to partner with these groups as we continue to work toward increasing our live release rate.

For fiscal year 2012/13, there were 4,242 animals rescued, a slight increase from the 4,056 in the previous fiscal year.

Special Needs Adoption Program

In addition to the rescue program, the Rescue Coordinator oversees the adoption of special needs animals to individuals willing to provide extraordinary care and training. These dedicated individuals are a cornerstone for saving hundreds of animals with special needs that are brought to the Center.

The adopters understand and accept the animals' special circumstances. Thanks to these special people, many more animals were given second chances to live in happy lives in new homes.



pima animal care center
volunteer program

Summary

Pima Animal Care Center has been making persistent improvement in keeping our community safe and protecting pets from cruelty and neglect, while saving more of the lives of cats and dogs in need of shelter.

We also recognize we can't do it alone. Improving animal welfare goes beyond what happens in our shelter, and instead, starts and ends with getting the community's help in stemming irresponsible breeding that results in so many thousands of unwanted animals needing shelter, and in opening their homes to those pets in need.

In fall 2011, Pima County began participating in a unique coalition designed to use a collaborative approach to positively impact the welfare of animals within the community. Representatives from shelters, rescue groups, the veterinarian community and other stakeholders have been working together in the Pima Alliance for Animal Welfare (PAAW).

The group identified three primary goals:

Eliminating the need for sheltering, increasing the quality of life for pets while they are in shelter, and ensuring that animals are successfully rehomed.

We are excited about the opportunities this coalition will bring, from stronger networking to additional resources, and look forward to continuing to work toward strategies that will accomplish our goals.

Public outreach events bring people and potential pets together and are an important component of the solution to ending homeless animals in Pima County.

A child finds her new best friend and one more homeless dog finds a family at the PACC Tucson Meet Yourself adoption event.

Protecting pets and people. PACC continues to safeguard community health and care for our homeless animals.

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