

# Pet overpopulation prompts reform

BY JUSTIN SAYERS  
Arizona Sonora News Service

Anais Orantez holds out a blue toy for Luna, a 2-year-old brown-and-white Rottweiler mix, in the outdoor area of the Pima Animal Care Center.

Locked eye-to-eye, Anais throws the ball, but 85-pound Luna doesn't flinch. Instead, she runs up to 10-year-old girl and begins licking her face.

Luna is one of the lucky ones. Just one month after arriving as a stray at the center, she exits through green, swinging double doors with Anais and her dad, Manuel Ortiz, and hops into the family's silver Chevy Malibu. She has a home.

The rising number of stray animals is a state and national problem, officials said. With an estimated 8 million animals in shelters in the U.S., Arizona ranks second to Los Angeles County in terms of areas with the highest pet overpopulation rates, according to the Arizona Humane Society.

A mixture of a push to move toward no-kill practices, a lack of financial and physical resources and a warm climate create the perfect storm for Arizona animal shelters.

Pima Animal Care Center, or PACC, is the largest pet adoption agency in Southern Arizona. The facility was built in 1968 and needs renovations to accommodate the rising number of dogs and cats, according to the center.

Challenges include too many animals per kennel, too much noise, not enough quarantine space, limited space for cats, a lack of natural lighting and inadequate medical facilities, center officials say.

The center, which doesn't turn away any pet in need of care, took in 24,332 animals in the last fiscal year.

Pima County residents will vote Nov. 4 on Proposition 415, a nearly \$23 million bond proposal to pay for a renovated shelter. If it passes, bonds would be issued in January and construction would begin around July 2016. The bond would cost the average homeowner \$3 a year.

Kim Janes, the center's chief of external affairs, said PACC was originally designed to warehouse pets, which gets in the way of the current goal of saving as many animals as possible.

Vince Rabago, co-chairman of Pets Are Worth Saving, a campaign to help pass Proposition 415, notes that the



KENNELS AT the Pima Animal Care Center sometimes hold as many as four dogs to one space. PACC asks the Pima County community to vote yes on Proposition 415.

original center was built at a time when the population in the area was approximately 300,000 people. As of the last census in 2010, that number hovers around 1 million, he said.

"The center does not meet current needs in any way, shape, or form," he said. "Having a new animal care center we believe will provide a more humane center that is fit for today's modern needs and population and that will also reduce euthanasia."

Deputy Pima County Administrator Jan Leshar said the center is now treating about two-and-a-half times the number of animals treated when the care center opened. Renovations would be the first significant updates to the shelter.

If the proposition passes, the updated facility would have a medical center to isolate sick

animals and prevent diseases from spreading, Janes said. Updates would also provide additional kennel capacity.

District 1 Pima County Supervisor Ally Miller opposes the bond project. She said she doesn't think that county residents, who saw their county property taxes jump 17 percent last year, should have to pay another tax.

She also noted the county's ballooning debt ranked highest among Arizona counties. At \$1.4 billion in debt, Pima County carries twice as much debt as Arizona's other 14 counties combined, according to the Stop Prop 415 Committee. Property taxes have increased by roughly 24 percent over the past two years.

While Miller acknowledges that the animal care center is in need of renovations, she said she thinks the Pima County Board of

Supervisors could have taken other measures to find money for the project.

Miller noted that the total cost to taxpayers is \$22.8 million, even though the project costs only \$18.5 million. Leshar said the extra money accounts for the cost of inflation and contingency since construction is not slated to begin for another year or more.

"The \$22 million is the cap, not the floor," Leshar said. "Yes we believe that the project will cost \$18 million, but it's always wise to look at what contingency or inflation might do."

Janes said he believes Proposition 415 is another way of attacking pet overpopulation in the county because a renovated shelter would provide the resources and space necessary for veterinary efforts. The Board of Supervisors also recently increased funding to conduct significant spay and neuter services for pet owners in the community.

"We need to do what we can to eliminate our overpopulation problem in our community," Janes said.

**“The center does not meet current needs in any way, shape, or form”**  
— Vince Rabago, co-chairman of PAWS

## SEX

FROM PAGE 1

"We are always continuously improving our resources to better meet the needs of U of A students," Hardesty said.

Hardesty said one way Campus Health has improved its resources in recent years is through the creation of Free Condom Friday, an event that occurs every Friday at Campus Health where students can obtain a variety of free condoms.

Hamilton said one thing that is often mistaken with the report card is people think the report is referring to the UA's students rather than the programs on campus.

"It's not really speaking about students," Hamilton said. "It's about [our] services."

Hamilton said despite the services available, student habits have not dramatically changed in the time she has been working at the UA.

"I think that we have continued to provide more services, but every year there's new students that come on campus and many of them think 'It won't happen to me,'" Hamilton said. "That hasn't changed over the years."

The staff gave their input on how UA students can become more sexually healthy.

Hardesty said increasing the awareness for the services on campus could help in and of itself.

"I think we could always improve on reaching students and letting them know that campus health is here and we're here for them and we have lots of friendly staff here that really want to help them be successful and healthy in college," Hardesty said.

Megan McKendry, the violence prevention specialist at the Oasis Program, said she would tell students that one of the best ways to improve the community is to change the way students talk about and deal with instances of sexual assault.

"My biggest piece of advice would be probably to believe survivors and to take care of themselves, their friends and the people in their community," McKendry said. "To become active bystanders and speak out against sexual violence, whether that's through challenging language that supports rape all the way through intervening against a potential incident of sexual assault."

Both Hardesty and Hamilton said the Oasis was one of the most important reasons the UA is ranked highly.

"My message is: If you're going to be sexually active, you need to plan and prepare and do whatever you can to reduce your risks to make sex safer," Hamilton said. "That just makes sense."

— Follow Max Rodriguez @njmaxrod

# UAPD sends crime alert about assault

BY ETHAN MCSWEENEY  
The Daily Wildcat

A man assaulted a woman while she was exercising at Tumamoc Hill on Monday morning, police said.

According to a crime alert issued by the University of Arizona Police Department on Tuesday, the man ran into the woman, knocking her down. The man then attempted to pin the woman to the ground, but the woman was able to fight him off and yelled for help. The woman was not injured in the incident, police said.

The man fled in an unknown direction, UAPD said in the alert.

The man is described as a Hispanic individual in his 40s and was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and brown shorts.

Much of the land on Tumamoc Hill, which is located west of "A" Mountain, is owned by the UA.

UAPD said the investigation into the assault is ongoing.

**UAPD Crime Alert**

If you have any information please call 9-1-1 or (520) 621-8477 (TIPS)

— Follow Ethan McSweeney @ethanmcsweeney

## PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

Drivers who receive parking tickets under the new system will be paying the fines directly to Park Tucson, the city's parking enforcement agency, rather than paying City Court, as it is in the current system.

The driver will have 30 days to decide whether they will pay the ticket or contest it in court. If they do not pay within the first 30 days because they are contesting the ticket and are still found to be at fault, drivers will incur additional fines, including the \$36.60 fee City Council eliminated in order to lower the fines.

Matt Kopec, the management analyst for Ward 3 City Council member Karin Uhlich, said the new system will streamline the process for the first 30 days by cutting out the need to pay at City Court.

According to a memorandum from City Council's Oct. 21 meeting, while the city of Tucson estimates the revenue from parking fines will remain fairly consistent with that of previous years, Park Tucson, formerly ParkWise, will incur approximately \$100,000 in additional administrative fees.

Donovan Durband, Park Tucson's program administrator, said the reduction of fees would not lead to the distribution of more tickets.

"Those are two completely independent factors," Durband said, "and even with the additional administrative costs, we have enough surplus in other areas that we are projecting that we will be able to absorb those costs."

Durband said the money from the fines is split up and about half of it goes to the state of Arizona, while some goes into the general fund.

Durband added that the current makeup of a ticket consists of a base fine based on what kind of violation occurred plus a state tax, a city court fee with state taxes added on and a \$13 charge for the equipment used by law enforcement.

Although these changes will greatly affect drivers all over the city of Tucson, especially those who frequent downtown, they will have no effect on students parking at the UA.

Mark Napier, associate director of operations at Parking and Transportation Services, confirms that since the tickets given at the UA do not come from Park Tucson or the Tucson Police Department, but rather the University of Arizona Police Department, the reduction will have no effect on tickets received at the university.

— Follow Holly Halstead @DailyWildcat

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