



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 24, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Pima County's Investment in Trap-Neuter Return (Community Cat) Program**

Pima Animal Care Center began implementing support services beyond those mandated by statute in 2014. One of these initiatives was the Community Cat program which was initially conducted in partnership with the Best Friends Animal Society who contributed staffing, technical assistance and a vehicle to support this activity. In turn, Pima County matched with our own internal allocation of \$600,000 during the first three years to pay for the actual surgical procedure.

The total value to date of Pima County Trap-Neuter-Release program now exceeds \$1.9 million. Just in the last three years more than 10,500 cats have been altered. This investment and impact is delineated in the attached memorandum from our Interim PACC Director.

Based on the Boards clear interest in this program I have authorized the Pima Animal Care Center to employ additional veterinarian and necessary veterinary technicians to substantially increase the number of spay and neuter surgeries conducted at our facility. This should substantially increase overall spay and neuter capacity to greater than what has been previously provided through grant and other partnership programs.

It is clear that Pima County is deeply committed to this initiative.

CHH/dym

Attachment

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Monica Dangler, Interim Director, Pima Animal Care Center

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 21, 2021

To: Chuck H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Monica Dangler 
Interim Director of Animal Services

Via: Francisco Garcia 
Deputy County Administrator

Re: **Community Cat Investment**

In 2014, Pima Animal Care Center began implementing community support services that were above and beyond the traditional, mandated services of a municipal agency. Among the first of such initiatives was the Community Cat program. Best Friends Animal Society provided an estimated \$900,000 (for staffing, transport, and supplies) in partnership with PACC providing the initial \$600,000 (for sterilization surgeries), to jointly develop a comprehensive trap-neuter-return (TNR) program to serve Pima County over a three year period. The goal was to reduce the intake of cat populations while improving community lifesaving.

In total Pima County has invested \$1,869,954 of its own resources into the Community Cat Program. Since the original County investment this includes \$583,182 in general funds for sterilization surgeries through contracts with Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic and Arizona Spay Neuter Clinic. And an additional \$626,772 of bequest funds have been used for staffing and supplies for these efforts.

The County has also allocated resources to the low-income spay and neuter (Pet Fix) services and TNR surgeries are allowable under this contract. PACC contracts with Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic, Spay and Neuter Solutions, and AWASA for Pet Fix funding. Spay and Neuter Solutions and AWASA, then contract with their own vendors which include the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, Pet Doctor, ABC Clinic, and Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic. Of the \$1,200,000 allocated to Pet Fix since fiscal year 2018/2019, \$56,610 have been used to support TNR related surgeries. The table below describes the number of spay/neuter surgeries to date with the data that we have available through March of 2021.

| Fiscal Year | Surgeries Through TNR Vendors | Surgeries Through Pet Fix Vendors | Surgeries at PACC | Total Community Cat Surgeries |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 18/19 | 3,058 | 441 | N/A | 3,499 |
| 19/20 | 3,647 | 440 | N/A | 4,087 |
| 20/21 | 2,580 | 377 | 274 | 3,231 |

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In response to this year's pandemic related budget contraction, PACC began to bring into the facility a significant number of TNR alteration surgeries. Although \$500,000 of that funding has been effectively restored to overall spay and neuter efforts, the model of bringing in TNR procedures to be done in house at PACC is a cost effective way of ensuring these services are available to the community. To that end we will be bringing to you a proposal to expand the clinical team (by .5 veterinarian and 2.0 veterinary technicians) to expand these services in the coming year.

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator