



HIGH COUNTRY HUMANE

Operated by Paw Placement of No. Arizona
A non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization
Tax ID # 45-2912962
11665 N. Highway 89 • Flagstaff, AZ 86004
928-526-0742
www.HighCountryHumane.org

January 21, 2022

Liz Olson
Executive Director

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Steve Peru
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Mr. Greg Clifton
City Manager
City of Flagstaff
219 East Cherry Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Dear Mr. Clifton,

Happy and Prosperous New Year! It has been a pleasure to partner with you. Thank you for your trust in us and support in 2021. We are looking forward to a new year filled with new opportunities and continued success at High Country Humane.

I would like to provide you with a summary of our year in review. We, as a team, are proud to share this information with you in celebration of disease treatment, the many lives saved, and dedication to the mission of serving the pets and community members of the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County at High Country Humane.

Shelter Statistics: 2021 (contracted services)

Intakes: 3533

These animals came through the shelter as a stray, owner surrender, hospital hold, arrest hold, bite quarantine or other. This is a 21% increase over the previous year by 609 animals.

Adoptions: 2,310

This was an 11% increase over last year with adoption fees ranging from \$0 - \$250 per animal. Included in each adoption fee is a basic intake exam, core vaccines, de-wormer, spay/neuter, microchip & free registration, medical care if needed and housing at HCH.

Live Release Rate: 97.8%

Live Release or placement is defined as the number of all pets who are adopted, rescued, transferred to another shelter or returned to their owners after being lost. The national average is 35%.

Length of Stay: Dogs 15 Days, Cats 26 Days

Length of stay (LOS) is increasingly recognized as a critical factor in shelter management, with implications for animal health, well-being, sheltering costs, and ultimately a shelter's capacity to save lives. Multiple studies have identified LOS as the most significant risk factor for illness in shelter dogs and cats.

Capacity for Care: 145 Animals Onsite, 2,500 Animals Per Year

Many times this year we were over capacity at HCH, taking in more than 1,000 animals over our limit before the end of 2021. Animals were being housed in bathrooms and other areas that were not designed for such housing. Our capacity for care is an ongoing discussion and how we can help reduce the number of homeless and unwanted animals in Coconino County as it seems this number continues to rise each year.

Disease Treatment/Care: 1,410 Animals, 5,400 Treatments

This number continues to rise each year along with the intake number. 1,410 animals were treated for 5,400 different diseases, some which are very contagious such as Parvo, Mange, Ringworm, and Upper Respiratory Disease.

Foster: 597 Families & 1,454 Animals

Pet fostering provides temporary care to shelter animals when the shelter is full, animals are too young/unhealthy to go up for adoption. Fostering also helps to reduce the number of animals onsite, which allows us to care for the animals onsite in a healthier and less stressful environment.

Transfer: 465 Animals

We have proactively transferred 465 animals out to other shelters, in and out of state. We continue to grow these partnerships that allow us to manage the occupancy at the shelter.

Public Service: 2021 (funded by donations, grants, and private partnerships)

Vaccine Clinic: 1,090 Animals

We host a vaccine clinic at the shelter twice per month, offering over 60 pets, at each clinic, low cost vaccines and microchips.

Food Bank: 3,136 Animals & 475 Families

We provide cat and dog food at a monthly food bank and throughout the month as needed for low income members of our community.

Low Cost Vet Appointments: 1,054 Clients

In 2021 we saw over 1,000 pets and their families when they could not afford vet care at local veterinary offices. Low cost care is provided to families to help them keep and care for their pets, versus having to surrender them to the shelter.

Public Spay/Neuter: 690 Surgeries

We were unable to keep the Public Low Cost Spay & Neuter clinic open and have had to close it during various times due to the high occupancy onsite. We are seeing over 90 shelter spay & neuter surgeries a week with one veterinarian on staff, Dr. Carly Bennett. With that in mind, we were still able to perform 690 public spay & neuter surgeries to low income families in Coconino County.

We remain committed in our fundraising efforts. In 2021 we were able to raise over \$610,000 through grants and donations.

Going into 2022 we are committed to find ways to mitigate the trend of an increasing number of animals coming into the shelter. Below is an outline of our plan in 2022 to address these challenges.

- ◆ Hiring a second Veterinarian and supporting staff to allow us to keep the public clinic opened year round. This will get more animals spayed/ neutered to decrease the population.
- ◆ Continue to increase our transfer partners in and out of state. We have been accepted into the ASPCA transfer program which will start this spring and we will be able to transfer out animals on a more consistently to shelters out-of-state without utilizing shelter resources.
- ◆ Continue to seek ways, working with the County, to determine how we might renovate the building to increase the capacity as well as provide an area for disease control which would include an isolation ward.

Going into our 4th year we have learned a lot and have gathered solid data to make informed decisions. We are so grateful to the community and all our partners that support us in so many ways. If you would like to come by for a tour I would love to take you! I am available at your convenience to set that up. My email and personal cell phone are listed below.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement in 2021, we are looking forward to a wonderful 2022 together.

Sincerely,



Liz Olson
Executive Director
High Country Humane
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January 29, 2022

Liz Olson
Executive Director

Mr. Greg Clifton
City Manager
City of Flagstaff
211 W Aspen Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Board of Directors

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Ali Applin, Director
Brenda Carter, Director
Becky Daggett, Director
Joanne Keene, Director
Brian Landauer, Director
Kimberly Ott, Director
Kelly Teeselink, Director
Sam Wheeler, Director

Mr. Steve Peru
County Manager
Coconino County
110 E Cherry Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Dear Mr. Clifton and Mr. Peru,

This letter is a follow-up to our previous discussions regarding High Country Humane's (HCH) additional funding request and contract extension. We are asking a total yearly increase of \$590,000 beginning fiscal year 2023.

The Board of Directors of High Country Humane could not be prouder of what we have accomplished together in the past three years. We are especially appreciative to Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff for their unwavering support during these initial three years.

Advisory Committee

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The response from our County and City communities to volunteer at the shelter doing laundry, walking dogs, feeding kittens, landscaping and fostering (over 597 fosters in 2021) has been beyond all of our expectations. The 2021 data includes 3,553 intakes (strays and owner surrenders) as per the contract. In addition to support services of 1,090 vaccines, 1,054 low cost HCH veterinarian appointments, 690 public spay/neuter procedures, 317 trap neuter return (TNR), we distributed dog/cat food to 475 families for a total of 7,179 community contacts. This is truly an unprecedented number of interactions during this COVID crisis.

Given this, several times in the past few years we have had to reach out to you, our partners, for assistance. We had no idea that diseases, that

impact the health and safety of our communities were so prominent and would require greater resources than those provided for in the contract. The community, thankfully, has responded with significant financial contributions that have helped to fund the shortfall.

There is a critical need to address over-population and disease control in our communities by expanding our low-cost vet clinic and hiring an additional veterinarian and support staff. This will allow us to have continual low-cost vaccine and spay/neuter services available.

In addition, we are working on a draft ten (10) year strategic plan which envisions renovating the facility and adding a disease-control isolation intake wing. We anticipate the renovation and acquisition will require a capital campaign and would be phased in over time. We look forward to future conversations about the facility and program expansion. In the meantime, we will continue to raise funding with a goal of \$1 million per year.

We hope the County and City see the value and commitment of HCH and the positive impacts we have had on animals and citizens of our communities. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss HCH's additional funding request and proposed contract extension.

Sincerely,



Ken Lamm
Board Chair
High Country Humane
928-779-7296
lammfcb@gmail.com

cc:
Kim Musselman
Eve Wolters
Patrick Brown
Mandy Metzger
Sam Wheeler
Liz Bohlke