

**Animal Care & Control  
Strategic Business Plan  
FY 2013 / 2014**

**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 promotes and protects public safety and animal care through sheltering, pet placement programs, low cost rabies clinic, low cost spay and neuter programs, education, and animal law enforcement. Our purpose is to provide responsive, efficient, transparent, and high quality animal care and control services that preserves and protects public and animal safety.

**Summary of major services provided**

Low cost vaccination clinics

Low cost spay and neuter clinics

Provide rabies license on site, off site and on line renewal

Community Education

Adoption Services

Rescue Group Services

Owner surrender of unwanted companion animals

Micro chipping at reduce rate for public animals, rescue animals and adopted animals

Preventative care on intake of all animals, such as vaccines and flea / tic prevention

Service public request for animal nuisance calls

Bite Quarantine

## Bite Investigations

Investigations, of, possible, rabies exposure to human and / or mammal.

Animal cruelty, neglect investigation,

Public health investigations / animal hoarding cases

Kennel inspections / permits

Enforcement of county ordinance and state statute violations

Active involvement in prosecution of county ordinance and state statute violations

Sheltering and care for recovered companion animals

Public request euthanasia of sick or aggressive animals

Prepare and deliver lab specimen for rabies testing

Chemical capture of highly aggressive companion animals for public safety

Trap and capture of, sick or suspicious, fur bearing wild life

Contracted animal care and control services for various cities throughout Pinal County

Remove animal carcass from roadway when a traffic hazard is present

When requested, assist local law enforcement and state law enforcement with matters of concern related to animal calls they are not immediately equipped to handle.

(Examples such as confinement of animals belonging to victims of crime, persons arrested or person (s) committed for mental health evaluations. Assess, photograph and evaluate livestock when neglect complaints are received)

Maintain a data base of all calls for service to animal control, kept on record as prescribed by the Arizona Records Retention as prescribed by Arizona Revised Statute title 44, chapter 7012, title 41, chapter 2550, and title 8, chapter 804 article 1.

Federal mandated confinement / quarantine of companion animals received in Pinal County from other countries as mandated, Under the Code of Federal Regulations title 42, 71.51, 71.1; Dogs and cats

Report, investigate and work in association with Pinal County Public Health and the Arizona Center for Disease Control identifying, trending / active zoonotic and infectious disease within Pinal County, as mandated by Arizona Revised Statute Title 9 article 2; article 3; article 5; article 6. Title 36, chapter 6, article 1

## **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 2015

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, which increase public awareness and education in the humane way to treat animals in 2014 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.

10% increase in rabies vaccines administered

10% increase in dog license issuance

3. 10% increase in number of dogs and cats altered at low cost spay / neuter clinics

4. 10% annual increase in number of animals adopted or rescued from the shelter

1.

50% increase in number of community outreach events attended

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