

Healthy Pets, Healthy Communities



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The Problem

- No regular onsite access to veterinary care in rural AK
- Extremely expensive to get care
 - Travel, lodging, expenses and surgery
 - Rural AK is home to several of the poorest census areas in the USA



Survey results to date:

- 206 rural residents in 65 communities:
 - 69% of respondents report not having access to veterinary care
 - 70% report that animals in their community are not spayed or neutered
 - 72% said their dogs do not receive vaccinations or deworming
 - 81% of respondents state that stray and unwanted dogs are a problem in their community
 - 65% report fearing stray dogs
 - 80% said that dogs spread waste and garbage around their community
 - 88% report seeing dogs in their community that are not properly cared for



There is an surplus of unwanted and
unkempt dogs in rural Alaska and
across Northern Canada



What effect does this lack of animal control options have on the health of a community?

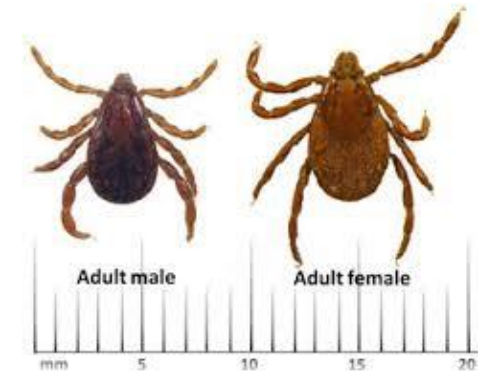
Human Health

- AN children hospitalized at double the rate of U.S. Children for dog bites
 - AN Males have 3 times the rate of incidences when compared with general US population
- Between 2007 – January 2017
 - 1013 reported dog bites in YK Delta
 - 7 children mauled to death in the YK Delta since 1994



Human Health

- Sanitation issues
- Zoonotic illness
 - Rabies, Parasites, Bacterial Illness, Tick-borne Illness
- Risk to subsistence resources?
- Social and Psychological effect



Animal Welfare



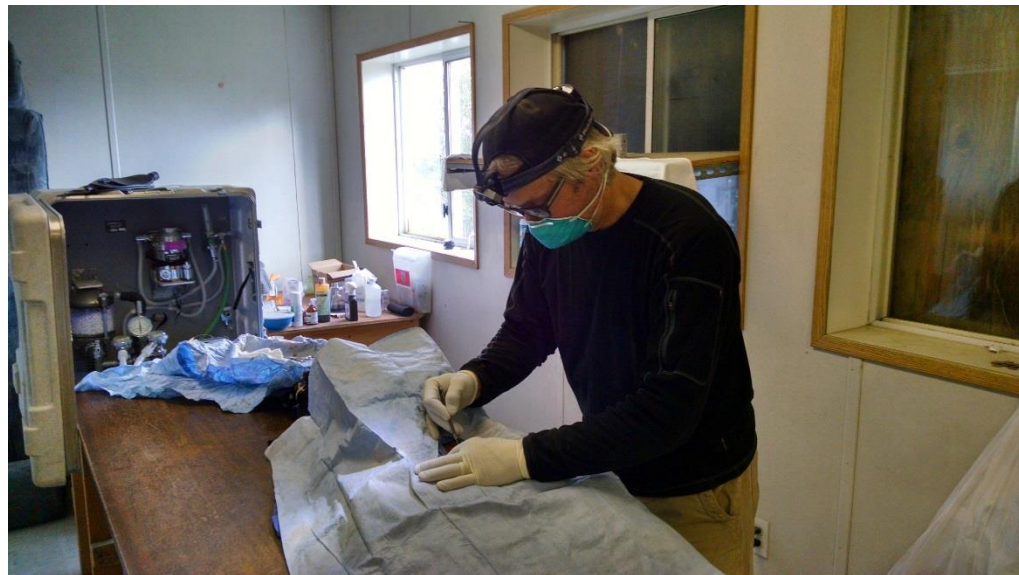
Access to Care

- Alaskans have a unique shared history with dogs
- Negative press, unfair standards
- **This is an access to care issue**
- Similar issues in other rural areas



Healthy Pets, Healthy Communities Pilot Project

- Cooperation between:
 - ANTHC Community Environment and Health
 - Alaska Native Rural Veterinary Inc
 - Tribal Health Partners
- Program Activities:
 - Conduct spay and neuter clinics
 - Gather Data, evaluate interventions
 - Stool, oral and blood samples
 - Non-invasive sterilizations
 - Community surveys
 - Create a current best practice guide for animal care and control for rural Alaska



Interventions?

- Continue organizing volunteer vet clinics?
- Travel vets based out of hub communities?
- Tech program with hub based vets?
- Something resembling the Health Aide Program?



