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Aboriginal Community & Animal Advocacy Connection

First Nation Animal Welfare Team
Helping Communities ~ Healthy Lives Healthy Animals
Not-for-profit, 100% Volunteer Operated
First Nation Founded & Operated 2007

ACAAC serves all First Nations communities who are seeking to implement animal welfare services, and increase health and wellbeing within their communities. ACAAC is a First Nation founded and operated organization that was formed at a grassroots level for the need of animal welfare within First Nations. It was a realization years before of the need to help the animals and since formed in 2007. The focus is awareness, education, advocacy and services for First Nations.

Our organization is extremely dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of dogs and cats, whether owned or unowned. We work to alleviate the suffering of animals, to promote care and compassion, along with improving health for our animals and their wellbeing. Therefore awareness, education, advocacy and services are the primary focus, thereby reducing overpopulation and suffering. Services are sustainable and functionality is achieved through a community based approach. Once overpopulation is achieved, the maintenance stage is easily controlled.

The strategic, long-term objective is to bring communities to a place of maintenance which requires proactive community participation, and being fully integrated within community services. Moreover, public health and safety is increased, where animals and humans live in a more harmonious way.

On a deeper level, the link between the roles of dogs within First Nations is historical. Through awareness and awakening of our link, dogs are restored to their rightful, respective and honourable standing. Therefore, promoting respect and appreciation of our animals to bringing the dog back to their honorable status within First Nations as helpers of our ancestors is acknowledged openly and with pride.


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Strays	Physical Injuries to Dogs	community volunteers;
		Fundraising; Rehoming;
		Feral Cats
		Outcome & Moving Forward

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A PARALLEL

“The parallel that existed between my life and that of the “REZ DOG”.”

- nothing (mustard & flour)
- state of health
- suffering, starvation, nuisance, unwanted, abandoned, kicked away, shoed, shot, poisoned, swerved at, and culls
- we were alike in many ways
- I could identify with the dogs and empathize on a very personal level
- I felt their suffering and wished that they would not have to suffer
- a sense of desperation and urgency always present
- never forgotten
- alone and looked after myself
- not someone else’s responsibility
- neglect and abandonment (dumped)
- marginalization and racism
- there was no equal accessible “on reserve” health care

“In the same way is the state of animals on reserves.”

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A MIRROR REFLECTION

"There is only suffering for the lack of services; which ultimately there is only suffering and death."

- we have been in the same situation
- we have been mirror reflections of each other
- communities are a mirror reflection to the state of animals
- if a community is in poverty so are the animals
- if a child is in poverty, then so is the animal
- if the child goes without food, then so does the animal
- if there are no services for children then there are no services for animals, e.g. medical, sanitation > hygiene
- although there are now some communities with health services, there is still no animal services, resources or infrastructure



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IDENTIFYING WITH THE "REZ DOG"

"When I was a child I was able to identify with the state of the animals, in particular was the "rez dog"."

POVERTY AND FOOD

- days without food
- malnourished and underweight (in combination with poor health due to the lack of veterinary care)
- ongoing search of resources
- mind of poverty through hoarding and guarding (fighting)
- hierarchy
- accustomed (no hunger pangs)
- gorging and gobble



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COLONIZATION AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

THE AFTERMATH

ROLL OF THE DOG


- hunting and sharing (pups were only taken out of the bush for essential purposes)
- companionship to hunters
- protector of hunters and guarding communities
- travel
- Moving (travois)
- ceremony

Unwanted litters > Overpopulated > Displaced > Nuisances

Begging from home to home; learn not to ask, instead simply hope; learn not to outstay; not to trust; being in the way

“Go on! Get out of here!”





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FROM ESSENTIAL TO NUISANCE

“Once respected, the overpopulation of “rez dogs” have been degraded the dog to a mere nuisance. Yet we should be able to respect the dogs and what our ancestors valued for our survival.”

Acknowledging the loss
Striving to regain a system
Giving back to honour the dog

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THE “REZ DOG” EXPERIENCE

“People have simply known it no other way than, “It’s just the way it is.”, because there have never been any solutions. Yet so many want to have the ability to provide for their pets, and to help strays that come to them.”

MARGINALIZED

- some Veterinarians have not wanted to work with rez dogs because they are “sick” or have them around their animal clients
- inaccessible veterinary services; no shelter contracts due to the lack of no specific funding
- multiple births a threat to health of the dog; “Super Breeders” can have 3 litters per year
- Overpopulation (OWNED and UNOWNED)
 - unwanted; poverty; “Just another mouth to feed”
 - culls due to overpopulation; lack of spay and neuter; the number of dogs cause them to be seen as nuisances and dangerous > no funding for animal welfare services*
 - average # 3-6 dogs; some caretakers have had up to 28 strays
 - dogs in danger of being harmed or killed
 - public health and safety issues
 - increased risk of dog bite instances
 - greater risk of dog mauling deaths; Indigenous children are dying across Canada
 - simple human issues such as garbage being ripped apart (bleach!)

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REZ DOG EXPERIENCES

Overpopulation > No Resources No Services > > Starvation > Illness > Extreme Stress > Suffering > Death



Photo ACAAAC
4 adults & 2 pups from one home;
adults w/ congestive heart failure

Photo ACAAAC
Rex was attacked by 2 other dogs;
3 days without veterinary care;
major blood loss

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REZ DOG EXPERIENCES

No accessible or affordable services > Illness > Injuries > Suffering > Death



Photo ACAAAC
Max had heartworm disease;
5 buck shots > picked up as a stray



Photo ACAAAC
Champ had heartworm disease;
3 buck shots; hit by car > 2 years with leg extended straight out
In front with paw bent after being hit > eventually surrendered



Photo ACAAAC
Coco was a beautiful Gentle dog that was apprehensive of people; shot and killed by police

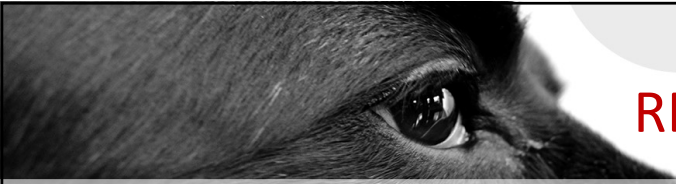


Photo ACAAAC
Bear was shot by a man that is know to shoot dogs since I was a child; she had her leg amputated



Photo ACAAAC
Gurl was a stray that Was poisoned with Deliberately poisoned with slug bait (Metaldehyde).
Once the symptoms began she suffered immensely for 3 hours before she was shot. The police would not intervene. Eventually a community member came to help the caretaker.
With PTSD this was additional trauma.

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REZ DOG EXPERIENCES

"Reserves have been known as dumping grounds for dogs, just like those that dump and burn cars on the rez."




Photo ACAAAC
Zoe was hit by car > surrendered; leg amputated




Photo ACAAAC
Precious, HW 10 litres of fluid drained, in addition to more




Photo ACAAAC
Charlie was dumped on the rez; he had HW and nearly died




Photo ACAAAC
Molly and Daisy were seen being dumped from a SUV; they both carried the blanket that was thrown out with them like trash



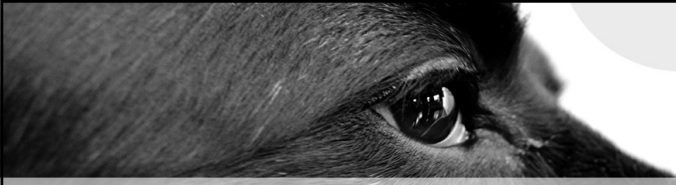


Photo ACAAAC
Wile Coyote was surrendered; owner claimed he was a stray at his home for 2 years

He died while still in my care; during surgery 3 goose egg sized fur balls were found in his intestines, in addition to sticks and pebbles; the intestines were like leather; he eventually bloated



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EXPOSURE & RISKS

- extreme temperatures; no protection from extreme elements
- weight loss (loss of appetite; exhausted and depleted energy source; unable to maintain body heat ;
- poor body score especially after winter > skinny to emaciated
- hypothermia , frost bite and frozen to death
- heat exhaustion and heat stroke; dehydration; trouble breathing; collapsing; excessive panting; thick drool
- upper respiratory infection (pneumonia)
- skin infections, hair loss; fungal infections; fleas, ticks, ear mites, sarcoptic mange, demodex, dermatitis
- burned paws; ears burned (flies and maggots)
- deadly bee stings to inside of throat
- attacks from other dogs (broken jaw, torn tongue, infection, arthritis; some die due to untreated
- infection and blood loss)
- being hit by cars have resulted in amputations or simply living with the pain
- being shot with no veterinary care; many surrendered dogs have shown numerous buckshot in x-rays;
- others simply survive or death
- diseases, rabies, parvo, distemper; parasites
- heartworm disease is rampant on reserves with the exception of the far northern regions





Photo from assistance request for treatment: pregnancies; untreated pyometra; numerous unwanted litters lead to pups roaming, becoming strays; starvation; death


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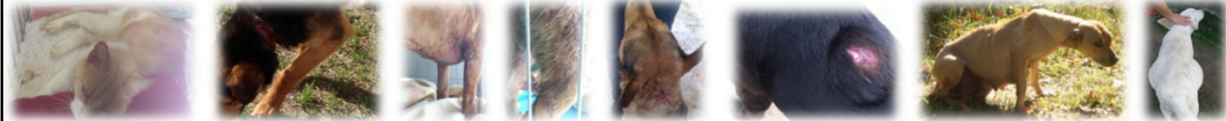
EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

LACK OF (AFFORDABLE) ACCESSIBLE SERVICES AND RESOURCES

- suffering; severe distress; excruciatingly painful; dying from heartworm disease e.g. "Precious", 10 litres of fluid plus more draining
- emergencies and human PTSD
- many instances of community members being extremely desperate, "GURL"
- without any solution except shooting the dog
- easily treatable infections result in severe suffering, ex. flea allergy
- untreated; days without treatment, e.g. "REX"; many never receive treatment, for example, "CHAMP"
- lack of transportation; many without vehicles due to poverty; inaccessibility; 12 km (15 minute) from Kettle Point to Forest Veterinary Clinic may as well be 100 km away
- no shelter contracts to take strays or unwanted dogs or cats; federal funds > INDIAN ACT > no animal welfare
- without any solution except shooting



LIZZY discarded like a car on the Rez



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2020 THIS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING

"The lack of equally accessible "on reserve" affordable services for marginalized communities is an absolute need not a luxury, otherwise it means immense suffering and eventual premature death."

- no veterinary clinics, hospitals or exempt ions and accredited mobile units
- red tape – codes and regulations that are barriers
- injuries and health risks (most prevalent is heartworm in many areas)
- hit by cars, injuries from fighting, being shot or poisoned
- neglect and abandonment
- ignore, turn a blind eye, and became defeated (residential school intergenerational impact)
- people stopped asking for help
- complete poverty and poor state of animal welfare
- one can only watch animals suffer
- people attempt to help the starving, sick and injured
- harm and intimidation pressed upon the unwanted
- both communities and animals have been excluded and forgotten

"We were never included in the progression of animal welfare."

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IMAGINE THIS

....being a dog that becomes a "Super Breeder", with 3 litters per year, having just over a month between weaning and your next heat cycle?

"SUPER BREEDER AIMEE"

- the first dog that I started to work with in 2007 that came into my care in 2010
- had approximately 120 to 129 pups in total between 2005 to 2010!



Aimee was only 1 of 1000s of SUPER BREEDERS across Canada within Indigenous Communities

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IMAGINE THIS

- Aimee was 1.5 years old when I started working with her
- it is assumed that in the first 1.5 years she had 3 litters at approximately 10-11 pups per litter; that is 30 pups!
- there were 3 more years from 2007 to 2010 before Aim into care, with 3 litters per year! Aimee was now a "Super Breeder"
- average 10-11 pups per litter = 30 to 33 pups per year x 3 years; that is 90 to 99 pups!; add the first 30 pups and that totals 120 to 129 pups total!
- Aimee was 4.5 years old before being spayed after coming into care
- most pups died before making it into care but those that survived went into rescue care



- Aim gave birth for the last time in my home
- all her pups born outside before surrender, including during the winter months
- many died of exposure or disease before making it to rescue, and some drowned in a hole under the porch; prior some were found in a ditch; it's assumed that some wandered off to become strays



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OVERPOPULATION

Photos ACAAC: Overpopulation > intact females with no accessible and affordable services have numerous litters; many pups wander off; become strays; many die; for those that survive they die before 2 years old



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Escaping a Life of Solitary Confinement vs. FREE ROAMING POPULATION (not just strays)

Preserving the free roaming "rez dog" is historical (some refer to it as cultural) and natural, yet with it has pros and cons vs. the chained dog existence.



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ESCAPING A LIFE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

"When people finally decide to rehome a dog after years of chaining, it can be too late; which rescues and shelters may not be able to accommodate severe behavioral problems > euthanasia"

Tethered Dogs Maybe Subjected to Neglect (on or off reserve dogs)

- behavioral problems, boredom, loneliness, lack of human companionship, chronic barking, digging, licking of feet, legs and underside, running away, and eating foreign debris
- suffer from irregular feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate to no veterinary care (a given for the majority of Indigenous communities across Canada, regardless of the nearest veterinary clinic) and extreme temperatures
- many with no access to shelter, especially chained dogs
- during periods of extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun
- owners who chain their dogs are less likely to clean the area of confinement, causing the dogs to eat and sleep in an area contaminated with urine and feces
- neurotic behavior makes them difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely given even minimal affection
- tethered dogs may become "part of the scenery", "lawn ornaments" and can be easily ignored by their owners

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/chaining-and-tethering-dogs-faq>

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ESCAPING A LIFE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Higher Risk of Injuries and Long-term Damage (on or off reserve dogs)

- common for continuously tethered dogs to endure physical ailments as a result of being continuously tethered necks can become raw and sore, infected, and their collars can painfully grow into their skin vulnerable to insect bites and parasites
- high risk of entanglement, strangulation
- harassment or attacks by other dogs, children or people (an issue that has come up over the years)
- <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/chaining-and-tethering-dogs-faq>



"Storm and Blaze were chains were positioned so they were unable to reach the water source that was filled with green stagnant water."



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Free Roaming Population

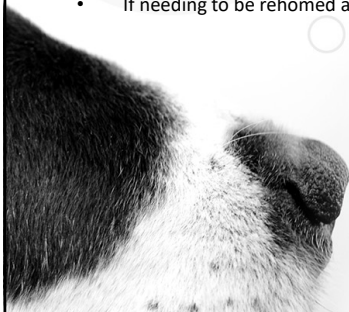
PRESERVATION OF THE FREE ROAMING "REZ DOG"

PROS

- natural behaviour > fit > dog behaviour between dogs > better mental health vs. chaining and can include housebound dogs
- freedom to choose where to go > who to hang with, such as other dogs > who they want to visit, such as humans
- able to find shelter, food and water (not always the case)
- community dogs are taken care of by multiple people and their wellbeing is taken into consideration by numerous caretakers
- decide their own routine
- there are instances when dogs choose their own family and including to leave the other behind
- If needing to be rehomed as indoor dogs, they are less likely to have accidents because they do not relate inside as their washroom

CONS

- injuries, including being hit by cars, being shot, abused > families may not find out until days later
- if unvaccinated then more risk of disease; greater risk of illnesses and parasites
- dog fights, including males fighting over intact females > become injured or killed
- intact females get injured or killed by intact males when they fight over the female
- younger dogs, like pups, getting lost
- if gone for days they may not get fed; malnourished
- public health and safety risks > packing; bites and mauling deaths > yet most well socialized



*"Chaining dogs are not our ways.
It's unnatural and cruel."*

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The Five Freedoms of Companion Animals

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
2. Freedom from Discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4. Freedom to Express Normal Behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
5. Freedom from Fear and Distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

Canadian Advisory Council on National Shelter Standards

(Farm Animal Welfare Council 2009)

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/canadian-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121010012427/http://www.fawc.org.uk/freedoms.htm>

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The Five Domains Model

Physical/Functional Domains

Survival-Related Factors

1. Nutrition
2. Environment
3. Health

Situation-Related Factors

4. Behaviour

Affective Experience Domain

5. Mental State

Physical/Functional Domains							
Survival-Related Factors				Situation-Related Factors			
1: Nutrition		2: Environment		3: Health		4: Behaviour	
<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>
Restricted water & food; poor food quality	Enough water & food; balanced and varied diet	Uncomfortable or unpleasant physical features of environment	Physical environment comfortable or pleasant	Disease, injury and/or functional impairment	Healthy, fit and/or uninjured	Behavioural expression restricted	Able to express rewarding behaviours
Affective Experience Domains							
5: Mental State							
<i>Negative Experiences</i>				<i>Positive Experiences</i>			
Thirst	Breathlessness	Anger, frustration	Drinking pleasures	Vigour of good health & fitness	Calmness, in control		
Hunger	Pain	Boredom, helplessness	Taste pleasures	Reward	Affectionate sociability		
Malnutrition malaise	Debility, weakness	Loneliness, depression	Cheating pleasures	Satiety	Excited playfulness		
Chilling/overheating	Nausea, sickness	Anxiety, fearfulness	Physical comforts	Goal-directed engagement	Sexually gratified		
Hearing discomfort	Dizziness	Panic, exhaustion					
Welfare Status							

The Five Domains of Potential Welfare. The first four Domains are predominantly physical/functional, and the last, mental state, represents the overall experience of the animal, i.e. its welfare status.

<https://heatherclemenceau.wordpress.com/2016/07/15/three-concepts-the-five-freedoms-five-domains-fd-and-quality-of-life-qol-as-tools-for-the-analysis-of-animal-welfare/amp/>

<http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/6/3/21/htm>

<https://www.companionanimalpsychology.com/2017/01/the-five-domains-model-aims-to-help.html?m=1>

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COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

"Communities without affordable and accessible veterinary care and other essential animal welfare services greatly impact First Nation communities as a whole; negative effects overshadow positive experiences; in turn the human experience with dogs is much different than off reserve, including the life experience for the "Rez Dog"."



GETTING STARTED

Awareness

- curiosity, yet apprehension in the beginning
- gradual acceptance to fully embracing the benefits
- lead by the community
- word of mouth (like oral tradition)
- one good experience to another
- one bad experience is shared with many more
- good experiences > others join in and spread the word
- regardless of great need, still apprehension (trust, that could be attributed to by residential school impacts)
- measure by comfort level
- overall a community embraces or disapproves
- make or break
- back to the drawing board
- unknown territory brings some reluctance
- paced evolution at a grassroots level dependant upon people

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GRASSROOTS

A NEW CONCEPT

Everything must work simultaneously and in tandem

- awareness (door to door discussion, learning about the needs of pets, pet food donations)
- "Animal Awareness Week "(schools)
- animal awareness events (community events, seminars, including milestones, i.e. Rez Pet Fest)
- animal welfare advocacy > needed to help find resources and services > seek out help
- animal welfare committee
- practical learning, e.g. "Straw Day " > adults attend > in turn they take items home, therefore parents teach their children
- rehoming > transporting surrendered cats and dogs
 - housing pet policies > for satisfy the housing department, yet meet the needs of renters
 - education and filling the gap to meet needs (basic needs, emergency funds to keep pets with their families
 - veterinary wellness, plus spay and neuter, emergency assistance, euthanasia assistance
 - pet first aid training and CPR after hour care > training for community volunteers provided by a partner clinic
 - before bylaws and enforcement, communities need the above, otherwise it sets up a community for potential failure > cooperation, want, need > enforcement, including cruelty to animals



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IS IT INTENTIONAL CRUELTY?

ABUSE/NEGLECT/ABANDONMENT


PERCEPTION OR MISPERCEPTION

- poverty and marginalized communities
- never had any sort of animal welfare knowledge, resources or services, without animal welfare of any kind
- cannot afford pet food or shelter
- no infrastructure
- no funding
- no accessible or affordable clinics for marginalized population
- no veterinary wellness
- no spay and neuter
- overpopulation (OWNED and UNOWNED)
- dog bites, mauling deaths (mainly of children)
> culling dogs > cannot afford to euthanize numerous dogs
- no bylaws/funding for training/enforcement, including for cruelty investigations
- no shelter contracts or ngo's to help, including ethical/reputable rescue groups
- along comes unethical rescues > pointing fingers > attempting to petition the government to stop culls > create stigma > perpetuate racism > adds to the already existent systemic racism





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IS IT INTENTIONAL CRUELTY?

ABUSE/NEGLECT/ABANDONMENT

CHILDREN THAT WITNESS ABUSE TO ANIMALS (whether intentional or not)

CRUELTY > ABUSE & NEGLECT

- potentially leads to domestic violence
- potentially leads to repeated behaviour of cruelty
- potentially leads to delinquency and anti-social behaviour
- potentially leads to incarceration
- potentially leads to addictions

A STATE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

LACK OF RESOURCES AND SERVICES > CREATES POVERTY > STRESS IN THE HOME > MARRIAGE BREAK DOWN > IMPACTS CHILDREN > AFFECTS BEHAVIOUR AND LEARNING, i.e. MEMORY, DISABILITIES, DIFFICULTY IN SCHOOL > CREATES A VICIOUS CYCLE OF POVERTY

- although animal welfare is only one aspect of a lack of resources and services, it adds to the cycle of poverty and their effects within communities
- the lack of resources and services is also a contributing factor to domestic violence, cruelty, delinquency, incarceration, addictions

"Help to provide options and solutions as a form of reconciliation with Indigenous people; which will at least alleviate some of the burden of what is happening and also help the animals."

"Let the people lead the direction since they know what speaks to the community members the best and what will work."

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PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

*"The bigger picture.
It's deeper than a
dog bite."*



- **residential schools** created "intergenerational impacts", which includes "intergenerational trauma", and a vicious cycle of **Complex (Chronic) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (C-PTSD)**
- the psychological impacts of **witnessing animal suffer** adds to the rampant legacy of residential school intergenerational trauma and C-PTSD (e.g. caretaker of "Gurl") > it perpetuates trauma
- trauma can be created by the experience of **hopelessness and helplessness** in extreme situations, such as animals suffering with no solutions or options
- with additional stressors such as poverty, marginalization, stereotyping that leads to discrimination, systemic racism, structural racism, on top of trauma, it causes a sense of hopelessness and helplessness for community members > trauma cycle
- **structural racism** that is lead by **systemic racism** even reaches to the rez dog, because they are within Indigenous communities > it is entrenched within the body of the government > e.g. Indian Act > fiduciary responsibility > no funding
- these issues also prevent animal welfare resources and services from flowing into Indigenous communities

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PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

*"Ultimately, all of
this impacts the
animals and the
children."*



- it creates a sense of hopelessness and helplessness with the inability to provide for a **pet's basic needs** and the inaccessible veterinary care (not just meaning on reserve services but as in out of reach > affordability > a society living in poverty)
- people turn a blind eye and numb themselves to the suffering > intergenerational impact > because there are no options or solutions within their grasp
- animal emergencies and the inability to meet basic needs can create an ever present sense urgency (hypervigilance) > another symptom of trauma > keeps people in the state of trauma
- many pet owners will sooner feed their pet than themselves so the pet does not suffer; they will go without in order to afford veterinary care so that their pet does not suffer, yet many barely get by and struggle to feed themselves > people surrender pets based upon poverty to which they had no control over > born into social stratification
- the historical inequality across Canada concerning Indigenous people also affects "rez dogs" (owned or unowned)
- Indigenous communities have been excluded in the development of animal welfare, resources, plus affordable and accessible services > therefore, even if people want to provide, the system makes it impossible for many

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HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

HEALING

- increase the human-animal bond (attachment theory) to help heal what was lost > emotional bonding > empathy outside of ourselves helps to heal our trauma
- the loss that children endured from being separated from their parents in residential schools
- the caregiver-infant relationship that was lost
- the parenting that was stolen along with the children because of residential school
- Indigenous peoples have always been known to be caretakers of land, water and animals, yet due to colonization and residential schools, the relations with the dog were altered and severed in some cases
- children would have learned respect, empathy and compassion through their parents, towards the dogs that worked along side of Indigenous communities for survival

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HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

Attachment or social bonding can have a positive influence on the psychological and physiological aspects of human beings; the degree of attachment that humans have toward dogs, is linked to human health, wellbeing, and the development of positive feelings.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1468-5884.2009.00402.x>

An attachment bond is a close, emotional relationship between two individuals. The dog-human dyad is believed to involve attachment bonds similar to those that characterize human caregiver–infant relationships. Dogs have shown behaviors indicative of an attachment relationship, defined according to Bowlby.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4348122>

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DOG BITES & MAULING DEATHS

A search of the CBC archives yielded 11 dog mauling deaths January 1998 and April 2007 in Canada. This rate is in general agreement with published Canadian dog mauling death rates. All of these deaths were in children under eight-years-old and seven occurred in Inuit or First Nation communities. When adjusted for on-reserve populations, **children living on-reserve were 180 times more likely to be killed by a dog** than children living off-reserve. While it can not be assumed that dog biting incidents are equally disproportionate in their representation within Nation communities, it can be assumed that they are very high and of significant public health concern. Unconfirmed reports place **on-reserve dog bite incidents 20-200 times above those in the rest of Canada**. Dog bites and mauling deaths are a public health crisis in progress!

<http://caid.ca/Ddog.html#dog-bites>

THE FOLLOWING SLIDES ARE SUMMARIES TAKE FROM

FATAL DOG ATTACKS CANADA

Last updated: March 17, 2018 by ACAAAC
PP doc available in PDF format

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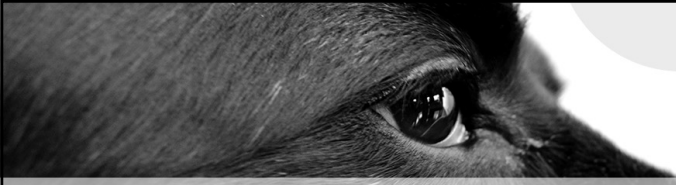
FATAL DOG ATTACKS CANADA

These things are what caused the deaths of the children in particular, not what type of dog was involved.

<http://www.chicobandido.com/dbrf-canada/>

Summaries:			Breed of Dog (# Attacks):			Breed of Dog (# Dogs):		
# of Attacks	42		Husky	10.5	25%	Unknown Mix	65	50%
# of Victims	43		Unknown Mix (northern dogs)	10.1	24%	Unknown Mix (northern dogs)		
# of Dogs	130		German Shepherd	4.7	11%	Husky	19.5	15%
# of Attacks > 1 dog	24	57%	Rottweiler	3.95	9%	Sled Dog	10	8%
# of Attacks > 2 dogs	15	36%	Sled Dog	3	7%	German Shepherd	9.5	7%
# of deaths not from bites	1	2%	AmStaff/Pit Bull	1	2%	Rottweiler	9.5	7%
Victim's Age:			Labrador	1	2%	Labrador	5	4%
0-2	11	26%	Bullmastiff	1	2%	AmStaff/Pit Bull	2	2%
3-Mar	15	36%	Chow Chow	1	2%	Malamute	2	2%
4-Jun	10	23%	Labrador	1	2%	Border Collie	1	1%
7-16	0	0%	Malamute	1	2%	Bullmastiff	1	1%
17+	7	16%	Maremma Sheepdog	1	2%	Chow Chow	1	1%
Dog Location:			Mixed Breed	1	2%	Maremma Sheepdog	1	1%
Home	14	33%	Unconfirmed	1	2%	Mixed Breed	1	1%
Relative	6	14%	Collie	0.5	1%	Unconfirmed	1	1%
Neighbour	8	19%	Jack Russell	0.5	1%	Collie	0.5	1%
Loose	14	33%	Wolf	0.5	1%	Jack Russell	0.5	1%
			Border Collie	0.25	1%	Wolf	0.5	1%

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FATAL DOG ATTACKS CANADA

“From 1964 to 2017, the majority of fatal dog attacks occurred within Indigenous communities.”

Chaining					
# of chained dog instances	16	# chain dogs involved	32	% of chained dog instances compared to total # of instances	28%
Total of	57	Total # of dogs	158	% of chained dogs involved compared to total # of dogs	20%

The conclusions from the details are:

A secure enclosure for all dogs loose in their yards would have prevented 31 incidences (74%).
 Supervising young children (too young to be on their own), without knowing there was going to be a dog involved, would have prevented 26 incidences (63%).
 Supervising a known interaction between a child and a dog would have prevented 10 incidences (24%).
 Having secure enclosures for all dogs and supervising all children would have prevented 36 incidences (88%).

NOTE: It is probably that more # of chained dog instances occurred. Some details are missing whether dogs were chained or not, such as in sleddogs, in back yards. In addition, the # of (chained) dogs involved maybe less; the example of the number of dogs within “packs” is not verified

NOTE: Breed identifications were obtained almost exclusively from media sources. Not attempt was made to verify breed identifications or the participation of individual dogs in multiple dog attacks.

REFERENCES
 Compiled by: Karen Delise, Director of Research, National Canine Research Council
www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com
<http://supportersheysbill.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/FDA-Canada-K9-Dealth1.pdf>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatal_dog_attacks_in_Canada
<http://www.chicobandido.com/dbrf-canada/>

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BARRIERS


“Why do they have dogs if they can’t afford them?”

Dogs have always existed in North America and were only taken from the bush for essential purposes to assist Indigenous people to survive. It is simply not about people acquiring a pet.

Dogs have always been within our Nations. It is the issue of the lack of (affordable and accessible) resources and services that there is now overpopulation problems, in addition to other factors, including some people that believe a dog should have at least one litter, some believe it is unnatural to fix an animal, but more so, society tampering with breeds, colonization, forced assimilation (trinkets > gifts > to even replacing the original dogs of North America) > dogs are historical in Indigenous communities and have become part of our culture > the rez dog is like our mascot now.

“WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?”
“WHY ARE THINGS THE WAY THERE ARE?”
RESEARCHED

- lack of animal welfare and veterinary infrastructure
- Federal government **claims no fiduciary responsibility** > **INDIAN ACT** > that Indigenous people’s have the right to protect their resources; which includes wildlife > dogs and cats fall under wildlife or resources on reserves
- **lack of funds** (no specific funding through the government)
- The federal government dictates where funds are to be used > nonexistent for animal welfare
- **NOTE:** Indigenous people do not live off of taxes; Indigenous peoples have a **trust fund** through **resource sharing (TREATIES)** but it is controlled by the federal government
- NGO provincially legislated codes and regulations that prevent advancement of veterinary medicine within Indigenous > exclusion > discriminatory > no consultation > no free prior informed consent with matters that affect Indigenous communities > overpopulation > child deaths
- inaccessible and affordable services > many people on reserves do not have transportation, much less even a phone or money to meet their basic needs



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SERVICES, RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

VETERINARY CLINICS

- KSP off reserve spay/neuter 2010-2014
- KSP on reserve spring wellness Clinics 2012-2020; WI 2016-2020; Oneida 2018-2019
- KSP on reserve spay/neuter & wellness clinics 2015-2020; WI 2015-2020; Aamjiwnaang 2015-2020; DN 2015


HUMANE SOCIETIES

- include local reserves within mission and form partnerships
- **pet food donations** (greatly needed on reserves)
- **dog houses and cat shelters**
- **shelter for surrendered pets and strays** (dogs and cats) > accommodate communities that do not have any funds
- **assistance to spay/neuter feral cats** (there are many feral colonies on reserves now; this was nonexistent in the 70s)



"Charming" A stray URI

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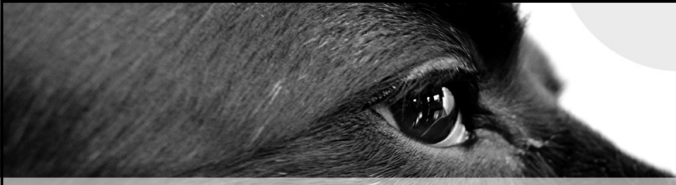


SERVICES, RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

HUMANE SOCIETIES

- assist with bylaw writing (reserve bylaws are federal and supersede provincial laws)
- a bylaw could be written to coincide with the PAWS Act
- bylaw as a soft introduction > must come after awareness and progress of animal welfare
- although PAWS Act/Inspectors are now separate from Humane Societies, advocacy for partnerships between government and Indigenous communities, to provide training for on reserve bylaw officers (tribal officer) > reserves may adopt the PAWS Act and enforce, or enforcement assistance if requested; training for police officers regarding the PAWS Act
- emergency services and euthanasia (OVC COC e.g. emergency pet funds from clinics); euthanasia assistance to reserves
- assist communities with development of animal welfare (let the community lead the direction)
- sponsorship during on reserve clinics for homes with multiple pets and people living below the poverty level or close to
- fundraising for emergencies and euthanasia

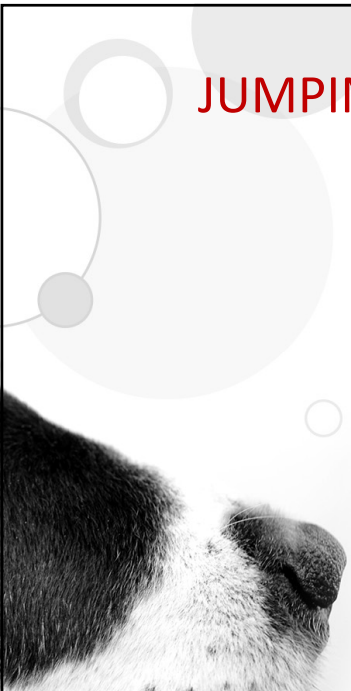
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RECONCILIATION

- CVO
 - address legal red tape that create barriers for First Nations to have equal access “on reserve” services
- Veterinary Oath to include Indigenous communities
- Inclusion
- Respect
- First Nation Law (bylaws are federal; supersede provincial laws)
- **Sovereign Nations** > controlled by the INDIAN ACT > not animal welfare funding)
- **Duty to Consult** (legality > anything that impacts Indigenous communities)
- **Free Prior Informed Consent** (legality > anything that impacts Indigenous communities)

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JUMPING ON THE BAND WAGON

- trend
 - Rescue Groups
 - NGO's
- What are your intentions?
- respectful > issues with unethical animal welfare groups
- proper etiquette
- reconciliation > non-existent with some animal welfare groups
- research and be informed about the Nation (we are many Nations, with many languages and dialects)
- basic knowledge > culture within the Nation
- **long-term commitment**
- not just a photo op
- as far as having non-Natives exploiting services

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ETHICAL/REPUTABLE RESCUE GROUPS & PROFESSIONALISM

"Working with rescue groups that spay females when litters are surrendered."

"PROPER ETIQUETTE"

- works with a band member (on or off rez) contact for surrenders
- address Chief and Council
- **Duty to Consult**
- **Free Prior Informed Consent**
- proposal of intent
- request permission
- a need for bands to regulate rescue groups
- fully integrate
- Contract (including stipulation that if a dog was mistaken taken as a stray but is owned, the rescue must return the dog upon request (bylaw required > federal law))
- Procedures
 - coming onto reserves
 - check-in
 - ID card (proof of authorization from band administration)
 - surrenders (signed by band member, submit a copy of the signed form to band office, police station, or Animal Control Officer (Tribal Officer))

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NON-REGULATED: RESCUE GROUPS

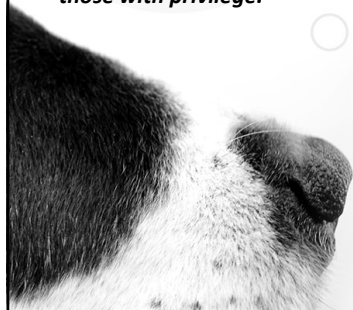
ISSUES WHEN WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- no accountability
- no code of conduct
- lacking standards > adoption process > screening > background check > fully vetted, fixed and treated
- bands not receiving signed surrender forms
- no contract with rescue groups > no return policy
- many POP-UP Rescues > anyone can call themselves a rescue group

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UNETHICAL POP-UP RESCUES

"Not having the financial ability to meet the needs of your pet does not equate people living in poverty do not love their pets less than those with privilege."



EXAMPLES OF RACISM TOWARDS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND WHOLE COMMUNITIES

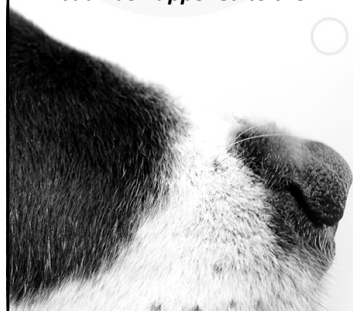
- saving the dogs from the Indian mentality > **racially motivated**
- using a band member as their **"Token Indian"** > rescue groups and animal welfare NGO's
- Steering > agenda > ulterior motive > using Indigenous people to legitimize and push policies
- stereotyping; blatant racism; covert racism
- **sneaky; manipulative; underhanded** > holding something over your head > spay > charging more than initial amount > "I won't take one unless I get them all"
- go to great measures to get foot in the door > imposing > leads to thefts > no accountability > this includes clinic involvement > accessing community pets
- **degrading** > talking down to > underhanded activity > animal expert attitude; **"gods of the dogs"** > you possible could not know how to look after your pet properly
- finger pointing; creating stereotypes; **causing/perpetuating racism**
- e.g. planting money
- e.g. stereotyping (e.g. alcoholism; "Be careful"; "_____ is so happy you're doing intake...because they are all so rude")
- e.g. a picture speaks a 1000s words > public

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REZ DOG THEFT

"Do not just assume a rescue group is ethical Just because other rescues see them as reputable."

"Rescue circles support each other when nothing bad has happened to them."



EXAMPLES OF RACISM TOWARDS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND WHOLE COMMUNITIES

- taking uninvolved individuals or groups for the ride
- uninvited > "you're neglectful" > knife > senior
- witch hunts (out to get you; they can do no wrong)
- planting seeds in the media (lies, photos, situations with no context, explanation or knowledge; including **culls**)
- Indian expert attitude (especially when they are speaking with an Indigenous person); **TOKEN INDIAN**; using Indigenous to legitimize their initiative (pulling the wool over Indigenous organizations eyes by saying it was Indigenous lead)
- using "proof of ownership" as a means to keep a family from their pet > reserves have their own ways of who has ownership of a dog > it's not necessarily microchips, veterinary records, or photos
- imposing their beliefs > forced assimilation
- spying on dogs > harassing owner > accusations
- self inviting to a reserve > just start to do what they like

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REZ DOG THEFT

“There are some rescue groups that I will never work with or invite into a community; including some that other rescues and the public support.”

UNPROFESSIONAL

- have not used proper etiquette
- **picking up dogs along the road > assuming all are strays** because they are roaming > approaching homes (have not been called to attend)
- for the wrong reasons > pat on the back > glory > public eye > donations
- **marking their territory**
- not returning owned pets if owner of a lost dog is found
- losing contact with pet owner after taking pets to be fixed, e.g. lying that a pet died during surgery
- no community member contact > go to communities on own will > picking up roaming dogs
- not integrated; not invited
- controlling > making all of the decision > no relationship > no partnership
- buying puppies or dogs just to acquire

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REZ DOG THEFT

***“ REMINDS ME OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL” , residential school survivor.
(i.e. taking the children, now the dogs)***

CMO: saying all wandered onto their property > sending to a rescue > illegal > stray; Ground Search Group (comprised of rescue groups; using proof of owner); community covid lockdown; e.g. Casper; many dogs turning up at local shelters that were stolen off the reserve

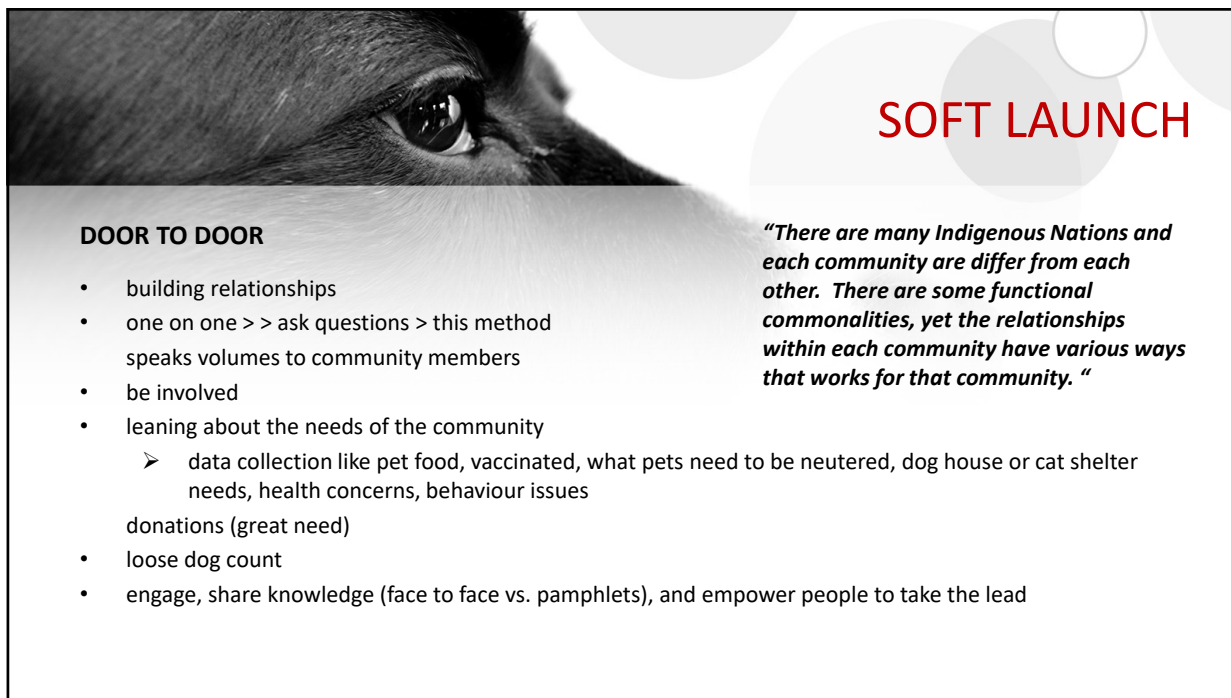
Walpole Island: trying to take over clinic; misleading community members; dogs disappearing

Winneway Long Point First Nation: recovered only some dogs (KW rescue)

Cross Lake, MB: Kujo and Sammy (Barrie rescue)

KSP: bus driver, teacher and male accomplice (blue truck)

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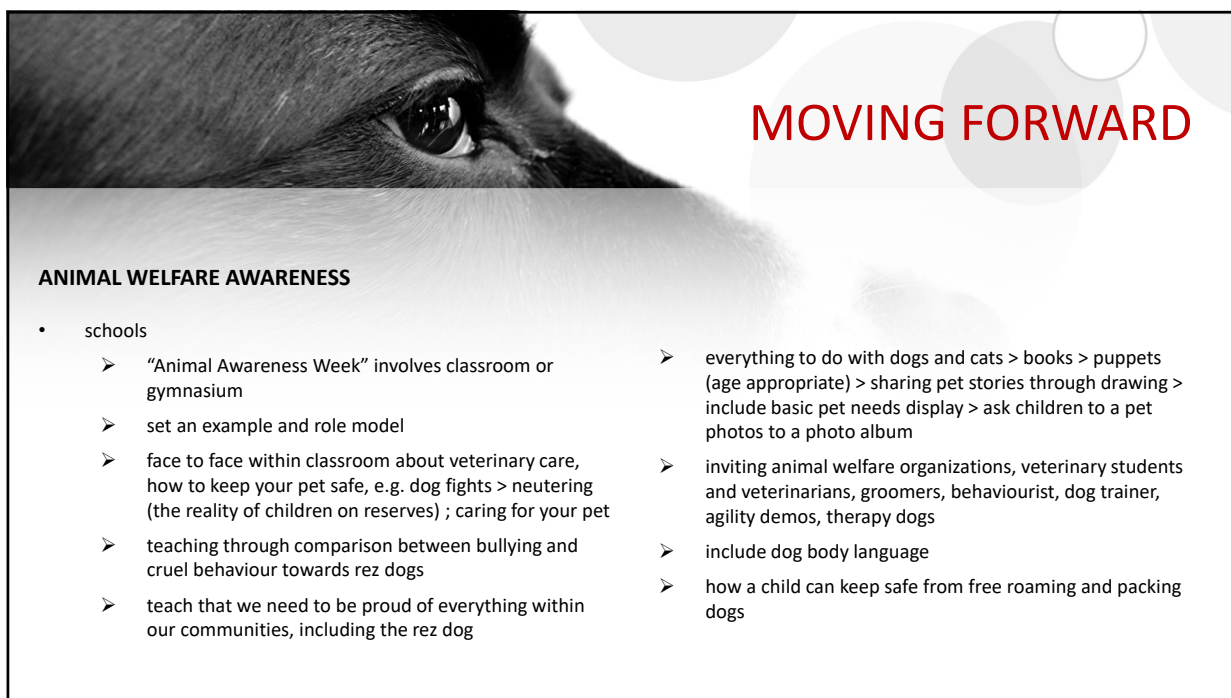
SOFT LAUNCH

DOOR TO DOOR

- building relationships
- one on one > > ask questions > this method speaks volumes to community members
- be involved
- leaning about the needs of the community
 - data collection like pet food, vaccinated, what pets need to be neutered, dog house or cat shelter needs, health concerns, behaviour issues
- donations (great need)
- loose dog count
- engage, share knowledge (face to face vs. pamphlets), and empower people to take the lead

“There are many Indigenous Nations and each community are differ from each other. There are some functional commonalities, yet the relationships within each community have various ways that works for that community. ”

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MOVING FORWARD


ANIMAL WELFARE AWARENESS

- schools
 - “Animal Awareness Week” involves classroom or gymnasium
 - set an example and role model
 - face to face within classroom about veterinary care, how to keep your pet safe, e.g. dog fights > neutering (the reality of children on reserves) ; caring for your pet
 - teaching through comparison between bullying and cruel behaviour towards rez dogs
 - teach that we need to be proud of everything within our communities, including the rez dog
- everything to do with dogs and cats > books > puppets (age appropriate) > sharing pet stories through drawing > include basic pet needs display > ask children to a pet photos to a photo album
- inviting animal welfare organizations, veterinary students and veterinarians, groomers, behaviourist, dog trainer, agility demos, therapy dogs
- include dog body language
- how a child can keep safe from free roaming and packing dogs

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MOVING FORWARD

ANIMAL WELFARE AWARENESS

- community events
 - seminars to share knowledge, e.g. general health and nutrition, holistic veterinary medicine, pet first aid & cpr, how to train your dog for indoor living, pet behaviour
 - dog house community builds and cat shelters
 - milestone celebration > Rez Pet Fest
 - Straw Day (also includes food, dog houses, cat shelters, everything pet related) > practical learning and in turn parents take items home to which teaches their children about pet needs, empathy and compassion
 - "Rezpect" pet calendar > bragging rights! > a form of a fundraiser
 - Christmas Parade > involve children and youth
 - "Unleashed" pet photo shoot fundraiser
- through high school community hours; OW volunteers
- through youth probation hours > a sense of inclusion > a time to have meaningful conversation
- Solidarity Day > animal welfare awareness & fundraising booth
- Animal Welfare Committee
 - fundraising (online and events, like catering at events)
- newsletters, radio and social media
 - veterinary care and animal welfare
 - human physical and mental health in relation to animals
 - dog behaviour and body language information
 - provide contact information for organizations, clinics, animal control in the area, and shelters
- community volunteers > involvement > participation > leading children by example > giving back to your community

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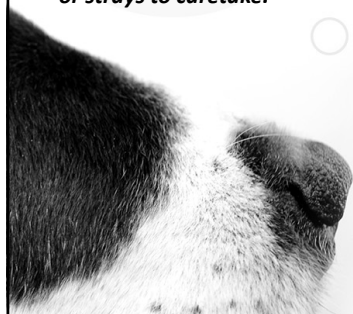
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PARTNERSHIPS

"Poverty is a stark reality on reserves; which people decide which pet they can afford to get fixed, how many wellness can they afford, since reserves without any animal welfare services have numerous pets or strays to caretake."



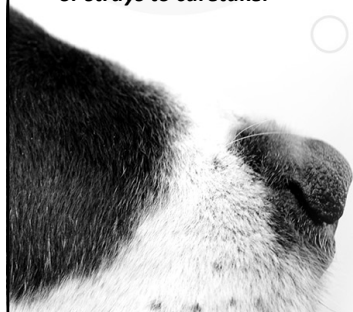
- OVC COC wellness clinics and OVC Community Healthcare Partnership Program S/N & wellness
- spay/neuter & wellness clinics (Welland Humane Society & Grand River Veterinary Hospital)
 - affordable and accessible (community members volunteer to transport clients with their pets for those without transportation)
 - **it is not a money maker** > some communities need full sponsorship in various regions, such as far north > yet promoting responsible pet ownership instills a sense a pride and worth in a pet > bragging rights > not a handout
 - sponsoring S/N for people with multiple animals and those below the poverty level
- team building > pet first aid & cpr training for after hours community volunteers
- share the profit between a host clinic and community for emergencies and euthanasia for those on fixed income or those working close to the poverty line
- partnering with high schools (UGRDSB and Saunders SS 4th R Indigenous students) > doghouses, and the OVC COC to build dog houses and cat shelters > Moffatt & Powell RONA
- OVC COC Nestle Purina Doghouse Build and Design Challenge > Purina sponsorship
- rehoming > shelters and rescue groups > transporting surrenders for those without vehicles
- donations > Humane Societies and rescue groups
- Straw Day > Toronto Trio, Waterloo Street Cats, Paws United Dog Rescue, No Empty Bowls
- fundraising > SPAY IT FORWARD > FUNDRAISER 4 FERALS

ACAAAC in essence, is comprised of people that work together to increase health and wellbeing for animals within First Nation communities. ACAAAC works together in partnership with reserves. First Nation animal welfare requires teamwork at this magnitude.

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PARTNERSHIPS

"Poverty is a stark reality on reserves; which people decide which pet they can afford to get fixed, how many wellness can they afford, since reserves without any animal welfare services have numerous pets or strays to caretake."



- OVC COC wellness clinics and OVC Community Healthcare Partnership Program S/N & wellness
- spay/neuter & wellness clinics (Welland Humane Society & Grand River Veterinary Hospital)
 - Veterinarians should have a direct working relationship with the communities they provide services to > not through a rescue group
 - affordable and accessible (community members volunteer to transport clients with their pets for those without transportation)
 - **it is not a money maker** > some communities need full sponsorship in various regions, such as far north > yet promoting responsible pet ownership instills a sense a pride and worth in a pet > bragging rights > not a handout
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PARTNERSHIPS

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It took 5 years with 100s rehomed dogs, off reserve S/N (2010-2015), awareness and all else involved for KSP to be stray free, with an on reserve population of 1000. WITH NO FUNDING. NO FUNDRAISING.




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OVC COC Spring Wellness Clinics Grand River Veterinary Hospital S/N & Wellness



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OUTCOME

- engaged community with full participation
- community members begin to volunteer
- community members begin to advocate
- community members begin to speak out against what is not good
- community members hold each other responsible
- community members fully support services
- a sense of pride in pets and the “rez dogs”!
- bringing honour back to those that helped our ancestors survive... our survival
- community members accessing services who would have otherwise never made it to an off reserve clinic with their pets

Building Bridges > Respect > Understanding > Relationships > True Partnerships > Trust > Reconciliation

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“Communities become engaged, knowledgeable, full participants, empowered, prideful of themselves for the ability to meet the needs of their beloved animals, and pride for the animals themselves; which increases the broken animal bond that Indigenous peoples shared with the dog.”

“Through partnerships and through great passion there is the ability to make positive and progressive advancements for both animals and communities.”

“Working as a team we can continue improving the lives of reserve animals and Nations. Protecting both the animals, children and the people.”

For the dogs and cats, their experience is beyond the human lived experience. It is their lives, suffering and death. Yet the worst part is knowing these experiences could have been prevented, that they were animals without options, that endured pain and suffering. Many did not make it.”

Aboriginal Community & Animal Advocacy Connection
November 7, 2020
FPPT.COM

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