



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 19, 2014

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over the printed name and title.

Re: **Pima Animal Care Center and the 2014 ASPCA Rachael Ray \$100,000 Challenge**

Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) was selected recently to join an elite group of 50 shelters across the country in competing in the prestigious 2014 ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Rachael Ray \$100,000 Challenge. This competition is entering its fifth and final year and offers shelters an opportunity to secure additional financial resources of up to \$100,000 to meet their goals.

At a minimum, PACC will have to save 300 more cats and dogs during the months of June, July and August than were saved in those same months last year. Reaching this milestone will mean a guaranteed \$5,000 we can put to critical shelter needs. Last year, PACC saved 3,600 pets. Given that the big prizes go to the shelters that achieve the greatest increase, the adoption center has set a goal of saving 5,000 pets.

There will be heightened visibility throughout the summer as a result of the "Empty our shelter, fill your home with love" campaign. PACC has scheduled large adoption events for many of the weekends throughout the challenge in an effort to draw new constituencies who may not be familiar with the PACC facility at 4000 N. Silverbell Road.

If PACC is successful in saving more animals and encouraging more prospective owners to consider rescue of a shelter animal first, that will be reward enough; but additional resources would help the shelter treat more animals with treatable medical needs and help increase spay/neuter capacity.

Although we are hopeful the summer will translate into more adoptions, it is important to stress that any improvements to our overcrowded conditions are only temporary. PACC's experience this year is that about 80 new pets a day are presenting at the shelter, continuing to strain our aging facility and staff resources. Stemming the tide will ultimately require a concerted effort at increasing spay/neuter opportunities and providing more information about responsible pet ownership.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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PACC continues on a positive trajectory, growing the live release rate from 55 percent two years ago to 75 percent so far this fiscal year. With an 80 percent live release rate for the month of January 2014, the percentage of animals saved is likely to continue to grow as a result of the recent addition of a designated shelter veterinarian and the additional shelter technicians the Board of Supervisors authorized last fall.

CHH/mjk

c: Jan Leshner, Deputy County Administrator for Medical & Health Services
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Health Department
Kim Janes, Manager, Pima Animal Care Center