



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **PACC Plan for Kennel Space Crisis**

Since April 2021, shelters across the country have experienced an increase in dog intake and a decrease in adoptions, transfers out, and fostering. Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) has been no exception and has seen the number of dogs entering the shelter incrementally increase month over month by about 15 percent, with adoptions and transfers out decreasing 30 percent + and fostering staying level. This has caused an incremental space crisis at PACC, specifically for medium to large breed dogs.

PACC has taken measures each month to increase pet adoptions, foster homes, transfers of pets to rescue partners, and pets being returned home. These efforts have resulted in increased numbers in those live outcome areas. Despite this, intake numbers continue to outpace community placements.

Two things are contributing factors to the increased intake; an unusually active monsoon storm season and an increase in the number of people experiencing the long-term economic effects of COVID-19. As a result, PACC expects to see a continued upward trend of intakes.

To date, PACC has been able to successfully increase adoptions and fosters through grant funding for additional adoption and foster support staff through October and capitalize on the national "Clear the Shelters" event to provide a space buffer for an anticipated increase. However, it is imperative to be proactive in preparing for increased intake with a clear and definitive plan.

To combat current space limitations and prepare for the potential of continued increases in intake, PACC has created a list of actions to be taken should we exceed specific benchmarks. Attached are status levels relating to in-shelter space and how they are defined, along with a chart illustrating PACC's plan of action depending on where we are at with space availability. PACC is currently at Code Green for cats and Code Yellow for dogs.

Under the leadership of Monica Dangler, I am confident in PACC's ability to navigate the uncertain future.

Attachment

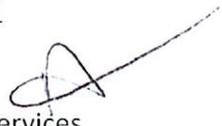
c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Monica Dangler, Director, Pima Animal Care Center



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 1, 2021

To: Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Monica Dangler 
Director Animal Services

Re: PACC Plan for Kennel Space Crisis

Since April 2021, PACC has begun to see the number of dogs entering the shelter increase by about 15% each month, surpassing 2019 intake numbers for dogs. This has caused an incremental space crisis at PACC, specifically for medium to large breed dogs.

PACC has taken measures each month to increase pet adoptions, foster home numbers, transfers of pets to rescue partners, and pets being returned home, which have resulted in increased numbers in those live outcome areas. However, our efforts to decrease dog intake through programs such as our First 48 program, where finders are encouraged to hold onto found stray dogs and look for owners, and our Pet Support Center, that utilizes a number of different diversion strategies, have not been successful, resulting in our intake numbers outpacing the live outcomes increase.

Two things are contributing factors to the increased intake; an unusually high number of monsoon storms and an increase in the number of people experiencing the long-term effects of COVID. PACC expects to see a continued upward trend of intakes compared to 2019 into the Holiday season due to the end to the eviction moratorium and a lack of housing options. There is an estimated 7,000 families with pets in Pima County that are expected to be effected by evictions.

To date, PACC has been able to successfully increase adoptions and fosters through grant funding for additional adoption and foster support staff through October and capitalize on the national Clear the Shelters event to provide a space buffer for the anticipated increase. However, it is imperative that we be proactive in preparing for increased intake with a clear and definitive plan.

To combat our current space limitations and prepare for the potential of continued increases in intake, PACC has created a list of actions that have been taken or will be taken should we exceed certain benchmarks. Attached are status levels relating to in-shelter space and how they are defined along with a chart illustrating PACC's plans of action depending on where we are at with space availability. PACC is currently at Code Green for cats and Code Yellow for dogs.

Concur: 



Francisco Garcia, Deputy County Administrator &
Chief Medical Officer

Date

cc: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator

 10+ publicly viewable kennels are available at the beginning of the day for incoming dogs or cats.	 9 or less publicly viewable kennels are available at the beginning of the day for incoming dogs or cats.	 Available dogs or cats are housed in both publicly and non-publicly viewable kennels at the beginning of the day.	 No kennels are available in either publicly and non-publicly viewable kennels at the beginning of the day.	 All actions for positive outcome have been exhausted.
Adoptions specials for events only	Adoption fees waived for 40+ lb dogs or adult cats as needed	Adoption fees waived for all adult dogs or cats	Adoption fees waived for all dogs or cats (including puppies or kittens)	Adoption fees waived for all dogs or cats (including puppies or kittens)
APS returning chipped stray dogs in field	APS delivers dogs to people who cannot make it to PACC	APS searches for possible homes for stray dogs before bringing to shelter	APS is essential intake only	APS is emergency intake only
Owner surrender appointments for non-urgent issues within 2 weeks	Owner surrender appointments for non-urgent issues within 2 and a half weeks	Owner surrender appointments for non-urgent issues within 3 weeks	Owner surrender appointments for non-urgent issues will be put on waitlist and scheduled as space allows	Emergency intakes only
Reserved pets stay in public view	Reserved pets move to non-public kennels	Unaltered pets are sent home as pre-adopts w/ Sx scheduled	Unaltered pets are sent home as pre-adopts w/ Sx scheduled	Unaltered pets are sent home as pre-adopts w/ Sx scheduled
New fosters acquired as normal	Urgent Foster pleas are made for any dog or cat	Urgent Foster pleas are made for any adult dog or cat	Urgent Foster pleas are made for any large adult dog or adult cat	Urgent Foster pleas are made for any large adult dog or adult cat
RTO fees are waived on a case-by-case basis	RTO fees waived for dogs reclaimed within 48 hours	RTO fees waived for dogs reclaimed at anytime	RTO fees waived for dogs reclaimed at anytime	RTO fees waived for dogs reclaimed at anytime
		Begin using pop-up kennels in Adoptions Lobby	Begin using pop-up kennels in MPR – utilize temp hires or vols for adoptions and care	Utilize emergency housing contract
Rescue Partners are contacted as animals come in that fit their requirements	Rescue Partners are emailed for transfer plea for all pets	Rescue Partners are individually called for transfer plea for all pets	Private flights or out-of-state transports are scheduled as available	Public at-risk list published daily. Animals prioritized based on using a rubric that takes into account known/observed behavior, documented bites, medical condition and length of stay
		Management begins calling owners of surrendered dogs or cats to offer services for them to take pet back	Management begins calling owners of surrendered dogs or cats to offer services for them to take pet back	Management begins calling owners of surrendered dogs or cats to offer services for them to take pet back
		Leadership not already assigned to adoptions, foster, or admissions begins working peak shifts to assist adoptions, transfers, and fosters	Management begins working peak shifts to assist adoptions, transfers, and fosters	