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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: September 27, 2017

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 be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **No-kill Shelter Concept at Pima Animal Care Center**

During the September 19, 2017 Board of Supervisors meeting, at Call to the Audience, the Board may have been left with the impression the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) is a no-kill shelter. PACC is not and never has been a no-kill shelter.

Through a variety of actions, the County has been able to increase our live release rate from approximately 50 percent seven years ago to approximately 85 percent today.

The attached September 25, 2017 memorandum from the PACC Director and Assistant County Administrator Dr. Francisco Garcia details the efforts by PACC staff over the last several years to implement a number of lifesaving programs.

It should be understood the PACC is not considered a "no-kill shelter."

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Assistant County Administrator for Community and Health  
Services  
Kristen Auerbach, Director, Pima Animal Care Center

Date: September 25, 2017

To: C. H. Huckleberry  
County Administrator

From: Kristen Auerbach   
Director

Via: Francisco Garcia   
Assistant County Administrator

**Re: PACC and Saving the Savable**

One of the goals of Pima Animal Care Center is to afford every homeless and lost pet who comes through the doors the same individualized care, love and attention owned pets receive. With the support of more than 1,500 volunteers and foster families as well as our rescue and community partners, PACC is leading the way as a progressive, open-admissions animal shelter. Just seven years ago, about 50% of pets who entered the shelter were destroyed and PACC has made great strides in improving both the care and outcomes for cats and dogs in Pima County.

Today PACC serves our community by providing care for approximately 19,000 homeless, lost and stray pets annually, saving about 85% of these animals. Last year, PACC adopted 10,500 pets, sent 1,400 animals to foster homes, placed 2,500 animals with approved rescue partners and returned 2,000 lost pets home. The non-live outcomes included animals euthanized for medical and behavioral reasons as well as pets brought to PACC specifically for that purpose at the request of their owner and the concurrence of our clinical team. While our department no longer euthanizes for space, dangerous animals and pets with serious medical conditions are humanely euthanized.

Over the past several years, PACC has implemented a number of lifesaving programs which allow the shelter to provide excellent care to sheltered pets, treat most treatable medical conditions and save animals except those with severe medical problems or who pose a safety risk to the community. Although PACC's lifesaving rate is relatively high for a large community and for a government operated enterprise, PACC is not considered a 'No Kill' shelter. However, the animal services provided by PACC, whether in the shelter or in the community, are guided by our goal to provide every unowned or lost pet deserves the same care and consideration as our own pets at home.

Because PACC never turns away a pet in need and takes animals with untreatable medical conditions, euthanasia will occur when there are no other viable outcome options for animals. As a progressive animal shelter, PACC aims to pursue possible lifesaving outcomes so euthanasia is only performed when absolutely necessary. Luckily, because of tremendous

C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

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community support and progressive programs, euthanasia at PACC is rare and pets never die due to lack of space or time limits, as is the norm in shelters with higher rates of euthanasia.

PACC continues to make strides towards becoming a national leader in model animal welfare practices and both PACC and community partners are guided by the mission to save every savable pet in our care. This means that while not every pet will be saved, each will be treated with care, respect and love we will attempt to save all pets except those suffering from untreatable illnesses and those who cannot be safely placed back into the community.

As we move forward, we will continue to focus on providing excellent care for shelter pets, engaging our community in solutions, and saving every savable pet as we move towards making Pima County one of the safest, most humane communities in America.

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator