

# AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 4/21/20 ITEM NO. RA 17

April 20, 2020

Hon. Supervisor Bronson:

On Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Proposed Animal Ordinances will come before you for consideration. The present Title 6: Animals of the Pima County Code was written in the mid-1970's and has been amended over the years. The amendments can be difficult to interpret and sometimes contradictory. During the 1970's the main role of animal care was enforcement of rabies laws and picking up stray dogs. Animal Care has evolved through the years and our Ordinances no longer reflect the current evolution into sheltering and rescue.

The draft Ordinances before you came before the Community Advisory Committee numerous times. I believe this current draft, is a great improvement over the ordinances we currently have.

With that being said, I would draw your attention to one of the following changes:

The current ordinance 6.04.180 Disposition of animals, has a requirement that if an animal is placed by adoption it should go to a "suitable home." Although the term suitable home was never defined in the current ordinances, it allowed the staff at PACC to refuse to adopt to someone guilty of animal abuse or hoarding, for example.

When I (and others) inquired as to why this was removed, we were told because suitable home wasn't defined and then were told that because the refusal to allow an adoption could be handled through internal department rules, and it wasn't necessary for it to be put in the ordinances.

As you are aware, Jane Schwerin in large part drafted the original ordinances. This is one of the area's she has brought up numerous times, and I have to admit I share some of her concerns, although for somewhat different reasons.

I believe by removing this from the Ordinances and putting it under internal department policies, that it may remove the Board of Supervisors from having any control over this. I also believe that by transferring this to an internal department policy, leaves this vulnerable to changes, every time a new director comes in.

The term suitable home, although not defined, prevented PACC from giving animals to potential animal abusers, animal hoarders, and especially to any animal research laboratory, simply for research purposes. [I believe we currently use the U of A when a necropsy is needed.]

Perhaps, a simple solution would have been to define suitable home.

"Suitable home means an adoption wherein the animal is housed in a safe environment that meets all the requirements of Pima County Code sections ....."

Sincerely,

Jodi Marie Cavanaugh

APR 21 2020 10:53 PM CJC/KCF/H

Mr

District 3 Appointee