



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 8, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Snuggles or Sargeant Snuggles**

I believe that over the last few weeks your office has received communications from individuals concerned about the care of Sargeant Snuggles, a dog involved in an attack of a local woman. Attached please find a summary of the situation from Pima Animal Care Center Director Steve Kozachik.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact Director Kozachik.

JKL/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Steve Kozachik, Director, Pima Animal Care Center



4000 N Silverbell
Tucson, Arizona 85745

June 6, 2026

From: Steve Kozachik
Director, Pima Animal Care Center

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Steve Kozachik", is written over the typed name and title.

To: Jan Leshar, County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Evans, County Communications Director

RE: Sargeant Snuggles; dog attack

In October, 2025 TFD called requesting assistance in a case involving a dog attack on a 68 year old woman. The dog is named Sargeant Snuggles and has become the focus of significant social media interest. Given the level of interest exhibited by the community, largely based on inaccurate representations being made surrounding the nature of the case, this memo is offered to provide an accurate account of the case.

The Incident

Snuggles is a large male 110 pound Anatolian Shepherd. On October 7, 2025 Tucson Fire radioed PACC for assistance addressing an attack involving Snuggles and a family member. The family member had been carrying another family pet past Snuggles into their front yard for breaks. Snuggles was being maintained by the family on a tie-out, violating Pima County Code. The victim had passed Snuggles several times, petting him on the head and calling him a 'good boy.' On her final trip past the dog he latched onto her left arm biting her several times, knocking her to the ground while continuing the attack. The victim was eventually able to use the tie-out to roll out of the dog's grasp.

The narrative being shared on social media is that the victim had startled Snuggles, thus provoking the attack. In fact there had been several interactions with the dog preceding the attack.

The Injuries

The attack resulted in significant injuries to the family member. Those injuries included severe facial lacerations, lacerations to her scalp, arm, leg and groin area. Tucson Fire transported the victim to the hospital for treatment. Treatment included multiple stitches and staples to various parts of the victim's body and plastic surgery to repair serious scalp wounds.

The narrative being shared on social media is that the attack constituted a "minor bite."

The Victim Statement

After she had recovered sufficiently to be interviewed, PACC officers visited the victim in the hospital. During the interview the victim stated that she "did not want to be around Snuggles anymore," the "she would not return to the house if Snuggles returned," and that "she worried for the kids' safety if Snuggles returned."

The narrative being shared on social media is that the victim joins the family in wanting Snuggles back in the home.

The Legal Process

In the initial order-to-show-cause hearing held on 11/24/25, Tucson City Court found Snuggles to be *vicious and ordered him to be forfeited to PACC for euthanasia*.

The owners appealed the initial ruling to Superior Court. On 3/26/26 Superior Court denied the petition by the family stating “this Court cannot find the trial court abused its discretion in issuing its ruling in this case. The Court’s findings were adequate, met the requirements of the code, and were supported by the evidence in the record. (Underlined added.)

On May 1 the Superior Court issued an order for a bond of \$11,000 to be paid within 10 days in order to file another appeal. PACC urged for a reduction in the bond amount but that was not allowed by the Court. On 5/13/26 the owner paid the bond.

Briefs for the appeal are due on June 22, 2026. Following submission of briefs the State has 20 days to respond.

Summary

Pima Animal Care enforcement staff arrived on the scene of a dog attack on a victim who suffered injuries that involved significant medical interventions. PACC impounded the animal. The family paid an initial bond and appealed to Tucson City Court to have the dog returned to the home. The court declared the dog to be vicious and ordered it to be euthanized. Had the family not continued filing appeals that action would have occurred months ago. Throughout the appeal process false narratives have been spread through social media with the intent of pressuring PACC to release the animal. PACC agrees with Tucson City Court; that is, the dog is vicious and poses a threat to the safety of the public. That position was upheld by Superior Court. The family has appealed one additional time. PACC will continue to follow the legal process and act in accordance with court directives.