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Maricopa County Animal Care and Control



Trailin' Tails Newsletter

Finding Pet Friendly Housing



One of the many dogs that has passed through MCACC's doors looking for a forever home— she got one!

In today's scary economy, moving to a new home can be extra stressful, even unplanned. If you have a pet, it can be even harder. Here are a few tips that can make finding pet-friendly housing easier.

There are a number of resources to help you find pet-friendly apartments or condominiums. Online websites about pets, and local animal welfare groups may be able to provide you with a list. You can also look for a community apartment guidebook, often found at supermarkets. The most ideal resource would be realtors, rental agents or resident managers you know who own pets themselves. Those who share your love of animals would be more likely to have leads, and more understanding of the special needs and responsibilities of pet owners.

Try to put yourself in the shoes of a landlord. Some may have had bad experiences with irresponsible pet owners who didn't safely confine their animals or clean up after them, or who left ruined carpets when they moved out. Or they may have had complaints from neighbors about noisy dogs or about people who snuck animals into their apartments. All of these concerns are legitimate. That's why you must be able to sell yourself to a landlord as a responsible pet owner, committed to taking proper care of your pet and following the rules of the community.



Once you find an apartment or housing community where you would like to live, provide as much proof as you can, that attests to your conscientiousness as a pet owner. If possible, provide a letter of reference from your current landlord, and a letter from your veterinarian stating that you have been diligent in your pet's medical care. Supply documentation that your pet has been spayed or

neutered. (A sterilized pet is healthier, calmer, and less likely to be a nuisance to neighbors). Show that you understand that living with a companion animal is a privilege, not a right.

Because pet owners must search harder for a place to live, they are more likely to stay put. Lower vacancy rates mean lower costs and fewer headaches for landlords. Many landlords recognize that RESPONSIBLE pet owners make excellent residents. Make sure they know you are one.

A well-behaved, well-groomed pet will also speak volumes. Offer to bring your pet to meet the property manager, or invite the landlord to visit you and your pet in your current home.

Once you have been given permission to have a pet, be sure to get it in writing. You may be required to pay a pet deposit, some or all of which may be refundable. Be sure to discuss this in advance and have them put it in writing as well.

Good luck finding your new home!

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Search the web with www.goodsearch.com and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control without you spending a dime!



One of the many dogs that have come through our doors needing a new home—she got one!

Animal First Aid Kit:

- First Aid Book
- Gauze pads
- Bandages
- Cotton Tipped Applicators
- Muzzle
- Cold Pack
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Disposable Gloves

Halloween and Your Pets

Halloween can be a fun time for your family. But it can be dangerous and traumatic for your pet. Following are some tips to help keep them safe and happy:



Don't put your pet in a costume unless you know they like it and are comfortable. It can be very stressful for them. If you do put a costume on your pet, make sure their vision isn't obstructed.

Trick-or-treat candy is not for pets.

Chocolate is poisonous to many animals. Tin foil and cellophane can be hazardous if swallowed.

Most dogs should be kept in a separate room during trick-or-treat hours. Too many strangers dressed in costume can be scary.

If you have a lit pumpkin, be careful. Your pet may knock it over and cause a fire.

Watch out for that open door. A cat or dog may try to dart out when you are giving out treats and commenting on that cute princess and scary monster.

Don't your pets out in the yard. Sometimes a prank can go overboard or wrong and you don't want your pet to fall victim.

Keep these tips in mind and everybody should have a safe holiday.

FEMA Taps MCACC to Assist With New Animal Disaster Training Program

We've seen the news reports and heard the stories of the animal victims of disasters; pets that had to swim for their lives after Hurricane Katrina, or owners refusing to evacuate from wildfires unless they could take their pets. Nationwide, the evacuation of pets and livestock with their owners has become a hot topic among emergency managers. In 2006, Congress passed a law that requires all state, county and local emergency plans to include pets and service animals. This puts pressure on government officials to find a way to ensure the safety of animals during emergencies.



FEMA Panel Working on Animal Evacuation and Sheltering

For years now, cities around the country, including many in Maricopa County, have trained volunteers to help during disasters. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program teaches ordinary citizens to help in their neighborhoods should a disaster occur. Now, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is creating training for the CERT Program that will enable them to help with the evacuation and sheltering of animals during emergencies. To accomplish this, they assembled a panel of seven "subject matter experts" and three FEMA staff members to provide the curriculum for this training. One of MCACC's Field Division supervisors, John Reynolds, was chosen by FEMA to sit on this panel.

John is no stranger to assisting animals in disasters. During his career, he has helped during snowstorms in northern Arizona, floods, wildfires including the Rodeo-Chedeski and Cave Creek Complex fires, and coordinated the pet evacuations shelter for the victims of Hurricane Katrina that were evacuated to Phoenix. John is a CERT trainer and is also involved with several local Citizen Corps Councils, the parent organization of CERT.

"This is indeed a great honor for us," said MCACC Director Dr. Rodrigo Silva. MCACC has become recognized as a leader in animal disaster management through participation in local drills and events, as well as taking part in TOPOFF 4, a nationwide terrorism exercise last year.

FEMA expects to have the training material available to local CERT Programs in September or October of this year. For more information on CERT and Citizen Corps, go to www.citizen corps.gov.

Profile of MCACC's Alternative Placement Coordinators

A balancing act – that's probably the best way to describe the job of Alternative Placement Coordinators Janet Aviles and DuAnne Wilster. It is their job to match up foster homes with dogs and cats, puppies and kittens who need a little extra care before they can be adopted. And with an average of 200 animals coming in to Maricopa County Animal Care & Control every day, that is no easy task.



Once you submit your application, Janet or DuAnne will be in touch with you as soon as possible. If you are chosen to be a foster care provider, you will need to attend an orientation, where you will learn more about what is involved in fostering. Keep in mind that animals who need to be fostered usually require more time and attention and medical care than healthy, mature ones. But remember also that when you foster, you are literally saving a life – a reward well worth the commitment.

When they're not responding to phone and email questions from current and potential foster parents, Janet and DuAnne spend much of their time determining which animals would benefit most from being in a foster home. Working with the kennel staff, they pick out the sick or injured but treatable animals, sucklings, and underweight or extremely shy dogs and cats, often pulling animals from the euthanasia list. Many of these animals can regain their health and thrive once they are away from the stressful kennel setting. All they need is a chance and a little extra TLC. And this is the time of year the need for foster homes is greatest, as summer brings in many litters of puppies and kittens.

If you are interested in fostering an animal in need, just pick up a brochure in the shelter lobby, or go to www.pets.maricopa.gov and click on Volunteering.

In a stressful job like Janet and DuAnne's, it is that knowledge that keeps them going. Animal lovers since childhood, both women have worked in the animal care field for most of their adult lives. Janet has been with MCACC since 2001, and prior to that, worked for over twenty years at the Arizona Animal Welfare League, doing everything from adoptions to taking care of the animals to working in the vet clinic. DuAnne attended veterinary school, and then oversaw the Arizona Humane Society's mobile spay/neuter programs for two years and then was a veterinary technician at AHS for six years before coming to MCACC in 2006.

MCACC is lucky to have these ladies who are helping to save lives!



One of the many kittens MCACC has taken in needing forever homes.

Pets as a Gift

As the holidays draw near, it may seem like a wonderful idea to get somebody a new furry friend for a gift. The truth is, no matter how much you know the person loves animals, getting a pet for somebody is not a good idea. Animals given as presents often end up at an animal shelter.



If you know somebody wants a pet, a better thing to do would be to create a gift certificate for them. It can state that you want to cover the adoption fee of a future pet. You can include information to help them make a wise decision. Share info about the local animal shelter or rescue groups. Include info about breeds you think may work for them. This will help

them make a wise decision and more importantly, let them choose their pet and decide when they are ready to take on the life-long commitment.

Even if you know somebody wants a pet, it is not advisable to get one for them. A lot goes into picking out the perfect new furry family member. The new family needs to look at their options, think about their lifestyle, and then interact with the potential new family member. Their idea of what is perfect may be completely different than yours. And it's their idea of a perfect pet that matters.

In this manner, they can choose a puppy or an adult cat, whichever best fits them. They will be able to prepare for all the responsibilities that come along with adoption—financial and medical costs, food, toys, love and time.

Spay and neuter your pets

Get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC gets in over 50,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival in our shelters—they need too much care. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets! MCACC's the Big Fix No-Cost Spay/Neuter Voucher Program offers a free spay or neuter surgery for your cat or dog. Please visit us on the web at www.pets.maricopa.gov to print out a form or call us at (602) 506-PETS.



MCACC's Uno por Uno received the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award! The Award recognizes unique, innovative county programs. Uno por Uno is a culturally sensitive campaign addressing the needs of underserved neighborhoods in Maricopa County, serving families and their pets. Uno por Uno offers free-or low-cost spay/neuter services, rabies vaccination clinics, license clinics and education on a frequent and repetitive basis throughout one neighborhood.

Rabies Clinic

Specials: \$20

West and East Shelters

Sundays 12 —4 p.m.

Mondays 9—11 a.m.

Tuesdays 9—11 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- October—Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- Oct. 18—Neuter Scooter at Health Fair
- Oct 25—National Pit Bull Awareness Day
- November—National Adopt a Senior Pet Month
- Nov. 8—Hero Awards, JW Marriott
- Nov. 15—Woofstock / Concert 4 Critters



Be sure to check out our web site every month to see where our Mobile Pet Adoptions Bus will be. <http://www.maricopa.gov/Pets/News/Calendar.aspx>

Call us and we'll bring the Mobile Pet Adoptions Bus to your business or neighborhood 602-249-6504

Pet Laws

If you own a dog in Maricopa County, there are some laws you need to follow. All dogs over the age of three months must have:

- an updated rabies vaccination
- Maricopa County dog license



Rabies vaccines are \$34 and can be administered at either of MCACC's Animal Care Centers. They are \$20 Sundays from 12—4 p.m., Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9—11 a.m.

Dog licenses are \$16 for sterilized dogs and \$40 for unsterilized dogs. Besides it being the law, a dog license can help you be reunited with your dog if he escapes. **A.R.S. 11-1008 & 11-1010**

Maricopa County has a leash law that prohibits your dog from running at large. Your dog must be confined to your home or property, either inside the house or an enclosed yard.

When you take your dog outside of its confined area, it must be on a leash, no longer than 6 feet. The only public place that allows your dog to be off-leash is in a dog park. **A.R.S. 11-1012**

If your dog attacks and/or bites a person: You must report a bite to MCACC.

Your dog will be quarantined and/or destroyed. You may receive a citation, court time, and fines. Remember to keep your dog under control and properly train him. **A.R.S. 11-1014**

These laws were put in place to help keep your dog and community safe. A rabies vaccination keeps your dog healthy. A license will help us get your dog back to you if he escapes. And a leash keeps your pet from getting away and from being hit by a car.

For more information on the Arizona Revised Statutes, visit: www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp

Volunteers Page

Volunteer of the Month

Sofia Ramirez



Ask anyone who works or volunteers at the Maricopa County Animal Care & Control West Shelter about volunteer Sofia Ramirez and you'll hear how committees she is to helping animals and the community. Sofia wanted to volunteer because she has an interest in working with animals. She is at the shelter every Sunday with our "Volunteer of the Year" Carolyn Scalogna. Carolyn recruited Sofia and we can't thank her enough as Sofia is one of our finest youth volunteers.

Sofia has many talents that make her service stand out. She always has a smile on her face and her bright personality shines. She is always eager to help a client find their new best friend.

Not only does Sofia volunteer every Sunday, but she spends the whole day saving animals. She has accumulated over 200 hours as a volunteer, giving her precious time to the county's misplaced and homeless animals. Anything that is needed, Sofia will do enthusiastically: fill water bowls, clean kennels, walk dogs, help with an adoption, answer questions — you name it, Sofia has done it.

Sofia provides support and encouragement to both volunteers and staff and works extremely hard to ensure that the animals at our Westside shelter receive the best care possible. Kudos to Sofia for her continued hard work!

Foster Families Needed

During the busy summer, MCACC takes in up to 200 dogs and cats a day. With so many kittens and puppies coming in, MCACC's foster families are full. Fostering is a temporary placement of the homeless animals MCACC takes in and it helps to save lives. To be a foster family all you need is a caring heart, some time and a place for the animals. Animals that need fostering are usually puppies and kittens not yet old enough to be placed up for adoption and those who are recovering from an illness or medical procedure. As a foster family, MCACC gives you the food and supplies to take care of them. You provide the love and nurturing. Foster care is a great thing to do if you're thinking about adopting or if you don't feel ready for the full-time commitment. Fostering usually takes a time commitment of 1 – 2 weeks. Please help out all the animals in need of a little extra love and time. If you are interested, please call MCACC's Foster Coordinators.: West Shelter— 602-372-1158 East Shelter— 602-506-6279

Become a Volunteer

Believe it or not, MCACC still needs more dedicated volunteers. Help is needed to assist with adoptions and socializing animals. There is a rewarding and dynamic volunteer experience waiting for you. Whether you are interested in walking dogs, petting kittens, or assisting with adoptions there is a way you can help! Call our Volunteer Coordinator at (602) 506-8133.

To reduce costs and save money for other programs, like spay/neuter, we offer this newsletter electronically. To sign up, please visit us at : www.pets.maricopa.gov



MCACC took in over 12,000 cats last year. Please give one a good home!



One of the lucky cats to find a new home through MCACC this year.

Pet Preparation for a Disaster

Planning ahead is the key to keeping yourself and your pets safe during a disaster. Here are some tips that will reduce the risk to your pets.

Always keep a collar and tag on both dogs and cats. This includes indoor-only pets. Make sure your phone number and address are on the tag. If you have been evacuated and are going to be living away from home for an extended period of time, put a temporary tag on your pets with a phone number other than your home number.

Identify several possible locations where you can take your pets should you have to evacuate. This would include friends, family members, boarding kennels and veterinary clinics with boarding facilities. Also look for hotels/motels that accept animals. If you are not sure where to take your pet when you evacuate, do not leave them behind, as this greatly increases the chance that they will not survive.

You should have at least a week's supply of your pet's water and food ready to take with you. Try to feed your pets the food they are used to, and serve it as close to the normal time as you can. Keeping them on their regular routine will help minimize stress. Favorite treats and chew toys can also be a comfort to them during the stressful time that follows a disaster. Remember, if the tap water is not suitable for humans to drink, it is also not suitable for your pets to drink. If you are boiling water or drinking bottled water, you should be doing the same for your pets.

Always keep extra pet medications, since a veterinary office may not be open for some time after a disaster. If the medication needs to be refrigerated, keep an ice chest on hand to store it in. A Pet First Aid Kit is also a good idea. (See page 2)

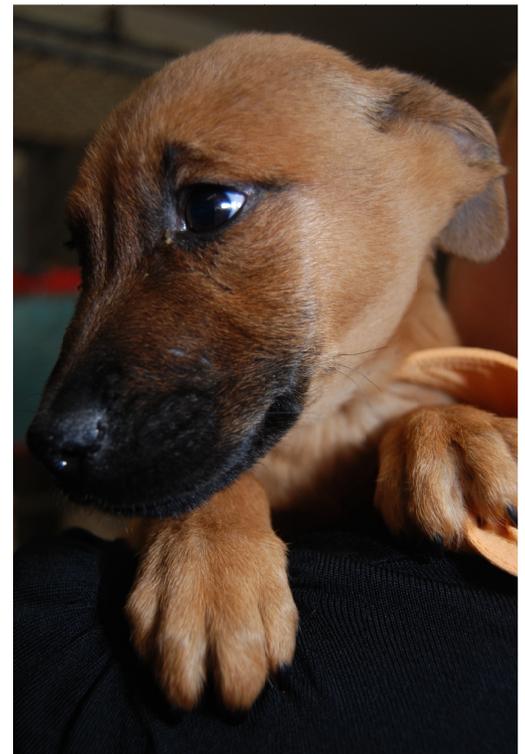
Be sure to have leashes and harnesses for dogs, and cat carriers for cats ready as they are essential if you have to evacuate. Keep several current pictures of your pet. These can help reunite you and your pet. Store the pictures in a re-sealable plastic bag in case you have to post them in the rain.

Know where the animal shelters are in your area, as you may need to visit them after a disaster to look for a missing pet. It is important to start looking as soon as you realize your pet is gone.

Plan ahead and if you do face a disaster, you and your pets will be prepared.

Quick Tips: Feeding Your New Puppy?

When you pick up your new puppy, ask what and when he was fed. Copy the schedule for the first few days to avoid stomach problems. When switching brands, you need to do so slowly. Start off by using 1 part new food to 3 parts of the old for several days; then mix equal parts old and new food for a couple of days; finally, mix 1 part old to 3 parts new. Good luck and enjoy your new family member.



Help us control the pet overpopulation problem. Get you pet spayed or neutered!

Ways to Help the Animals

While MCACC was originally founded for the purpose of catching and killing stray animals to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases, the population growth in Maricopa County has resulted in an ever increasing number of healthy and treatable dogs and cats looking to MCACC to find them homes. As a "special revenue fund" within Maricopa County, MCACC is responsible for generating funds for both its mandated and non-mandated services. However, as a County department, MCACC is unable to solicit donations.

By becoming a donor of your dollars, your time, or by holding a donation drive, you can help ensure that MCACC can provide the care and services that will ultimately make it possible for MCACC to reach its goal of eliminating the euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets by 2012.

Please send me information about the following

◇ How to Volunteer

◇ How to Donate

◇ Information on: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I would like to receive your email newsletter!

Mail to: MCACC Community Relations

2500 S. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!

- Every Saturday on Channel 12 at 8:40 a.m.
- Every 1st and 3rd Monday on Sonoran Living in Channel 15
- Every other Thursday on Channel 12 at 1:35 p.m.
- Every Friday at 7:00 a.m. on KDKB
- Every last Tuesday of the month on KOOL radio 94.5 FM

Pit Bull Fact and Myth

Pit Bulls are considered one of the strongest and smartest breeds. Because of this, they make wonderful companions for responsible, active, and knowledgeable owners. A Pit Bull can be hard to handle for an inexperienced dog owner, or for those unfamiliar with the breed. As a result of their intelligence and their eagerness to please their humans, they are very responsive and excel in training.



If you are thinking of adding a Pit Bull to your family, here are some things you need to take into account: Pit Bulls usually do best in single dog families; If you have another dog, get a Pit Bull of the opposite sex; Introduce new dogs on leash, away from home; Never leave food, bones or toys lying around; Don't throw a ball for both dogs; Supervise dogs when they are together; don't leave them alone; Socialize your dog from a young age ; Do not take your Pit Bull to an off-leash park.

There is a lot of misinformation about Pit Bulls: **Jaws:** Pit Bull's jaws do not lock. That is a myth. Their jaw structure is no different than any other dog. They are just powerful and tenacious dogs. **Fighting:** Pit Bulls were originally bred to fight, and every Pit Bull has that trait. They may fight over status, or because they get too excited. A responsible owner must remember that their dog can cause serious injury, just like any other large dog. Even if the Pit Bull did not start the fight, they will most likely finish it and be blamed. **Human Aggression:** While Pit Bulls were bred to fight, they were not bred for human aggression. If they show aggression towards humans, they were most likely abused, never socialized, and not treated right by their owners. A Pit Bull kept on a tie out, for instance, would be a good candidate to develop aggression from its frustration.

30% of the dogs that come into MCACC's Animal Care Centers are Pit Bulls. 70% of those are euthanized. That's 15,000 dogs a year, or about 40 a day. It is everybody's responsibility to be informed so these dogs aren't over-bred or brought to the wrong homes and then returned to the shelters. If you do decide that a Pit Bull is the dog for you, be responsible. Get your new pet spayed or neutered. There are too many unwanted Pit Bulls. You also need to license, vaccinate and microchip them (as you should with all dogs). As the breed is strong and powerful, it is very important to take your dog to training and obedience class so you both know how to act.



Save a life and become forever loved— come find your new furry friend at one of our shelters.



Visit one our Animal Care Centers!

West Valley Care Center
2500 S. 27th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

East Valley Care Center
2630 W. 8th St.
Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

E-mail: ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov

We're on the web!

www.pets.maricopa.gov

MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets.

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care
- Stray dog pick up
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers



Friends of Animal Care and Control

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: www.azfaccs.org

Friends of Animal Care and Control Thrift Store



The FACCs thrift shop sells a wide variety of gently used items. Proceeds from the sales fund MCACC's valuable programs.

FACCs Thrift Shop
12625 N. Cave Creek Road (North of Thunderbird)
Phoenix, AZ 85022
602-923-6914
Store hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm
Donation Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 am - 3 pm
Sunday 11 am - 2 pm

Do you love animals? Do you have some items that you'd like to donate to charity? Please donate them to the FACCs thrift shop! The store is currently accepting the following gently used items:

- Clothing, purses, jewelry and shoes
- Dishes, glassware, utensils
- Furniture - indoor and outdoor
- Children's clothing and toys (no furniture or car seats please)
- Books
- Tools
- Household items (lamps, linens, bedspreads)
- Kitchen and office appliances
- Computers, printers, software
- Artwork
- Cell phones, PDA's

For a large item (or large amount), call us to arrange a free pick up at (602) 997-7399.

FACC's mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

