



PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER
4000 N. Silverbell Road
Tucson AZ 85745
www.pimaanimalcare.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PIMA ANIMAL CARE CENTER
House Bill 2458 to Take Effect

Tucson, Arizona - House Bill 2458, Arizona's new spay and neuter bill, takes effect today, September 30, 2009. Signed into law July 10, this new law requires that all owned unlicensed animals, impounded by a shelter, be spayed or neutered prior to being released.

There are some exceptions, however, to the new law. If the unaltered dog is licensed, the owner can redeem the pet unaltered. Secondly, if an owner wishes to redeem his/her unlicensed, unaltered dog or cat intact, there is a \$50 retrieval fee in addition to any fees or costs incurred. Another exception is if a veterinarian determines that a medical contradiction for surgery exists, the unlicensed, unaltered animal can be redeemed after paying incurred shelter expenses. Finally, for animals impounded due to biting a person, the pet can be redeemed if the bite occurred on the premises of the owner and the victim is a member of the same household.

Additionally the new bill requires shelters to keep a stray for at least 72 hours and make every reasonable attempt to locate microchips or other identification on the animal and contact the owner. For pets wearing a license, shelter will hold the pet for 120 hours unless claimed or surrendered by the owner sooner. Currently, Pima Animal Care Center holds animals with any identification seven (7) days and makes every attempt to contact the owners associated with that identification. The Center will continue this practice.

Other items addressed in the bill are vicious dogs and humane euthanasia procedures currently practiced by County staff.

Even with all these new laws, Pima County continues to lead the State in humane requirements for sheltered animals. With over 150 different animals to choose from, come down and visit us at 4000 N. Silverbell Road 10 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 pm on Sunday.

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