

Animal Care & Control
Strategic Business Plan
FY 2012 / 2013

Pinal County Vision

Pinal County Government provides progressive and proactive leadership in the area of economic development, state-of-the-art technologies, growth management, and public services to promote healthy and safe communities.

Pinal County Mission

Pinal County Government protects and enhances its citizen's quality of life by providing public services in an ethical, efficient, and responsible manner delivered by a motivated, skilled and courteous workforce.

Animal Care and Control Mission

The mission of the Pinal County Animal Care and Control Department is to provide rabies control, enforcement, protection, education, and adoption services to Pinal County residents. These services will allow Pinal County residents to live in a community that promotes responsible pet ownership and is protected from diseased and aggressive domestic animals.

Summary of major services provided:

- Low cost vaccination clinics
- Low cost spay and neuter program
- Community Education
- Adoption Services
- Owner surrender of unwanted companion animals
- Bite Quarantine
- Bite Investigations
- Animal cruelty, neglect investigation
- Kennel inspections, permits
- Enforcement of county ordinance and state statute violations
- Sheltering and care for recovered companion animals

Issue Statements:

Issue 1 – Rabies and Unvaccinated Domestic Animals

The demand for an ever vigilant role in the detection and reporting of rabies in wildlife combined with an increased number of unvaccinated companion animals will, if not addressed, result in:

- Increased risk of contracting rabies by the human population
- Increased risk of rabies in domestic animal population
- Increased public health costs to those that have been exposed to a potentially rabid animal
- Increased demand for Pinal County Animal Care and Control services such as quarantines, low cost vaccination clinics, service calls, etc.

Issue 2 – Increasing Domestic Pet Population

The increasing domestic pet population of unaltered pets, if not addressed, will result in:

- Increased number of impounded animals
- Decrease in available shelter space
- Increased euthanasia

Issue 3 – Animal Abuse and Cruelty / Neglect

Higher public awareness has led to increased reporting of animal abuse, cruelty, neglect and animal hoarding incidents, if not investigated / addressed will result in:

- Greater tolerance of violence against animals which is associated with domestic violence and crimes against society
- Increased number of animals that are neglected and treated inhumane
- Increased number of offenders not being held accountable for their actions
- Increased risk to the surrounding community with the spread of zoonosis disease

The Link between Animal Abuse and Family Violence

*A survey of pet-owning families with substantiated child abuse and neglect found that animals were abused in 88 % of homes where child physical abuse was present (DeViney, Dickert, & Lockwood, 1983). A study of women seeking shelter at a safe house showed that 71% of those having pets affirmed that their partner had threatened, hurt or killed their companion animals, and 32% of mothers reported that their children had hurt or killed their pets (Ascione, 1998). Still another study showed that violent offenders incarcerated in a maximum security prison were significantly more likely than nonviolent offenders to have committed childhood acts of cruelty toward pets (Merz-Perex, Heide, & Silverman, 2001).

Massachusetts SPCA and Northwestern University (1997), in a joint study found people who abuse animals are five times more likely to commit violent crimes. This study established a direct link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence.

*Zoonotic disease

Zoonosis disease can be transmitted (in some instances, by a vector) from animals to humans. In a study of 1415 pathogens known to affect humans, 61% were zoonotic.

2 – 5 Year Strategic Goals:

Strategic Goal 1 – Rabies Prevention and Control (Issue 1)

By 2015, Pinal County residents will experience increased public safety related to the prevention of rabies in domestic animals as evidenced by:

- 20% annual increase in dogs and cats vaccinated for rabies at Pinal County Animal Care and Control shelter from 2170 in 2010 to 5422 in 2015.

Strategic Goal 2 – Responsible Pet Ownership: (Issue 2)

By 2015, there will be an increase in responsible pet ownership as evidenced by:

- 10% increase in the number of dogs within Pinal County Animal Care and Control jurisdiction will be licensed from 30% in 2010 to 40% in 2015
- 10 % increase in the number of dogs and cats within Pinal County Animal Care and Control jurisdiction will be altered from 30% in 2010 to 40% in 2013
- 30% annual increase in pets adopted / rescued from 1131 in 2010 to 5459 in 2015.

Strategic Goal 3 – Animal Abuse Reduction (Issue 3)

By 2015, there will be a reduction in confirmed animal abuse, cruelty, neglect, and hoarding cases as evidence by:

- 50% increase in the number of community outreach events, media releases, that increase public awareness and education in the humane way to treat animals in 2013 as compared to 2012
- 20% increase in the number of accepted criminal cases submitted to the Pinal County Attorney's office for review of criminal charges for animal cruelty cases

Annual Performance Measures:

1. 20% increase in rabies vaccines administered
2. 10% increase in dog license issuance
3. 10% increase in number of dogs and cats altered at low cost spay / neuter clinics
4. 30% annual increase in number of animals adopted or rescued from the shelter
5. 50% increase in number of community outreach events attended

Programs/Activities	# of Full Time Employees	# of Part Time Employees	Cost Center	Total Budget
Special Revenue	27	5	3520420	1,919,782.00
Special Revenue			3520210	\$90,000.00
Animal Care & Control Activity: Total			3310310	\$2,010,682.00