



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Requested Board Meeting Date: 10-21-14

ITEM SUMMARY, JUSTIFICATION &/or SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Pima Animal Care Advisory Committee has written a report (dated September 15, 2014) to the Board of Supervisors; and Committee Chairman Jack Neuman has requested the report be placed on the Board of Supervisors agenda so that he may give a brief update to the Board.

CONTRACT NUMBER (If applicable): N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S):

Approval to place item on agenda.

PIMA COUNTY COST: N/A **and/or REVENUE TO PIMA COUNTY:** N/A

FUNDING SOURCE(S): N/A
(i.e. General Fund, State Grant Fund, Federal Fund, Stadium D. Fund, etc.)

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING: ☐ **YES** ☒ **NO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: ☐ **1** ☐ **2** ☐ **3** ☐ **4** ☐ **5** ☒ **ALL**

IMPACT:

IF APPROVED:

N/A

IF DENIED:

N/A

DEPARTMENT NAME: Health

CONTACT PERSON: Kim Janes **TELEPHONE NO** 724-7776

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR: Francisco Garcia



PIMA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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September 15, 2014

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

From: The Chair and Members
Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee

Re: Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee Report

Pima County Code 6.04.100, in part, states:

- A. An Advisory Committee known as the Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee shall be established by the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this committee shall be to:
1. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and to the Manager of the Pima Animal Care Center; and
 2. Review and evaluate the operations of the Center in order to make recommendations in writing to the Board for the formulation of guidelines to assure that:
 - a. The Center's operations are conducted in the best interest of the public health and safety; and
 - b. The Center keeps pace with the most modern practices and procedures of animal care and welfare; and
 3. Review complaints from the public concerning policies of the center and make recommendations for resolving them to the proper authority.

Pursuant to this section, The Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee provides the following information.

Executive Summary:

The Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee membership and current members include:

- Mr. Jack Neuman, Chair, representing volunteers with the Pima Animal Care Center;
- Ms. Nancy Emptage, Vice Chair representing the Animal Welfare Coalition;

- Dr. Erin O'Donnell, DVM, representing the Southern Arizona Veterinary Medical Association;
- Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, DVM, representing the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Arizona, Inc.;
- Ms. Pat Hubbard, representing the Humane Society of Southern Arizona;
- Mr. Pat Jacobs, representing the Tucson Kennel Club;
- Mr. Derek Marshall, representing public educators;
- Dr. Gail Smith, MD, representing a member of the Pima County Board of Health;
- Ms. Jane Schwerin, representing the People for Animals in the Prevention of Cruelty and Neglect, Inc.;
- Ms. Tammi Barrick, representing the Foundation for Animals in Risk ;
- Helen Mendelsohn, representing the Disabled Community
- Two representative positions are vacant: The Animal Defense League and the City of Tucson

Since our last report to you on February 26, 2014, Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) has achieved many significant accomplishments and successes through recommendations from this Committee, the ongoing dedication of the Center's staff, and support of Pima County leadership. Following are some highlights:

Accomplishments:

1. Volunteers have created numerous programs to enhance and better the lives of the Shelter animals and the Center continues to offer support of these programs. Some of these successes include: Ruff Runners Club to exercise and train highly active dogs; Pup Enrichment Program to gather much-needed supplies, treats, and toys for the dogs; and the Cat Room Club to remodel and refurnish the cat room. In addition, volunteers have been responsible for upgrades to the Center such as: new walking paths, decorations, landscaping, signs, concrete pads, etc.
2. The Center and the Advisory Committee continue to develop and provide Bond related information and educational feedback to elected officials and citizens.
3. PACC has continued its tradition of holding volunteer-sponsored community dog walking and cat cuddling events on state observed holidays. Since our last report to you, eight community events have been held with over 2,000 participants. These events help to gain community awareness for PACC, help increase donations and adoptions, help increase the volunteer base, and give the shelter animals additional exposure and a socialization opportunity. In addition, the Center just completed a competition with 49 shelters across the country in the ASPCA \$100K Challenge and is awaiting final results. Assorted events included: Single Mingle Walk, Speed-Dating Adoption Event, Sheriff Walk, Fur-Ball Fiesta Walk and Adoption Event, July 4th Celebration Walk, Christmas in July Adoption Weekend, and PRIDE Walk and Adoption Event. The goal is to adopt out over 5,000 pets during the summer months to win up to \$100,000. This event kicked-off on June 1, 2014, and as of August 7, 2014, 2,166 homeless animals have been adopted,

359 pets have been returned to their owners, and 340 animals have been saved by local rescue groups.

4. The Center is maintaining a 76 percent live release rate this year to date compared to 64 percent last year to date. In addition, the total number of animals handled by the shelter is down 7 percent while adoptions are up 22 percent.
5. Although the Center continues to struggle with issues regarding cleaning and temperature control in the newly constructed tent, the tent is now fully functional and housing an average of 80 dogs to aid with overcrowding and unhealthy conditions in the main facility.
6. Additional funding approved by the Board has greatly alleviated staffing shortfalls at the Center and the following new positions are now on board: shelter manager, shelter veterinarian, seven additional shelter technicians, and a fund development coordinator. These positions are now enabling the Shelter to provide services which were lacking in the past such as: ongoing flea/tick treatment, spay and neuter procedures prior to adoption, life-saving and life-enhancing medical treatments, timely evaluations of animals, and developing communication processes and improving relationships with the community. In addition, the Shelter Veterinarian continues to educate staff and volunteers regarding health issues and disease control.
7. Seeing the need to add additional resources to meet the needs and concerns of the community, the Department of Health separated the leadership functions at the Center to include a Chief of External Affairs and a Chief of Operations. It is felt by the Director that this management team will be able to dedicate their time and expertise in ways to best support the Center in striving to create a humane and well-performing Center.
8. Through efforts by the group "No Kill Pima County" a help desk at PACC was established to assist the public by suggesting and offering options to people who have found an animal or are surrendering an animal. This desk is serviced by volunteers and since its establishment on May 17, 2014, over 150 animals have been diverted from entering the Center and the owners were provided with other successful alternatives.
9. Pima Paws for Life (PPFL) continues to help the dogs with upper respiratory infections (kennel cough) and other medical issues by taking them out of the Center and restoring them to health. In addition, July 1, 2014 they also started a program to take sick cats and treat them for illnesses. As of July 31, 2014, PPFL has taken in and treated 257 dogs and 37 cats. Nearly 28 percent of these dogs have been adopted directly from PPFL and have not had to return to the Center.
10. In April, 2014 a motion was passed unanimously by the PACC Advisory Committee recommending that any dog or cat at the County Shelters that is released to a redeemer must be spayed or neutered prior to release with two exceptions: (1) No veterinarian within 20 miles; (2) Unless a medical reason exists that would postpone the procedure as determined by the PACC veterinarian, in which case provisions are made to ensure the animal get sterilized when medically able. If this recommendation were passed by the Board of Supervisors it would lead to fewer homeless dogs and cats being born.
11. Upon recommendation and request from the Chairman of the PACC Advisory Committee, a special session was held in June 2014 with approximately thirty key PACC volunteers and management to improve communications, address concerns, and share

solutions concerning the Center. This meeting kicked off the establishment of volunteer forums and focus groups. In addition, the Center puts out a weekly news bulletins to volunteers regarding issues concerning safety, process changes, areas needing assistance, and upcoming events.

12. The Center successfully completed negotiations regarding the Community Cat Program contract with the Best Friends Animal Society to increase lifesaving efforts of feral cats and plans to implement the program in September, 2014.
13. The Center and Advisory Committee developed and proposed an Ordinance change to authorize the Center to participate in progressive animal welfare and non-lethal animal management solutions.
14. As the County has embarked on a much larger spay/neuter program in that it has increased PACC's spay/neuter program budget from \$200,000 to \$600,000 annually, it has also changed the funding model for that program. It will no longer be funded by voluntary participation of the jurisdictions. It is now funded first by spay/neuter donations after which jurisdictions will be billed, on a per capita ratio, for any shortage remaining in expenses associated with the program. Currently, the County has contracted with four vendors: ASWASA, Animal League of Green Valley, Spay Neuter Solutions and Best Friends Animal Society to provide up to \$600,000 in spay/neuter services each year. Therefore, the County has significantly increased the spay/neuter program and each jurisdiction will provide their share of funding to the program.

Goals and Upcoming Projects:

1. Many of the issues the Advisory Committee continues to work on presently are ongoing Shelter problems which have not been resolved. Some of the most significant issues include: (1) Develop a process for more efficient and humane dog feeding, (2) Full-time shelter floor manager, (3) Efficient use of space and kennels, (4) Better cleaning and sanitizing of kennels and common areas; (5) Revise kennel card procedures; (6) Consistent animal welfare practices regarding conditions. During the July 17, 2014 meeting, the Committee unanimously passed a motion for 22 ongoing issues to be remedied by the Center within 60 days.
2. Other issues being addressed by the Advisory Committee include: (1) Increase PACC Officers (2) Increase PACC staff, (3) Improve customer services, (4) Review length of stay for dogs being held due to bond/court cases and veterinary hold cases to determine if stays can be shortened or cases can be expedited.
3. Decrease Intake: Increase responsible owner education and outreach activities to improve spay/neuter awareness and reduce bites/aggression. Offer training programs and other options to owners before releasing their animals to PACC. (Outreach Program)
4. Increase Outflow: Increase the number of animals being adopted or rescued and ensure these adoptions are of high quality so the animals don't return to the Center. (Adoption and Rescue Programs)
5. Encourage local veterinarians to participate in off-site veterinary treatments for PACC animals.

6. Increase the number and availability of low cost shot clinics.

Committee Requests from the Board and County Leadership:

- Provide backing for recommendations made by this Committee to improve conditions at the Center
- Continue to invite other jurisdictions to participate in spay neuter funding and consider other avenues to pursue if there is no cooperation
- Continue to support the PACC Facility Bond
- Support ongoing efforts by the Pima Alliance for Animal Welfare group
- Continue to support funding
- Increase programs to prevent the homeless animal population.

The Committee thanks the Board, the County Administrator's Office and the Health Department Director for their continued support to the Committee and the Animal Care Center.

I respectfully request the Chair of the Board of Supervisors place this report on the next available Board of Supervisors' agenda that I may provide a brief update to the Board. Should the County have any questions regarding the content of the report, please contact me at 520-373-3358 or by email at jackdogneuman@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,



Jack Neuman
Chairman
Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee

CC: C.H. Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
Jan Leshner, Deputy Pima County Administrator, Medical and Health Services
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Director, Pima County Health Department