



PINAL COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL (PCACC) IS AN “OPEN ADMISSION” SHELTER

WHAT IS AN ‘OPEN ADMISSION’ SHELTER?

In contrast to “closed or limited admission” shelters, PCACC is an “open admission” shelter and must accept every domestic animal in need regardless of age, breed, temperament, appearance or medical condition. We CANNOT and DO NOT turn any domestic animals away.

ARE ANIMALS “EUTHANIZED” AT PINAL COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL?

Yes. As an open admission shelter, PCACC may be forced to euthanize (kill) a healthy, adoptable animal *simply because of a lack of space*. As a high intake facility, kennel capacity continually plays a role in determining the number of animals that may need to be euthanized.

Other reasons an animal may be euthanized at an open admission shelter include those considered “unadoptable”:

- An animal is suffering from a behavioral issue that poses a threat or safety risk to potential adopters and the community; and/or
- An animal is sick and/or suffering from a medical condition that adversely impacts its well-being and quality of life and from which it is not likely to recover.

Pinal County follows the best practices of shelter management with two goals in mind:

1. Moving the maximum number of adoptable animals into rescue organizations or into adoptive homes and
2. Limiting euthanasia to sick/injured/suffering/feral or aggressive animals whenever possible.

DOES PINAL COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL ATTEMPT TO PLACE AS MANY ANIMALS AS POSSIBLE?

Yes. Every effort is made. The shelter works with many rescue and animal welfare groups as well as with the public in order to find placements for as many adoptable animals as possible.

I CANNOT KEEP AN ANIMAL. ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVES TO SURRENDERING AN ANIMAL TO AN OPEN ADMISSION SHELTER?

Depending upon your circumstances and why you need to surrender an animal, there may be other alternatives available. Following is a list of common reasons for owner surrenders, with available resources and ideas that you may find helpful. Help us save more animals by taking responsibility for yours. The best place and chances for a good life for your pet is in your home with you, as there is ALWAYS a surplus of pets awaiting a home in our shelter and others.

Please ask a staff member for availability of printed resource material you may take with or about any questions you may have on the following:

MOVING / FORECLOSURE:

Anyone in the process of moving knows how difficult it can be to find a new place to live. Those of us who have pets face a special challenge. If you know you're going to be looking for a new home for you and your pets, allow plenty of time for your search.

- 1) **Search for Pet-Friendly Housing:** There are actually several online sources for this purpose. Start with "Finding Pet-Friendly Housing" by Best Friends Animal Society at: <http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/pdfs/allpets/PetFriendlyHousing.pdf>

See additional online resources in the section titled "Additional Resources".

- 2) **Contact a Rescue Organization:** Arizona is home to a number of excellent all-breed rescues, specialty rescues and cat rescues. An internet search will yield many matches. The key to successfully placing your animal in a rescue organization is planning ahead. Many rescues are 'foster-based' meaning your pet can bypass the shelter environment entirely because it would go immediately to a foster home. Nearly all rescues are run by volunteers so the more lead time you can give, the better. Many are simply unable to make an immediate, same-day rescue.

BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS:

There ARE solutions to many types of behavioral problems, which typically result from lack of training, lack of consistency in training or lack of positive reinforcement. The Best Friends Animal Society provides resources intended to help you, the pet owner, overcome problems and keep your pet!

Visit the Pet Care Library at: <http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/petcare/>, **or ask a shelter staff member for information on your specific behavioral issue.**

FINDING A NEW HOME FOR YOUR PET:

If you decide you cannot keep your pet, please make an effort to find a new home before considering a shelter. You will be saving another pet's life by doing so.

1) Prepare Your Pet for Adoption:

- Hopefully this is already done, but...first and foremost, **spay or neuter** your pet or the stray you are trying to place. Low-cost, mobile services are available in our area:
 - a) **Mashvet.** The Mobile Animal Surgical Hospital was created to provide access to low-cost spay/neuter services in a variety of locations in Pinal County. On the web: www.mashvet.net ; Email: mashappts@aol.com or Phone: 480-656-4479.

- b) ***Healing Hearts Mobile Veterinary Surgical Unit***: Provides low cost mobile spay/neuter and veterinary care. On the web: www.healingheartsaz.org; Phone: (480) 772-9502.
 - c) If you want additional information on low-cost clinics in your area, contact SPAY/USA at 1-800-248-SPAY or visit their website, www.spayusa.org. The PETS 911 website is another resource, www.pets911.com.
- Make sure the animal is **up-to-date on vaccinations**. Prepare a complete medical record that you can give to the adopter.

2) **Advertise Your Pet / Get the Word Out:**

- **Start with a flyer:** Advertise as widely as you can, in as many places as possible. Creating a flyer is a great way to start. To easily make a flyer, go to <http://www.petbond.com/flyerentry.php>.
- Contact as many rescue groups as possible. Find a listing at http://www.pacc911.org/PACC_Partners.html.
- Place a classified ad in your local paper.
- Place a “pet for sale” ad on Craigslist (“Free to a good home” pet ads are not recommended).
- Post your pet on adoption websites such as PetFinder (www.petfinder.com) and social networks, like Facebook, and the Best Friends Network: <http://network.bestfriends.org/help/>
- Use any and all of your community contacts. Don’t underestimate word of mouth.

For general information on the above, ask a PCACC staff member for the Best Friends Animal Society document titled “***Finding a New Home for a Pet,***” available in English and Spanish. Or, for detailed information on rehoming pets, visit their site at: <http://www.bestfriends.org/nomorehomelesspets/pdf/howtofindhomesforpets.pdf>

TNR & FERAL CATS: - Feral, or “community cats,” pose a unique and pervasive issue in our community. A “feral” cat is one that has had little to no contact with humans during its natural life, and is, essentially, undomesticated.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a process by which cats are humanely trapped, sterilized by a veterinarian, and returned to the site at which it was trapped. PCACC rents out cat traps. These are live traps that do not injure the cat. There is a \$25 rental fee for the trap for a period of seven (7) days.

The following local groups provide additional resources for this topic:

The Animal Defense League of Arizona Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Program -
<http://www.adlaz.org/node/164>; phone: 602-265-7729; Email: feralcats@adlaz.org

Altered Tails AZCATS –
www.alteredtails.org; phone: 602-216-1160; Email: info@alteredtails.org

The Foundation for Homeless Cats on the web at:

www.thefoundationforhomelesscats.org - provides information on how to help stop the cycle of breeding while continuing to care for feral cats in your area.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The Best Friends Animal Society provides numerous resources intended to help pet owners, all freely available! Start by downloading their complete guide to dogs – “**ABCs of Dog Life**”!!

<http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/pdfs/dogs/ABCsofDogLife.pdf>

Then, head to their “**Resources**” page to locate a specific topic you may be looking for:

General – (*Financial hardship, Moving, Lost/Found, Spay/Neuter, etc.*):

<http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/resources/>

Dog-specific topics - <http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/petcare/dogs.cfm>

Cat-specific topics - <http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/petcare/cats.cfm>

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES:

“How to Keep Your Pet in Your Home” -

<http://network.bestfriends.org/initiatives/petsarefamily/pages/how-to-keep-your-pet-in-your-home.aspx>

Moving

- *Animal Humane Society:* <http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/services/pethelp/housing>

- *Help your Cat through a Move:*

<http://www.howtothings.com/pets-animals/how-to-help-your-cat-through-a-move>

- *Help your Dog Adjust to a Move:*

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/helping-your-dog-adjust-to-a-move.html>

Financial Resources

- *Best Friends:*

<http://network.bestfriends.org/Help/FinancialandOtherAssistanceforPetOwners.aspx>

- *Humane Society of the U.S.:*

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/trouble_affording_pet.html

Lost / Found

- *Humane Society of the U.S.:*

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/what_to_do_lost_pets.html

- *Pet Harbor:* www.petharbor.com - post lost & found pets; used by shelters across the nation.

- *FREE “Lost/Found” flyer-maker:* <http://www.petbond.com/flyerentry.php>

Spay / Neuter (see resources for local low-cost spay/neuter services on page 2, under “Prepare Your Pet for Adoption”)

- *Top 10 Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pet (from ASPCA):*

<http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/spayneuter/spay-neuter-top-ten.aspx>

Chaining Your Dog

- *Humane Society of the U.S.:*

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/chaining_tethering/tips/do_you_chain_your_dog.html