

Maddie's Fund Grant FAQ

How does this grant benefit animals?

This grant is targeted at helping pets remain where they belong, with the families who love them. Too many pets are relegated to shelters for avoidable situations, including lack of affordable veterinary care or behavior training. Families want to keep these pets but, in many cases, feel they are doing what is best for the pet by surrendering it to an animal shelter. This grant makes accessing support for these families and pets easier than ever before, by calling the countywide Pet Support Center. Additionally, the grant provides funding to help the most vulnerable families with veterinary and behavior assistance.

By keeping these pets at home, instead of in the shelter, Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSA) can focus more support on truly homeless pets or other preventative measures including spay/neuter and lost and found.

How does this grant benefit Pima Animal Care Center?

This grant hopes to reduce overcrowding at PACC by lowering intake of surrendered pets. The grant has the potential to directly avert the surrender of over 2,000 pets through veterinary and behavior assistance in the first year. This equates to over 10% of PACC's annual intake of homeless pets.

How does this grant benefit the Humane Society of Southern Arizona?

This grant will allow HSSA to grow its veterinary team to serve more owned pets so they can stay with their families, focus its behavior team on helping dogs stay in their homes, and add a Veterinary Social Worker to serve families more holistically and keep people and pets together. With more owned pets staying with their families, HSSA will be able to take in more homeless pets and provide them with the resources they need to find new, loving homes.

When will these new programs begin?

The goal is to launch the joint Pet Support Center and supporting programs as soon as possible. However, implementing the programs requires hiring and training of new and

existing staff. PACC and HSSA will communicate to the public when the new programs take effect. In the meantime, community members can still access existing support programs at each shelter and utilize recommended practices for stray animals.

Who can access Pet Support Center assistance?

Any Pima County resident can access Pet Support Center assistance; however, residents of Rancho Sahuarita and Marana will be directed back to HSSA for help, as those municipalities contract with HSSA for animal care services

How does someone contact the Pet Support Center?

If someone needs help keeping their pet and/or is considering surrendering their pet to an animal shelter, they should visit www.pima.gov/2294/pet-support or call 520-724-7222 for preventative assistance, help with rehoming, or scheduling a surrender appointment.

Should people bring pets to be surrendered to PACC or HSSA?

No. People considering relinquishment of their pet should contact the Pet Support Center first, either for preventative assistance or, if necessary, to schedule a surrender appointment.

Should people still bring strays to PACC or HSSA?

Ideally, to achieve the best outcome for a healthy and friendly stray or lost pet, individuals or families finding the pet should attempt to get them home before bringing them to an animal shelter. Most pets don't get far if they escape from their home. Pets are statistically less likely to be reunited with their families if brought to the shelter instead of being kept in their neighborhoods.

It is recommended that people post the pet via local social media, Petco Love Lost, and via flyers in the community. If the finders are able to hold onto the pet, the Pet Support Center will provide resources including pet food, vaccines, collars, etc. In the event the pet isn't claimed, or the family can't care for the pet, they can contact the Pet Support Center to schedule a time to bring it to a shelter.

How will these services continue once the grant is over?

Both Friends of Pima Animal Care Center and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona have committed to future fundraising to continue the services created through this partnership with Maddie's Fund. Additionally, the grant provides support to establish an Access to Care Alliance, which is intended to enhance long-term accessibility to affordable veterinary care across Pima County.

How does this grant impact other important animal welfare services such as spay and neuter, fostering, adoptions, or lost and found?

This grant will have a profound impact on animal services provided across Pima County. By providing preventative support to keep thousands of pets out of the animal shelter system, this grant frees up personnel and financial resources to bolster other animal welfare services, including, but not limited to, spay and neuter community clinics, lost and found or return-to-home programming, expanding the foster network, and bolstering adoption programs. This grant supports direct and indirect animal saving outcomes for tens of thousands of animals over the course of three years.