

## PIMA County Animal Protection LAWS:

[https://webcms.pima.gov/community/animal\\_care/animal\\_protection\\_services/](https://webcms.pima.gov/community/animal_care/animal_protection_services/)

Unlike dogs, cats are protected by law and are free to roam meaning they might go into other people's gardens or allotments. Otherwise, cats enjoy and deserve the same protection under Arizona's laws that covers dogs -- as well as other domestic animals, including livestock and exotic pets. However, there are very specific laws in regards to what can and cannot be done by those who wish to deter pet cats from those areas.

### Trapping & Dumping Cats (or Any Animal) Is ILLEGAL!!

We regularly receive reports from people concerned that neighbors are trapping cats and dumping them in another area. This is actually considered animal "abandonment" and is ILLEGAL in the state of Arizona. [Arizona Criminal Code § 13-2910]

*Pet cats, and even feral cats, are covered by Arizona Statute ARS 13-2910 A-1, which states that, "A person commits cruelty to animals if the person does any of the following: 1. Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly subjects any animal under the person's custody or control to cruel neglect or abandonment. Persons violating this Statute are guilty of animal cruelty. It's illegal to abandon an animal, whether by dumping it in a public place or leaving it anywhere without providing for its needs.*

It is illegal to trap a pet cat, even if it is on your property. Also, if you know it is a pet, warn your neighbor that you plan to trap their cat if they refuse to control it.

Intentionally poisoning a cat is a felony in Arizona. [Arizona Criminal Code § 13-2910]

### What to Do About Animal Cruelty

If you see or suspect that someone is mistreating animals, **contact PIMA ANIMAL CARE PROTECTION 520-724-5900 (option 4)**; agents have the authority to investigate complaints and even seize animals that are being abused. Please note, not all police officers are aware that this is illegal and are not all informed the statute mentioned above so if you call 911 and report someone doing this, and are told that it is ok or that is legal, then you have the right to advocate for the animals and tell the officer that it's ILLEGAL per Arizona Statute ARS 13-2910 A-1. However, **PACC knows it's illegal and you won't have trouble reporting it PACC or the Animal Cruelty Taskforce. (can be anonymous)**

- 911 (if emergency animal situation)
- PIMA Animal Care Center (PACC) 520-724-5900 (4000 N Silverbell Rd, Tucson 85745)
- Animal Cruelty Taskforce: 520-547-0620
- PIMA Sheriff 520-352-4600 (general reporting)
- LOST OR FOUND PETS: <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/one.aspx?objectId=995>