



MARICOPA COUNTY
Animal Care & Control
2500 S. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL SHELTERS FILLED WITH HOMELESS PETS

(Phoenix, AZ – October 6, 2016) – Maricopa County Animal Care & Control’s (MCACC) West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix opened its doors yesterday morning with 513 pets and no available kennels. As the County’s only open admission shelter, MCACC does not turn away animals and is prohibited from closing its doors due to space constraints. The West Valley Animal Care Center is currently housing 459 large breed dogs in 240 kennels.

Although animal intake continues to decrease, the length of time pets remain at MCACC shelters increases. In August, MCACC management agreed to extend the mandatory 72-hour stray hold period for dogs and cats by an additional 24 hours. During September 20 thru September 30 of this year, 56 dogs and cats were euthanized at MCACC’s Phoenix location. The agency euthanized 158 pets during the same time in 2015. The Phoenix shelter went from a 78% Live Release Rate in September 2015 to a 90% Live Release Rate in September 2016. In order to maintain these numbers, MCACC needs assistance from the public.

“We desperately want to continue rehoming as many dogs, cats, puppies and kittens as possible. To do this, we need continuous support from the community,” said MCACC Interim Director, Valerie Beckett. “Visit our shelters, encourage family and friends to visit and adopt a homeless pet. Please make sure your dog at home is licensed, and ensure all of your pets have current identification so if they become lost, we can work to return them home. These are small steps that truly can make a big difference.”

For now, MCACC staff will be forced to make some difficult decisions. Euthanasia selections will be based first on those animals that have serious medical conditions, followed by dogs that have behavior issues which prevent them from being kenneled with other dogs. MCACC began a \$20 dog adoption special in May and has been extended twice in an attempt to attract potential adopters.

For more information and to see adoptable animals visit www.maricopa.gov/pets or either of MCACC’s shelter locations:

- West Valley Care Center: 2500 S. 27th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85009
- East Valley Care Center: 2630 E. Rio Salado Parkway Mesa, AZ 85201

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