

Tucson



Sheltering and Clinic Services

Willcox



Benson



Bisbee



Douglas



Sierra Vista



Cochise County Service Plan - 2023 Update

A collaborative plan to serve pets and people throughout Cochise County

Steve Farley, CEO • 12 September 2023

OUR COMMITMENT

HSSA is committed to the long-term welfare of Cochise County pets.

- We look forward to collaborating on an agreement for HSSA to operate the new county shelter and public veterinary clinic in Bisbee
- We plan to deepen our commitment to share our expertise and resources with pets and pet families in Cochise County from the Bisbee shelter/clinic



BACKGROUND

Current Cochise County contract

- Obtained county contract to intake animals from Douglas in 8/2021, recently renewed
 - Fee for service — \$60 per animal transferred to HSSA
- Have taken in 265 pets from Cochise County to our Tucson shelter since August 2021, saving their lives
- This is less than we had projected due to an unexpected prevalence of diseases
- We are planning a new quarantine shelter in Tucson to mitigate spread moving forward



BACKGROUND

How have we pivoted to maximize lifesaving?

- Transporting pets between other Cochise shelters (38 so far this year since March)
- Delivering hundreds of vaccinations and medications to Cochise shelters
- Mentoring three Cochise shelters in person each week
- Performing spay/neuter surgeries for three Cochise shelters (209 since 8/21)
- Ramping up TNR services with Cochise partners to save 657 cat lives since 8/21

All at no cost to County taxpayers



BACKGROUND

What is TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return)?

- In Douglas shelter, prior to this year, SOPs for feral cats instructed ACOs to trap-and-kill
 - Consequently, 75% of the euthanasias in Douglas were cats
- Under trap-and-kill, other cats move into the killed cats' territory, with no long-term solution
- TNR replaces trap-and-kill to humanely and more effectively control community (feral) cat populations
- TNR dramatically reduces the Douglas euthanasia rate along with costs



BACKGROUND

Steps of TNR

Community (feral) cats are:

- Trapped by volunteers
- Transported to Tucson
- Spayed or neutered, ear-tipped, and vaccinated by HSSA
- Returned to where they were trapped
- Volunteers feed the colonies which no longer reproduce
- The community cat population drops to near zero within 5-7 years



Current HSSA programs in Cochise County

- Continued HSSA intake of pets from Douglas shelter
- Shelter collaborative program in Douglas, Willcox, Benson
- TNR program in Douglas
 - at prison and downtown
- Douglas OneHealth clinic for pets and people



Shelter Collaborative Program

- Full-time HSSA Rural Operations Manager works in Willcox, Douglas, and Benson one day per week
- Full-time HSSA Animal Protection Specialist will work daily in Willcox and Douglas
- Spay/neuter surgeries provided at no cost to shelters
- Vaccinations and disease treatment at no cost to shelters
- Support for adoption programs
 - Benson had 48 adoptions in July!
- Construction of new cat sheds for Benson and Willcox
- Jointly funded by HSSA and Best Friends Animal Society

Benson Animal Shelter receives new shed for cats

By Dana Cole dana.cole@myheraldreview.com May 3, 2023 Updated Jun 9, 2023



Members of the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, Best Friends Animal Society and Benson city officials gathered at the Benson Animal Shelter Friday morning for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of a new shed that was donated to house the shelter's cats.

DANA COLE HERALD/REVIEW

Douglas TNR Program

- Carried out program at Douglas State Prison with staff, inmates, and volunteers
- Now working in City of Douglas with volunteers and HSSA staff
- Have TNR'd 283 cats since January
- We expect 250 more TNRs by December
- Jointly funded by HSSA, Best Friends Animal Society, Spay & Neuter Solutions
- Saving more than 500 cat lives in 2023 alone



Douglas OneHealth Clinic

- Innovative program providing healthcare for pets and their people at the same time
- Currently in planning year
- Will start first monthly vaccination clinic for pets and people later this fall
- Collaborating with human health partners
 - Chiricahua Community Health for physical health
 - HOPE Inc for behavioral health and addiction treatment
- Jointly funded by HSSA and PetSmart Charities



healthcare within reach
for pets and people

Future HSSA vision for Cochise County

- Expand current partnership via new county shelter/clinic operated by HSSA in Bisbee
- Continue Shelter Collaborative throughout county
- Develop vet-tech program at Cochise College
- Expand TNR program to Willcox
- Roll out OneHealth clinic in Douglas and beyond



FUTURE HSSA VISION FOR COCHISE

New county shelter/clinic in Bisbee operated by HSSA

- Desperately needed low-cost veterinary clinic for shelter **and public**
- Pet intake and adoptions
- Quarantine shelter to manage disease outbreaks
- Works collaboratively with all other Cochise shelters
 - Balances pet populations among regional shelters
 - Manages pet transfers within and outside of region
 - Provides veterinary services to Cochise shelters

Maximizes scarce resources and efficient operations by helping all shelters work as one big shelter with multiple locations, including HSSA HQ in Tucson

FUTURE HSSA VISION FOR COCHISE

Continue shelter collaborative program in Douglas, Willcox, Benson

- Organize joint adoption events for all shelters with shared marketing
- Mentor staff at local shelters in best practices for animal welfare
- Identify and help procure outside resources for improving shelter facilities
- Develop robust volunteer and foster programs for each shelter
- Continue to provide veterinary services and supplies



FUTURE HSSA VISION FOR COCHISE

New vet-tech program at Cochise College

- New local supply of highly skilled veterinary workers
- Help drive economic development in county
- New path to high-wage jobs
- Pipeline for UofA College of Veterinary Medicine
- Reduce veterinary shortage, particularly in rural areas



FUTURE HSSA VISION FOR COCHISE

Roll out permanent OneHealth clinic in Douglas and beyond

- Vaccination clinics for people and pets
- Expand access to care
- Improve public health
- Improve health of low-income individuals
- Take clinic on the road with mobile unit



healthcare within reach
for pets and people

A bright future for pets and people... YOUR PARTNERSHIP MAKES THIS HAPPEN!

