



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Friends of Animal Care & Control honored by Board of Supervisors**

*A local organization that has donated more than \$3.7 million to eliminate pet homelessness in the Valley has been honored by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.*

(Phoenix, AZ) Friends of Animal Care & Control (“Friends”) has been awarded the annual “Chairman’s Award” for 2011 for their continuing work for animals in the Valley.

“These good folks love animals and they have made great efforts to help end the very real problem of pet overpopulation,” commented Supervisor Andy Kunasek, board chairman. “They are very generous, very special people.”

Friends of Animal Care & Control, a 501-C3, is the fundraising arm that supports Maricopa County Animal Care & Control and its programs. Primarily, donations from *Friends* help finance the sterilization of pets in Maricopa County at no cost to the pet owner, by partnering with local certified Veterinarians. Additionally, *Friends* helps funding other life-saving programs. Since the Friends of Animal Care & Control was founded ten years ago, the group has donated \$3,717,422 to fund the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) and may other valuable programs that help save animals lives.

“At nearly every board meeting, we accept some kind of a donation to this program,” Kunasek. “Their generosity has allowed 58,165 pets to be spayed or neutered.”

Maricopa County ranks second in the United States based on the high number of homeless animals they take into shelters. Daily, Maricopa County’s shelters see an average of 120 dogs and cats, and over 45,000 homeless, unwanted and injured animals each year. About 4 percent of the animal care and control department is funded from county funds, the rest coming from licensing, adoption fees and donations.

The Friends of Animal Care & Control has a mission is to end the euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats by raising funds to support the programs and services to pets that are not mandated by state law.

“Research shows that one unaltered dog can be responsible for 16 births in one year, so we need to stop homeless animals from ending up at the door of the county shelter, by stopping unwanted births before they happen. This can only happen through spay and neutering,” said Andrea Katsenes, Friends of Animal Care & Control Board Member. “A world with empty shelters is our vision of the future.”

To help support the county programs funded by the Friends of Animal Care & Control or for additional information, please visit [www.AzFACCS.org](http://www.AzFACCS.org)

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**FACC’s – Friends of Animal Care & Control is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the non-mandated programs of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. For more information, visit [www.azfaccs.org](http://www.azfaccs.org).**