

Information on the Proposed Pima Animal Care Bond Improvements



PROPOSITION

415

Facilities for the Care and Safekeeping of Animals

Voters will have an opportunity Nov. 4, 2014 to decide whether to approve a \$22 million bond proposal that will allow the Pima County Animal Care Center to meet its animal welfare responsibilities.

The existing facility is housing roughly 2.5 times the number of animals the building was designed for. If approved, the funds will be used for new construction and reconstruction of the current facility at 4000 N. Silverbell Road and will allow the county to operate a modern facility that places increased value on the treatment, rehabilitation and adoption of animals.

Pima Animal Care Center Background

Pima County opened the existing building in 1968, when roughly 300,000 people lived here and when animal facilities did little more than warehouse strays. Nearly 1 million people now live in Pima County and the center cared for more than 24,000 animals last year - 15,534 dogs, 8,051 cats and 747 other types of animals.



Our 46-year-old facility is no longer adequate for our increased population and new mission. Photo circa 1970.

PACC does not turn away animals

It is the only shelter of its kind in the county and does everything it can to care for the animals until new families adopt them. As a result, the center is severely overcrowded. Chronic overcrowding increases animal stress and the transmission of illness in the shelter.

PACC also has inadequate medical facilities and quarantine area. The shelter was not built to rehabilitate injured animals or repair the health of sick animals. PACC also performs about 50 spay or neuter surgeries a day. PACC needs much larger veterinary care facilities to provide this animal care and a quarantine area to separate sick animals from the healthy.

The point of PACC's animal care is to ultimately find these animals new homes.

PACC placed more animals into new homes than any other animal adoption agency in southern Arizona, finding homes for 7,670 animals. Additionally, 1,699 pets were reunited with their owners and 4,383 were transferred to animal rescue organizations.

Besides animal welfare, PACC has enforcement and licensing duties it must perform under state and county law. During Fiscal Year 2014, PACC responded to nearly 29,000 calls for animal welfare and public safety.

The licensing division sold 106,871 licenses for the pets of Pima County residents.

Learn more about services the Pima Animal Care Center provides at:

www.pima.gov/animalcare



Pima Animal Care Center is the region's only open admission shelter. No animals are turned away, regardless of their condition.



Chronic overcrowding increases animal stress and the transmission of illness in the shelter.

The new facility

Pima County conducted extensive research into the size and manner of a facility needed for the county to meet all of its animal care, enforcement, licensing and administrative needs. The cost estimate of \$22 million is the result of an in-depth space planning and programming study for animal care facility improvements that included a cost model driven by the project scope of work. Components of the cost model included construction costs; architectural and engineering consultant fees; furniture, fixtures and equipment; and contingency fund and inflationary adjustment.

Unlike a typical commercial or office building, quality animal care facilities are more costly on an average square foot basis. They must be equipped with durable interior finishes, adequate plumbing, air filters, climate controls, noise reduction treatments, and sanitation adaptations to decrease disease transmission and assure the general wellbeing of the animals housed there.

In addition to the sheltering facility needs, a quality animal care facility needs medical and surgery spaces and equipment. There is also a cost associated with managing construction to ensure that the facility remains operational during the entire construction period.

Adoptions will continue throughout the construction. A new, more efficient adoption center is included in the facility plan.

The cost to taxpayers

The proposed \$22 million in renovation and construction would cost about \$2.89 annually for the homeowner of a house at the median value of about \$150,000.

If voters approve Proposition 415, Pima County estimates it will sell the bonds according to the following schedule:

January 2015	\$2,000,000
January 2016	\$10,000,000
January 2017	\$5,000,000
January 2018	\$5,000,000

The entire Bond Implementation Plan may be viewed at:

www.pima.gov/government/bonds



www.pima.gov/animalcare