



# Community Dog Care Initiative

SUMMER 2016

ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

## Animal Health Unit

The Animal Health Unit is responsible for health monitoring and diagnosis of disease in both wildlife and domestic animals.

The Animal Protection Officer is responsible for investigating concerns of animal abuse and assisting communities in dealing with unwanted dogs in order to protect public safety and promote animal welfare.

## Contact

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## What does this Initiative do?

The Community Dog Care Initiative will give the communities the tools they need to:

- ▶ Reduce the problems created by dogs
- ▶ Improve the care for dogs in Yukon communities

Each Yukon community has different issues and needs. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. The Animal Health Unit will work with each Yukon community to improve dog care and public safety.



## How do we start this in our community?

Community leaders will contact the Animal Health Unit:

- ▶ Submit the request form by fax or email

All community members can contribute by:

- ▶ Participating in a community workshop
- ▶ Developing a plan to address priority concerns
- ▶ Helping put the plan in place
- ▶ Assessing whether the plan is working

## What will the Animal Health Unit do to help?

Arrange to meet with community leaders to:

- ▶ Identify the local issues related to dogs
- ▶ Provide information about potential solutions

Participate in a community meeting to:

- ▶ Support creation of a task team
- ▶ Help create a community-driven action plan

Assist in implementing the action plan by:

- ▶ Identifying funding requirements and potential resources
- ▶ Publishing and promoting actions

Evaluate results and plan for future programming.

## Why did this program start?

The Community Dog Care Initiative came from the 2016 evaluation of a spay and neuter voucher program the Government of Yukon funded from 2013-2015.

Some recommendations from the evaluation were to:

- ▶ Focus on dogs from communities
- ▶ Address the economic burden for people from communities to access veterinary care
- ▶ Build on community networks and leadership
- ▶ Promote a new program widely across Yukon
- ▶ Invest in what will have the most impact
- ▶ Focus on education and communication

The Animal Health Unit is committed to working with community leaders to improve public safety and the care of dogs in Yukon communities.

Options under the Community Dog Care Initiative include:

- ▶ Reducing the number of unwanted dogs in the community
  - Voluntary Surrender Program that places dogs for adoption with Humane Societies
  - Community Dog Spay Project that provides \$250 per spay surgery of one female dog, per owner
  - Hormone injections to prevent females from going into heat
  - Humane euthanasia for sick or aggressive dogs
- ▶ Improving access to veterinary services
  - Provide community clinics through partnerships with veterinarians
  - Improve transportation of dogs to existing veterinary clinics
- ▶ Protecting people from uncontrolled dogs
  - Promote dog registries and responsible dog ownership
  - Support initiatives for collecting stray dogs
  - Identify funding sources for dog holding facilities
  - Assist in developing or applying legislation and bylaws
- ▶ Working together to improve awareness and education
  - Workshops on dog care, housing, socialization and training
  - Promote standards for dog care, reflecting traditional and evolving roles of dogs in the community
  - Develop school partnerships for youth education



*...tracking animal health...*