



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 18, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Expansion of Community-Cat Alterations**

In 2014, Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) began increasing their general fund budget by \$200,000 for sterilization surgeries of community-owned cats and to support the investment of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) activities to reduce the intake of cat populations. Since then, 22,156 TNR surgeries have been performed for community-owned cats in Pima County. Performing these surgeries in-house has proven to be cost effective.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22, PACC has budgeted the funds in the amount of \$404,293 to embark upon a long-term strategy to reduce the number of unaltered cats in our community at a reduced rate compared to what the County would pay a vendor for the same services. PACC has the capacity to perform up to 9,000 surgeries per year and will begin to realize a cost savings at 7,000 surgeries. In order to achieve this capacity, PACC will also invest in additional traps to increase the number of cats that will be brought to the shelter.

The budget that I increased next fiscal year will fund a surgical team to include one full-time veterinarian, three anesthesia technicians and one surgical supervisor, as well as medications, surgical supplies and traps.

The creation of this surgical team creates the capacity for PACC's clinical services team to expand veterinary outreach in underserved and rural communities in Pima County, including Ajo, Arivaca and Three-Points.

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Health & Community Services
Monica Dangler, Interim Director of Animal Services.