Date: March 14, 2019

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: January/February 2019 Pima Animal Care Center Report

Attached please find the most recent update from the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC), which will be shared with the PACC Advisory Committee at their March meeting.

In January and February, PACC took 2,393 pets, achieving a lifesaving rate around 92%. In addition, PACC launched its redesigned website, which includes easily-accessible links to the most utilized services including animal protection and enforcement, adoptions and a list of services and fees. The newly designed website includes an interactive map indicating the location of found pets, a calendar of PACC events onsite and in the community, and a news feed so visitors to the site can read all the latest news and information about PACC.

PACC’s in shelter inventory has been at its lowest point of the year, with approximately 400 dogs and 100 cats in the shelter at any time. PACC volunteers and staff are preparing for kitten season by working closely with local rescue and shelter groups to help save orphaned kittens in Pima County. Despite robust spay and neuter efforts, Pima County continues to see a high number of small kittens in the spring and summer months and is taking a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of this vulnerable population.

Lastly, PACC continues to network nationally. Two PACC staff members selected through a national competitive process attended trainings on cat medical care in California and transport programs in New Jersey. Our leadership team continues to participate in national animal welfare conversations regarding animal protection and enforcement, foster care and adoption programs.

CHH/mp

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
   Francisco García, Assistant County Administrator
   Kristen Auerbach, Director, Pima Animal Care Center
Animal Center News

- In January/February of 2019, PACC took in 2,393 pets, achieving a lifesaving rate around 92%.
- PACC completed the first phase of the re-design of the PACC website, with the goal of making the site more user friendly and accessible and helping users quickly access key services.
- With support from the Pima County GIS professionals, PACC completed 2018 GIS mapping which will help guide community outreach programs, spay and neuter services and vaccine and microchip clinics.
- PACC now has an online calendar of events which includes adoption promotions and on-site, free events for the public.
- PACC celebrated the first year in the new PACC facility, the first phase of which opened in December of 2018.
- PACC staff members were selected through a national competitive process to receive funding to attend trainings on special-needs cat care in California and transport programs in New Jersey. Staff spent four days at the training shelters, learning best practices to bring new strategies for lifesaving and care to PACC.
- PACC assisted with the removal of 21 cats from a home in central Tucson. All but four of the cats have been adopted.
- Animal protection officers worked alongside the Pima County Sheriff’s Department to return two roaming camels back to their owner.
- PACC Leadership met with Pima County’s board-appointed hearing officers, the Public Defender’s Office, and representatives from the Tucson Police Department, and Pima County Sherriff’s Office to discuss working collaboratively to make improvements to the animal investigation and citation processes.
• Playgroups are held 10-14 times a week, with 60-80 dogs participating daily.
• The behavior and enrichment team provide in-kennel enrichment for dogs two days per week. All dogs receive some form of kennel enrichment and about 70 long-stay dogs receive extra kennel enrichment twice a week.
• The Friends of PACC announced that they reached the goal of the ‘Your Love Saves Lives’ campaign.
• The Friends of PACC received a third $60,000 grant from Maddie’s Fund to host two foster apprenticeships at PACC this spring, with 30 students from around the nation visiting for four days to learn about PACC’s operations and foster programs.

**Personnel**

• Seven new employees began at PACC, and five current employees transitioned into new positions. These team members include three veterinary technicians, four animal protection officers, a clinic supervisor, two field supervisors, and the fourth foster coordinator, Katie Pappenhagen. Katie will be focusing on adult and special-needs cat foster care and Cynthia Franco will provide much-needed additional support for medical and neonatal foster families.
• Seven team members hired in February will begin in March, including three animal protection officers, two veterinary technicians, a pet support specialist and a licensing specialist.
• The following positions are currently advertised: Three animal care officers, two dispatchers, two veterinary technicians, one licensing and adoption technician, and a part time animal care officer for the Ajo substation.

**Field and Community Services**

• Animal protection officers responded to a record 3,554 calls in January including 1,654 priority 1 and 2 calls, and 3,621 calls in February, including 1,680 priority 1 and 2 calls.
• During the first two months of 2019, officers responded to 715 bite investigations and 826 calls about cruelty or neglect.
• The Pet Support Center responded to more than 5,000 calls and assisting 17 families through the Friends of PACC Keeping Families Together Fund to help them keep their pets.
• No Kill Pima County’s Marcie Valen provided training for PACC admissions staff about intake diversion and community resources to help keep pets with their families.
• In January and February, PACC distributed 2,343 lbs. of dog food, 391 bags of treats, and 394 lbs. of cat food through the Friends of PACC-funded Pup in Boots programs. PACC also handed out 481 collars, 246 leashes, and 74 dog sweaters to 367 pet owners in need in Pima County.
• The fencing assistance program provided five rolls of fencing, 12 doghouses, and one dog enclosure to help dog owners with confinement issues for their outside dogs.
• The Community Cat team facilitated spay/neuter surgeries for nearly 600 cats between January and February and loaned out 100 traps to caregivers.
• Community and Outreach Manager, Bennett Simonsen, met individually with Esperanza en Escalante, the U of A School of Public Health, AWASA, PAAW Animal Resource Committee, the
Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association, Pima County End Poverty Now, and the Addressing Poverty Working Group, to continue developing new ways to support pet owners in our community.

Veterinary Services

- 571 cats and dogs were spayed or neutered at PACC in January, and 502 in February.
- Vets conducted 192 specialty surgeries during the first two months of 2019.
- PACC volunteers provided seven-day-per-week support to the medical clinic, assisting with walks, enrichment, cleaning, stocking, and customer service.
- A veterinarian was hired and is expected to join PACC in early April.
- Local vets covered 15 shifts at PACC during January and February to provide additional assistance to PACC’s two, full-time vets.

Media

- PACC was mentioned in news media 42 times in two months, and Friends of PACC was mentioned five times.
- Protecting pets from Southern Arizona’s freezing overnight temps
- PACC offering special discount during the Tucson Gem Show
- County Animal Shelter Offers Creature Comforts for Occupants
- What to avoid giving your dog on Valentine’s Day
- How some Tucsonans spent the MLK Day of Service
- NOT GOING TO THE DOGS: Volunteers enable animal groups to keep saving lives
- PACC to help pets belonging to the homeless

Volunteer, Foster and Rescue Programs

- PACC staff prepared video orientations to expedite the foster onboarding process.
- During the month of February, PACC’s outreach team participated in seven community events, and hosted two group events onsite.
- In January, PACC began hosting Sunday Family Furdays with family-oriented activities to enrich the lives of shelter pets.
- Over 12,000 volunteer hours were logged in the first two months of the year, and 102 new volunteers attended orientation.
- 273 pets went to foster in January and 199 in February.
- 173 pets were transferred to rescue partners in January and 169 in February.
- Nearly 70 dogs went on Pawjama party overnights and/or day trips.
- Adult Cat Foster Coordinator Katie attended a learning apprenticeship at Cat Town in Oakland, California where she received training on adult cat care and placement.
- Volunteer groomer Amy Ganos was awarded a full scholarship to California based Animal Behavior College’s Certified Grooming Instruction Program, thanks, in part, to her dedication to the pets of PACC.