

September 17, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HSSA preps for severe weather problems

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona is preparing for a worse-case scenario as severe weather rolls through Tucson.

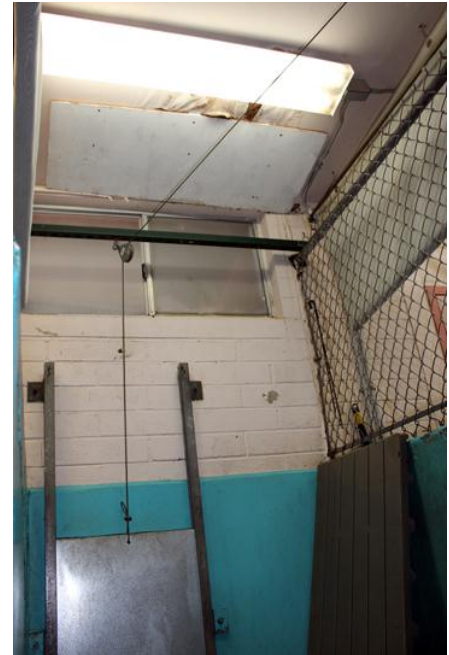
The organization's main campus at 3450 N. Kelvin Blvd. abuts the Rillito, and while there is a possibility of flooding, a larger concern is the stability of the buildings on site housing more than 250 pets. Even during a typical monsoon, there can be leaks throughout the main building, which is about 50 years old. The potential damage from the forecasted 5 inches of rain is in large part the cause of concern.

"We have seen water run down the walls inside the building," says CEO Maureen O'Neil. "Some of those areas that leak house electronic equipment, and there are several dog kennels that puddle every time it rains. Given the age of the building and the possibility of weakened structures, we have to be ready to move these animals out at a moment's notice."

HSSA staff is preparing an evacuation area in the HSSA's Companions for Life Center, a large prefab building around the corner from the main campus at 3465 E. Kleindale. Temporary kennels are being set up for hundreds of cats and dogs – some still being treated for ringworm or upper respiratory infections.



A leaky ceiling in closet that stores computer equipment may not withstand the predicted heavy rain. The closet is between the front lobbies.



Leaks around light fixtures in dog kennels have the potential to be deadly. Dogs in this kennel have already been moved.

The HSSA will be closed today and tomorrow, Sept. 17 and 18, for adoptions and admissions as staff focuses efforts on the care and safety of the pets on site. The HSSA Low-cost Spay & Neuter will also be closed tomorrow.

Offsite adoption locations, including both PAWSH stores at Park Place and La Encantada and the three PetSmart locations will be open. For locations visit hssaz.org.