



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 8, 2021

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

From: Jan Lester 
Chief Deputy County Administrator

Re: **PACC Safety Net Program**

In January 2021, PACC launched the Safety Net Foster Program (SNF) to provide temporary, short-term foster homes to pets of people facing eviction, domestic violence, hospitalization, or other personal crisis.

Since its inception, this program has assisted 150 pets. PACC typically receives 45 inquiries to the program each month, including referrals from health care professionals, caseworkers, and constables. With the lifting of the eviction moratorium, we see an increased need for this service for those facing eviction. Unfortunately, given the high census at the shelter, PACC currently does not have the resources or foster families available to provide care for these animals. Consequently, the program has been temporarily paused until more foster homes become available.

We remain confident that this is a temporary suspension of the program, and it will resume soon. Please see Ms. Dangler's memo attached that provides additional information about the program.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services

Date: November 5, 2021

To: Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Monica Dangler 
Director Animal Services

Re: PACC Safety Net Program

In January, PACC reprioritized staff to launch the Safety Net Foster Program (SNF), which aims to provide temporary, short-term foster homes to pets of people in crisis. PACC was also granted monies, \$25,000 in total, from Greater Good Charities and Maddie's Fund to assist in developing the program and fund supplies. In turn, PACC would provide a toolkit for other municipal shelters to use to establish a similar program. This memo is to outline how the program works and the current status of the program.

Since its inception, PACC has assisted 150 pets whose families were facing eviction, domestic violence, needing respite care, or facing other personal crises. As a result, PACC has been successful at reuniting 70% of pets with their families. Those who were unable to be reunited were typically due to unresolved crises after 90 days.

PACC typically receives 45 inquiries to the program a month, including referrals from health care professionals and caseworkers. However, with the eviction moratorium ended, we are beginning to see an increased need. Therefore, to efficiently utilize the limited resources at our disposal, we prioritize those that we can assist through the following workflow:

Potential SNF clients complete an application to apply to the program. In the application, the owner must attest that they are in a temporary short-term crisis and that their pets do not have a documented bite history. No more than two pets per household are accepted. Upon approval of the application, the program coordinator will recruit eligible foster caregivers. Once secured, pets are placed in the program for up to 30 days.

PACC believes in keeping pets with their families when possible, but this may not be realistic from a crisis resolution perspective and a shelter resource perspective. Currently, the census at the shelter is at maximum capacity, and there are limited foster families available. Consequently, PACC has paused taking applications for new pets into the program.

PACC is hopeful this suspension is only temporary as we understand how vital keeping pets with their families is for the community's health.

Mr. Huckelberry
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Concur:



Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer

5 Nov 2021

Date

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Mark Napier, Assistant County Administrator
Michael Stevenson, Presiding Administrative Constable