

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Arizona State Legislature passed SB 1248, a pre-emptive law that prevents cities, towns and counties from enacting local ordinances that prohibit the sale of commercially raised dogs and cats in pet stores, and this law takes effect August 6th; and

WHEREAS, federal regulation of puppy mills is inadequate, and allows inhumane conditions such as animals spending their entire breeding lives in cramped wire cages, minimal veterinary care, dental care, and grooming, bare minimum food and water, and extreme temperatures for prolonged periods of time; and

WHEREAS, such local laws are designed to protect consumers, prevent cruelty, help ease the numbers of homeless animals and save tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, data shows that cities such as Albuquerque, NM, and Los Angeles, CA, with pet shop ordinances see a drastic decrease in shelter intake and euthanasia rates; and

WHEREAS, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) estimates there are 10,000 puppy mills, both licensed and unlicensed, in the US producing more than 2 million puppies each year and 3 million dogs and cats—many of whom are healthy--are euthanized by US shelters every year; and

WHEREAS, there is an abundance of purebred dogs available to consumers from shelters--about 25 percent of shelter animals are purebreds--and from breed-specific rescue groups; and

WHEREAS, most animals end up homeless through no fault of their own—"moving" and "landlord issues" are the top reasons people give for relinquishing their animals, meaning shelters and rescue groups are full of wonderful, family-ready pets; and

WHEREAS, animals adopted from shelters and rescue groups typically cost less than those purchased or even acquired for free—once the cost of vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, microchip, dewormer, and other "extras" which are typically included in an adoption fee are factored in, and represent an excellent value for the consumer; and

WHEREAS, in the fiscal year of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 Pima Animal Care Center, our county's open-admission shelter, admitted 13,210 dogs and 7,123 cats; meaning 20,333 total animals entered the shelter in the last fiscal year. Additionally, PACC staff retrieved 2,091 deceased dogs and cats from roads and other public spaces, demonstrating the need for community-wide outreach on adoption, spaying and neutering and responsible pet ownership; and

WHEREAS, The International City/County Management Association budgeting recommendation per capita for animal control programs is \$4.00-\$7.00; and

WHEREAS, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona admitted 5,807 animals in FYE June 30, 2016, and in addition to HSSA and PACC, there are numerous shelters, rescues and individuals in Pima County raising funds and donating time to provide care for hundreds more homeless animals; and

WHEREAS, education and outreach are now the primary means remaining in Arizona with which to combat the puppy mill trade and protect consumers, local shelters including PACC, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, the Hermitage, Pima Paws for Life, and Hope Animal Shelter will hold Adoption Celebrations with special discounted adoptions and prizes on Saturday, August 6;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the week of August 6, 2016 through August 13, 2016 to be:

“ADOPTION CELEBRATION WEEK”

to help raise awareness regarding the need to adopt an animal from a shelter, a rescue, or to purchase from a responsible breeder, and encourages all Pima County residents to consider adopting from a shelter or rescue and to further consider donating their time, talents, and resources to the needs of homeless animals in our community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of August 2016.

The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Robin Brigode, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors