



PIMA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE newsletter

MARCH 2014 • ISSUE 106



The Doctor is In!

A big welcome to Dr. Jennifer Wilcox, Pima Animal Care Center's first designated shelter veterinarian!

On any given day, you might run into Dr. Wilcox working in the kennels, attending to animals and helping our mission to save more of the savable.

Formerly the responsible veterinarian for the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, Dr. Wilcox is treating more animals for pain, infection and anxiety, and is looking to add more vaccines and anti-parasite treatments as animals enter the facility.

One step closer to November bond election to replace outdated shelter

The Pima County Board of Supervisors this month will consider asking voters in the November general election to overhaul the County's aging animal shelter on the Northwest side.

The concept passed the Bond Advisory Committee in February by unanimous vote, reaffirmed an earlier decision by that body to include the shelter improvements in a future bond election.

The vote also affirms approval by both the Pima Animal Care Center Advisory Board and the Board of Health to move the question to the 2014 ballot because of ongoing and critical challenges with overcrowding for the facility, which cares for about 24,000 animals annually. The \$22 million project would cost the average homeowner about \$4 a year.

Back when the building was constructed in the 1960s, it was considered a "pound" to house nuisance animals. Standards have changed since, along with public expectation about how we care for animals. And sheer population growth has outstripped capacity, leading to overcrowding.

Ultimately, the most effective way to stem the tide of homeless animals coming into the shelter is to spay and neuter your pets. In the interim, we'll keep you posted on the progress of the potential bond election.



*"Building a better
community for
people and pets!"*



FRIENDS OF THE FURRY



PACC Pets Needs You-Saving pets through social media

Kelly Comstock three years ago began a quest to save more pets at Pima Animal Care Center – and ironically, she saved scores and scores of pets that first year without ever setting foot in the shelter.

Realizing that social media was a game changer for shelter pets, Comstock decided to launch “PACC Pets Needs You” on Facebook at midnight one night, helping network animals that needed extra help finding forever homes.

Comstock wasn’t even a volunteer when she decided to help, initially fearing the emotional toll it would take to go to the shelter. But she was so intrigued by a particular dog she was networking, that she had to meet him. “That made me go down there and realize it’s not a bad place,” she said, adding the changes in the past year have been nothing short of “amazing.” “There are hard times and sad stories, but I think for the most part, there are many more good stories,” she added. “Those good stories keep you going. And the sad stories just make you try that much harder.”

A dog lover her whole life and the owner of five dogs now, Comstock credits the effort to teamwork, expressing gratitude for the volunteers who help post photos and stories about the pets. But Comstock herself puts in 4 to 5 hours every single day, including weekends and holidays, keeping up with the constant flow of animals in and out of the shelter.

If you want to help, Comstock said she’s always looking for information about the dogs. “I can post a picture, but what we really need are stories about their personalities. Do they know tricks? How are they on a walk? What’s your favorite thing about them?”

And if you can’t volunteer, Comstock said she’d love it if people could sponsor a spay/neuter surgery or microchip for a neighbor’s dog.

She works so hard because she finds dogs so special.

“They just accept life and you and they just accept everything with a loving embrace. They’re just amazing creatures to me.”

RECOGNIZING LOCAL CITIZENS WHO HELP OUR ANIMALS!



Just what we needed!

The SaddleBrooke volunteer group, Wags & Walkers, raised a whopping \$5,000 at its annual “I Don’t Want It” garage sale fundraiser to benefit Pima Animal Care Center.

It just took one short walk through the medical clinic to convince member Jan Pede that Pima Animal Care Center had a desperate need for storage space.

No more!

Thanks to their efforts, we now have a new clinic shed. “Not only does it look awesome, but it can be put to good use immediately and will serve us for years and years into the future,” said Business Operations Coordinator Ray Velez.

The group, the volunteer arm of the SaddleBrooke Pet Rescue Network, already comes every Tuesday to walk dogs, helps at offsite adoption events every month and donates used linens and towels for the shelter.

Thank you, SaddleBrooke, for all you do for our pets!

A new leash on life

This may sound too simple, but a little thing like a leash can save an animal's life.

When our wonderful volunteers take one of our great dogs out for a walk, it helps that animal get exercise. It breaks the monotony of shelter routine. It gives them a chance to socialize and get individual attention. Sometimes, they get to play or learn better leash manners. And in the end, that makes them more adoptable.

Unfortunately, we are running very short on the slip-lead type of leashes we use.

Those leashes help us host large community dog walks, which bring new visitors to our shelter, leading to more volunteers and adopters.

And the leashes are vital for volunteer training classes. A leash runs slightly more than \$12. That's a bargain to save a pet! If you can possibly donate, we'd so appreciate it. The link is http://www.dogsupplies.com/search.php?search_query=slip+lead



It's Magic! Tucson High Students turn flowers into gifts for shelter pets



Compassion and love were in full flower at Tucson High Magnet School last month, when the students in the Animal Rescue Group club held their annual carnation sale for Pima Animal Care Center.

Through flowers and bake sales over the past six years, the students have raised more than \$8,000 for Pima Animal Care Center, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to increased medical services so pets have a better chance at being adopted.

We want to send big hugs to the students, who opted to help pets in need during Tucson High's Kindness Week. And we want to wish all the best to their teacher and advisor, Miriam Wrubel, who is retiring and will be greatly missed.

(You know, Miriam, if retirement gets boring, we could sure put those energies to good use!)





Best Friends
No More Homeless
Pets Network

You can never have too many Best Friends

Good news! Pima Animal Care Center has been accepted as a No More Homeless Pets Network Partner!

A program of Best Friends Animal Society, the network is focused on working with shelters and rescues across the country to save more lives of pets through adoption and spay/neuter programs.

Because there are never enough resources to do it all on your own, this network will help our facility with expertise, assistance, tools and the potential for grant funding to save more lives.

Best Friends has already helped our mission by funding an analysis by the Humane Network, which spent time at our facility analyzing what we do and how we do it, and making suggestions for improvement, which we are already following up with.

Our staff also had an opportunity to learn from Mitch Schneider, who was funded by Best Friends to spend time in the field with our enforcement officers. He has won awards for law enforcement approach that returns 80 percent of strays to their owners.

It was wonderful to learn that much of what we do and the direction we are heading is in tune with the best practices that these experts have shared with us.

Extreme Lobby Makeover!

No more mismatched furniture and industrial green!

Thanks to volunteers and donors, we have a bright new lobby for our visitors and potential adopters.

Special thanks to Florencia Turco DeRoussel of Within Studio and photographer Ann-Eve Cunningham for their help, as well as to Daltile and Clarity Tile for our new tile floors, Bud's Drapery Den for our window shades and Dunn-Edwards for paint.

We still need stories for our Happy Tails book in the lobby, though. Send us a card and a photo of your pet!

March Adoption Events



March 1 Adoption Event, La Encantada

10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

March 8 Adoption Event, Petco, 22nd & Harrison

10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

March 15 Adoption Event, PetSmart Oro Valley

10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

March 22 Adoption Event, Ace Hardware, Catalina

10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

March 29 Adoption Event, Ace Hardware, Rita Ranch

10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Watch for us also at the SAHBA Home and Patio Show

March 28, 29 and 30 at the Tucson Convention Center! 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Old Paint Scheme



New Happy Colors!

**Our new lobby
is a much brighter
and more
welcoming space!**