



Community Dog Spay Project

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 the Dog Spay Project do?

The Community Dog Spay Project will provide \$250 per spay surgery of one female dog, per dog owner in rural communities.

This helps:

- ▶ Offset the cost of travel for residents of rural communities
- ▶ Reduce the threat to public safety from dog fights caused by female dogs in heat
- ▶ Reduce the number of unwanted puppies born in Yukon communities
- ▶ Improve animal welfare
- ▶ Reduce the demand on Yukon humane societies



Who is eligible and how much is paid?

- ▶ Only residents of rural Yukon communities are eligible
- ▶ Dog owners with a Whitehorse postal code (starting Y1A) are not eligible
- ▶ \$250 is provided per spay surgery of one female dog, per owner
- ▶ Offered as first come - first served starting **August 1, 2016** (maximum 115 dogs/year)
- ▶ Dog spays only - dog neuters and cat sterilization are not paid for by this project

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Why did this project start?

The Community Dog Spay Project 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
- ▶ Promote a new program widely across Yukon
- ▶ Have clear eligibility criteria
- ▶ Invest in what will have the most impact
- ▶ Focus on education and communication

What do dog owners need to do?

- ▶ Choose a veterinarian and make an appointment for a spay surgery
- ▶ Discuss all optional services and costs with the veterinarian - your total bill will depend on what you choose to have done
- ▶ Complete the Yukon Community Dog Spay Project form with the veterinarian
- ▶ When surgery is done, the veterinarian will sign and submit this form to the Animal Health Unit
- ▶ Your veterinary bill will be reduced by \$250
- ▶ You are responsible to pay the remainder of the bill
- ▶ You may seek additional funding support from your local government
 - A list of municipal and First Nation governments that funded surgery in the past is on the Animal Health Unit website
 - This arrangement is the responsibility of the owner

What does the Animal Health Unit do?

- ▶ Administers the Yukon Community Dog Spay Project by:
 - Paying veterinarians the funded amount (\$250) for eligible spay surgeries
 - Tracking project forms and invoices from all Yukon veterinarians
 - Reporting on and regularly evaluating the project
 - Maintaining a webpage to report the number of spays completed and the number available



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