

**Animal Care & Control  
Strategic Business Plan  
FY 2014 / 2015**

**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 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.

**Objectives**

- Ensure a comprehensive and consistent approach to various aspects of animal welfare and public safety are implemented in an integrated manner
- Become a no-kill open admission shelter, by fiscal year 2018 / 2019
- Develop a five year plan to meet objective while ensuring best practices in shelter management, community safety /awareness / involvement are met to become a no-kill open admission shelter
- Ensure that transparent and impartial information on animal welfare is accessible and sufficient to make decision on an issue
- Ensure that the governance of animal welfare is carried out efficiently and effectively.

**What needs to be accomplished within the next five years to meet objective**

- Strengthen relationship with "New Hope" rescue partners
- Participate in community out-reach and education
- Provide off-site adoption services / expand hours of operation
- Continue acceptance of owner surrender of unwanted animals, with education to owner
- Preventative care, on intake, of animals, by way of vaccines and parasite treatment
- Respond to public request for animal nuisance calls
- Bite investigations / Bite quarantine
- Rabies exposure investigations

- Investigate animal cruelty / neglect complaints, which include, but not limited to animal hoarding resulting in public health concerns.
- Assist local and state law enforcement agencies, with animal related calls for service.
- Offer low cost services to the public, such as vaccination clinics, spay/ neuter clinics, micro-chipping, humane euthanasia for suffering sick/ injured animals, low cost parasite treatment, and education.
- Maintain a positive pro-active approach with cities and towns, whom have intergovernmental agreements for animal care and control services.
- Increase volunteer base
- Increase the number of micro-chips administered to public animals
- Pro-active enforcement of stray animals, mandatory license, and kennel permit
- Increase number of animals pick up in the field, returned to owner from field eliminating the need for shelter impound of stray animals.

### **Pinal County Animal Care and Control Will:**

#### **Continue to offer animal care and control services such as, but not limited to:**

- Low cost vaccination clinics
- Low cost spay and neuter clinics
- Issuance of rabies license, on-site, on-line, and off site
- Community education
- Adoption / Rescue services
- Accept owner surrender of unwanted companion animals
- Reduced rate micro chipping with registration
- Preventative care on intake of animals, such as vaccines, flea/tic treatment
- Respond to animal nuisance calls
- Bite investigation / quarantine
- Rabies exposure investigation
- Capture, trap, sick or suspected rabid, fur bearing wild life
- Prepare and deliver suspected rabid specimens to state lab
- Public health investigation such as suspected animal hoarding incidents
- Kennel inspections / permits
- Sheltering services for stray / quarantine animals
- Euthanasia of sick and/or aggressive animals
- Chemical capture of highly aggressive dogs / cats
- Provide Animal Care & Control services to cities within Pinal County that have inter-governmental agreements
- Assist local law enforcement and state law enforcement with matters of concern related to animal calls. (such as confinement of animals belonging to victims of crime, persons arrested or mental health confinements)

Maintain a database of all calls for service to animal control, maintain a database of all animals sheltered, released, and euthanized. Records shall be kept on record as prescribed by the Arizona Records Retention as prescribed by Arizona Revised Statue title 44, chapter 7012, title 41, Chapter 2550, and title 8, chapter 804 article 1.

Comply with 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 Statue Title 9 article 2; article 3; article 5; article 6. Title 36, chapter 6, article.

## **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 unwanted impounded animals
- Decrease in available shelter space
- Increase in euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets

### **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 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 treated inhumane
- Increased number of offenders not being held accountable for their actions
- Increased risk to the surrounding community the spread of zoonosis disease

Animal cruelty is when abuse or neglect happening at the hands of a human caretaker or others. Abuse can be deliberate, accidental, or hasty simply failure to take care of animal, due

to lack of knowledge or willful neglect. Reporting suspected animal cruelty will ensure animals in need are rescued and perpetrators are brought to justice.

#### 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.

Higher public awareness has led to increased reporting of animal abuse, cruelty, neglect and animal hoarding incidents.

- Investigate all reported incidents within our jurisdictional authority
- Support local legislation
- Work with social service groups
- Work with the division of building safety and environmental services
- Support the justice system while ensuring mental health issues are addressed through deferred programs when applicable.
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### **2 – 5 Year Strategic Goal**

#### **1. No- Kill Open admission shelter**

By fiscal year 18/19 Pinal County Animal Care and Control will become a no-kill open admission shelter as evidence by:

- 100% of healthy, non-aggressive / sick pets received at the shelter will be released from the shelter alive

#### **2. Rabies Prevention and unvaccinated Animals**

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

- 10% annual increase in dogs vaccinated for rabies

#### **3. Responsible Pet Ownership**

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

- 10% annual increase in the number of dog licenses issued
- 10% increase in the number of dogs and cats altered as a result of low cost spay / neuter clinics sponsored by Pinal County Animal Care & Control, or by way of low cost spay / neuter vouchers (when available)

**4. Animal Abuse, Cruelty & Neglect**

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

- 20% increase in the number of community outreach events attended
- 20% increase in the number of accepted criminal cases submitted for criminal prosecution

**Annual Performance Measures**

1. 10% Increase in rabies vaccines administered
2. 10% Increase in dog licenses issued
3. 10% Increase in number of dogs / cats altered at low cost spay / neuter clinics
4. 10% Annual increase in number of live animals released from the shelter
5. 20% Increase in number of community outreach events attended

| <i><u>Programs / Activities</u></i> | <i><u>#Full-time Employees</u></i> | <i><u>#Part-time Employee</u></i> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>5</b>                            | <b>32</b>                          | <b>2</b>                          |
| <i><u>Cost Center</u></i>           | <i><u>Total Budget</u></i>         |                                   |
| <b>3520420</b>                      | <b>\$2,177,610.00</b>              |                                   |
| <b>3520212</b>                      | <b>\$23,550.00</b>                 |                                   |
| <b>Activity Total</b>               | <b>\$2,201,160.00</b>              |                                   |