



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman 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: **Pima Animal Care Center – Ajo Facility Update**

Please see the attached January 22, 2020 memorandum from Pima Animal Care Center Director Kristen Hassen regarding this subject.

Staff has worked over the last few months assessing the facility and service needs for animal services in the Ajo community. This report reflects the status of the program and efforts to improve services.

Given the low volume of animal intake in Ajo, expanded or new facilities are not warranted and the Ajo community desires more services in lieu of facility investments. Certain facility modernizations will take place in the normal course of improvement by our Facilities Management Department.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Kristen Hassen, Director, Pima Animal Care Center
Lisa Josker, Director, Facilities Management

Date: January 22, 2020

To: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Kristen Hassen *KH*
Director Animal Services

Via: Francisco Garcia, Deputy County Administrator *FG*

Re: PACC Ajo Facility Update

Introduction: The PACC facility in Ajo serves as an intake and holding facility for stray and surrendered pets on the far west side of Pima County. 250 pets enter the Ajo facility annually and represents 1.3% of total PACC intake. Pets are taken in and held for up to 10 days, pending transport to the Silverbell facility.

The Ajo facility is staffed by two, half-time employees. The cost to operate the Ajo facility is approximately \$180,000 or 1.7% of the total PACC budget. This includes \$75,000 for staffing and facility costs in Ajo; \$100,000 in costs for care and placement of the Ajo pets once they come to PACC; and approximately \$5,000 to transport pets back and forth from Ajo to the main facility. Additionally, PACC funds spay and neuter surgeries for owned pets and community cats in Ajo through our partnership with AWASA. In 2019, the cost of these surgeries was \$3,400.

Timeline: On January 8, 2018 Martyn Klell (Architect with Facilities Management) and I conducted a site visit to the Ajo Facility. Following this visit, Facilities Management completed a written assessment with recommendations. These recommendations included items from the Risk Management Safety Audit. Since this report was drafted, some of the issues identified by Risk Management have been addressed, and others, including updated road signage to direct drivers to the facility, remain outstanding.

This is partially because there have been ongoing conversations regarding the need for more owned pet services in Ajo. Given the fact that Ajo typically only takes in 20 animals per month maximum and that more services like vaccines, microchips, spay and neuter and emergency vet care are much-needed in Ajo, PACC has put facility improvements in Ajo on hold pending further conversations with the community about where they would like to see resources invested.

On October 23, I met with Ajo resident Arlene Drete and Maria Klucarova of District 3 Supervisor Sharon Bronson's office. At this meeting, Arlene shared the most urgent needs in Ajo. These included euthanasia services, low cost medical care services for owned pets, vaccines, microchips, spay and neuter services, adoption events and licensing. We discussed the possibility of increasing pet support services and providing a pet pick up service in Ajo so animals would be immediately transferred to the main facility. At this meeting, it was determined wider stakeholder input was needed.

A community stakeholder meeting was held in Ajo on December 18 at 2 p.m. in conjunction with the free spay/neuter and vaccine clinic provided by Asavet Charities. Approximately 30 community members attended to talk about the most needed services and the best structure for animal intake and pick up moving forward. The goal of this meeting was to determine the significant needs in Ajo.

January 22, 2020

Re: PACC Ajo Facility Update

Page 2

Action Items: Based on the totality of feedback from Ajo stakeholder, we determined that PACC will do the following:

- Continue to operate the facility in Ajo as an intake and housing facility for pets in Ajo and PACC. We have asked Facilities Management to determine outstanding items from the 2018 report and develop a time line for their completion.
- PACC Chief Veterinarian Dr. Wilcox will continue to get guidance from the State Veterinarian on how PACC can provide emergency euthanasia in Ajo with the goal of PACC staff in Ajo having the ability to euthanize medically suffering pets under the direction of a PACC vet.
- Continue to partner with AWASA to provide and expand low cost spay and neuter services in Ajo, with the goal of one spay and neuter and wellness clinic monthly for owned pets and community cats.
- Explore philanthropic funding sources to improve access to needed veterinary services including vaccination, microchipping, wellness and surgical services.
- Provide information in the form of flyers on spay and neuter, responsible pet ownership, pet care basics, and Pima County pet-related laws and will follow-up on ongoing animal control cases discussed at the public meeting.
- Work collaboratively with Arizona Game and Fish and the Pima County Sheriff's Department to address issues that may impact wildlife and farmed animals. While PACC does not enforce laws related to wildlife and farmed animals, our team works with these partners to address animal issues that span our departments.

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Lisa Josker, Director Facilities Management