



## PIMA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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[www.pimaanimalcare.org](http://www.pimaanimalcare.org)

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August 21, 2013

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

As you may know, 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. Mary George, Past Chair, representing Pima County residents who need and use the assistance of a certified service dog as representative of the disabled community;
- Ms. Nancy Emptage, Vice Chair representing the Animal Welfare Coalition;
- Dr. Sharon Dial, 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;
- Ms. Margaret Watson, 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.;
- Nominee Ms. Angela Spencer, representing the City of Tucson;
- Nominee Ms. Tammi Barrick, the Foundation for Animals in Risk; and
- Vacant, the Animal Defense League.

In Fiscal Year 2012-2013 (FY 2012-2013) Pima Animal Care Center, supported by over 300 volunteers, 50 animal rescue and welfare organizations and other animal welfare advocates made significant strides in assisting county residents and pets. During FY 2012-2013, the Center responded to over 31,000 animal welfare, barking and waste complaints, assisted over 110,000 citizens license their pets and cared for over 23,600 live animals, to include altering over 7,000 of those, and returned, rescued or adopted to owners or new owners over 12,400 pets. Over the last year the Committee has:

- supported the Center to initiate online licensing,
- conducted procedural and policy review resulting in adding a Volunteer position to the Committee,
- committee members participated in a grass roots discussion and development of the Pima Alliance for Animal Welfare (PAAW),
- the Center reallocated two administrative positions to an adoption coordinator and a volunteer coordinator position to increase efforts to adopting and saving more pets,
- supported spay/neuter program altered, at no cost to the owners, over 3,000 pets in 2012

Staff continues to be challenged to meet the demand for enforcement service, with caring for the 21,000 pets sheltered each year, and with the inability to save some 7,000 rehabilitateable pets each year.

#### **Accomplishments:**

- The Center reallocated one administrative position to a Volunteer Coordinator position. The Coordinator has reorganized the program such that there are over 300 volunteers serving as dog walkers, adoption hosts, outreach specialists, animal intake and clinic support staff.
- The Center reallocated one administrative position to an Adoption Coordinator. The Coordinator has quickly initiated nearly double the number of off-site adoption events and plans to develop weekly off site adoption events.
- Two Committee members and the Executive Secretary participated in a half day animal welfare seminar focused on addressing the homeless pet challenges in Pima County and the formulation of a steering committee to move the initiative along. The attendees agreed to the name Pima Alliance for Animal Welfare or PAAW.
- The Center saved over 12,400 animals in fiscal year 2012-2013.
- Through the Board's support and action, the Committee added a PACC Volunteer position to the Advisory Committee which has been filled by Jack Neuman.
- Reviewed PACC operations and recommended the creation of a dedicated euthanasia room. The room has been completed.
- The Committee recommended the establishment of a diversion program, similar to that offered to drivers with minor traffic offenses, in order to educate owners of domestic pets in Pima County and enable the pet and owner to remain together.

#### **Significant Issues:**

- Last fiscal year, over 7,000 animals had to be euthanized at PACC, owing to lack of good homes and inability to adequately treat injured and sick animals. Therefore, it is urgent that Pima County and the other jurisdictions that PACC serves increase their funding:
  - To have more spaying and neutering to prevent births of unwanted animals and
  - Provide better services for sick and injured animals.
- Improving care for 21,000 shelter pets per year. Currently, dedicated, hard working staff and volunteers provide as much care as possible but recognize a higher level of care would result in more pets finding homes.
- Revisit the need for, and effectiveness of cat, dog, breed specific and stronger spay neuter regulations and enforcement.
- Responding to over 36,000 calls for enforcement service annually. In FY 2012-2013, the 29 field enforcement staff officers were able to respond to only 31,307 of those calls. Therefore, an officer can respond to 1,080 calls

per year. For enforcement staff to respond to the demand for service, enforcement staff would need to be increased by at least four (4) positions.

**Committee Goals:**

- Increase Licensing compliance. PACC licenses approximately 110,000 dogs per year. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association pet calculator, Pima County dog population estimate is over 222,000 dogs.
- Increase the County's capacity to rehabilitate sick and injured homeless pets and then re-home them.
- Increase the number and availability of low cost shot clinics
- Increase responsible owner education and outreach activities to increase spay/neuter awareness, reduce bites, aggression and other enforcement activities and demands.
- Increase funding to community low cost/no cost spay neuter programs.

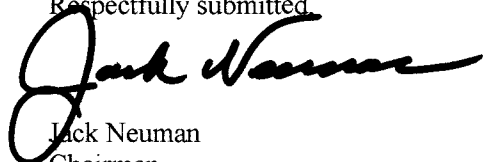
**Committee Recommendations:**

- The County continue to invite other jurisdictions to participate in spay neuter funding.
- The Board support the next PACC Bond proposal
- The Board support Pima Alliance for Animal Welfare

The Committee thanks the Board, the County Administrator's Office and the Health Department Director for your 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 the Committee's Executive Secretary, Kim Janes, or myself, Jack Neuman, at 520-373-3358 or by email at [jacneu@yahoo.com](mailto:jacneu@yahoo.com). Mr. Janes can be reached by phone at 520-243-5908 or by email at [kim.janes@pima.gov](mailto:kim.janes@pima.gov).

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