



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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(520) 724-8661 FAX (520) 724-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

March 20, 2015

Mr. Jack Peterson
Interim Director
Arizona Department of Agriculture
1688 W. Adams Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Castaway Treasures, 10905 W. Mars Road, Tucson, Arizona

Dear Mr. Peterson:

On February 27, 2015, Pima County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bronson and Vice Chair Richard Elfas wrote to you urging your immediate action to rescue, impound and permanently remove animals from the cruel and long-term situations at Castaway Treasures Sanctuary.

Their letter noted that this cruelty has been reported not only recently, but for the past two decades. They spoke of reliable eyewitness accounts of horses that cannot eat because of rotting teeth, horses in pain and dying and horses with rotting and overgrown hooves standing in their own manure.

I am writing again on behalf of Pima County imploring you to take action.

Since the beginning of the year, Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) staff have responded to complaints received about Castaway Treasures Sanctuary in Pima County. The complaints allege neglect or abuse of domestic animals, primarily dogs and cats, but have also regularly expressed concerns regarding the condition of horses at the facility.

PACC staff have visited and inspected the facility located at 10905 W. Mars Road on several occasions. Enforcement personnel have found that the dogs have routinely been cared for, vaccinated and licensed in accordance with Pima County all regulations.

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Reports and complaints made to PACC and the Pima County Sheriff's Department suggest such is not the case with the horses. As you know, PACC does not routinely respond to livestock complaints and defers to the Livestock Division of the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADOA). PACC does cooperate with investigations and, at the request of the ADOA, will at times make assessments and report our findings to the Livestock Division. The State has not requested such assistance in this case.

Animals under your jurisdiction are suffering while the ADOA refuses to take action. I ask that you or Livestock Division staff immediately inspect the Castaway Treasures Sanctuary. I know you are aware that State law provides a due process method to permanently remove animals from bad owners.

Should you require additional information regarding this matter, PACC personnel are ready to provide such. Please contact Ms. Kristin Barney at (520) 724-5908 or Mr. Kim Janes at (520) 724-7766.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk

c: The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Richard Elfas, Vice Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Christopher Nanos, Chief Deputy, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Jan Leshner, Deputy Pima County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Pima County Health Department
Chair and Members, Pima Animal Care Center Advisory Council