

Punk's a happy pup! Pima Animal Care Center's new tent is open for business, helping to ease overcrowding

With the snip of a ribbon, Punk was the first dog into our brand new "pup tent," designed to help reduce chronic overcrowding at our shelter.

With 520 dogs Friday morning squeezed into 200 kennels in the shelter, the tent will help alleviate conditions that exacerbate stress for our pets while they're waiting for new homes.

At the grand opening celebration for the first 35 of 96 kennels in the tent, Pima County Supervisors Chair Sharon Bronson said the tent is a temporary solution, but a necessary one. As an open-intake shelter that takes in dogs and cats free of charge, the Center served nearly 24,000 pets last fiscal year. The shelter currently is caring for 244 cats in 120 cages.



Bronson said the temporary expansion space is a reflection of the Center's transition to more modern sheltering operations, placing a greater focus on making sure more pets are treated and rehabilitated so they can find loving, permanent homes.



Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll, who has four rescue dogs at home and has helped friends adopt about a half dozen pets from Pima Animal Care Center this year, quipped, "Rescued is my favorite breed." Flanked by state Rep. Ethan Orr, Carroll urged the community to spay and neuter their pets, since it is the single most effective way to reduce the flow of pets into the shelter.

The public is invited to come see our new tent facility and visit our pets. We're offering **free pet adoptions all weekend through Sunday**, including the kitties. Standard licensing fees apply. We're open noon to 7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

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