



## **GILA COUNTY DIVISION of HEALTH & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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The Gila County Animal Control Department of the Gila County Division of Health and Emergency Management is requesting funding for a spay/neuter grant to provide services among the Gila County region which is located in east central Arizona. It encompasses 4,752 square miles, five incorporated cities and several other smaller communities scattered within the County that holds a population of over 53,000 residents. This grant will help with our overpopulation and also help those that cannot afford to get their animal(s) surgically altered. We have never been able to provide low-cost spay/neuter services and are excited to have the opportunity to provide this for our community. The funds would be used to encourage residents to have their pets spayed or neutered by providing vouchers to individuals for a fully covered spay or neuter service.

In spite of our attempts to encourage spay and neuter among the animals adopted from the shelter, we cannot ensure that owners will do this on their own. With this grant we can ensure that all animals leaving our shelter will be surgically altered by offering a fully discounted spay/neuter procedure. By doing this we can help lower the stray population within our county. This funding would be used to provide spay/neuter services to over 120 animals. Our goal is to surgically alter 15-20 domesticated animals every other month at our shelter located in Globe, Az. During our spay and neuter clinic we would specifically focus on those pet owners unable to afford the costs of the spay and neuter procedure.

Many of our residents are uneducated about the advantages to having their pet spayed or neutered. Promotion of this service would be provided through several types of community outreach. Our plan is to create several flyers and pamphlets to distribute throughout the community, submit newspaper articles, use social media sites, and radio broadcasts. We would provide information regarding the importance of having your pet

spayed or neutered, along with information regarding the health and behavior benefit spaying and neutering can provide for your pet. We will also educate our community about the Arizona Pet Friendly/ Spay and Neuter Specialty license plate. We understand the importance of this organization and hope our community contributes to the ongoing success of the program.

Dr. Sheena Christensen from the Humane Society of Central Arizona is the veterinarian that will provide services to implement the spay and neuter program. We are confident that we share the same goal and together we can make a difference in our community.

This would be a new program for Gila County Animal Control. Should this program prove to be successful, we would then seek additional funding to help support this program. We would appreciate the opportunity to make a difference in our community.

