

Community Dog Spay Fund Report

SPRING 2017

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.

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What does the Dog Spay Fund do?

The Community Dog Spay Fund was launched August 1, 2016. It provides \$250 per spay surgery of one female dog, per dog owner in rural communities. As of March 31, 2017, there were 74 female dogs spayed with the support of the fund.

The program will be offered again in 2017/18, on a first come – first served basis, to a maximum of 115 dogs.

The program goal is to improve both public safety and animal welfare by reducing the number of unwanted dogs in Yukon communities. The program focuses on spaying female dogs because this has more impact on preventing the birth of unwanted puppies. Also dog packs and fights are less common when female dogs are not coming into heat.

The Animal Health Unit administers the fund by:

- ▶ Paying a portion of veterinary costs for eligible spay surgeries, up to a maximum of \$250. A program form must be completed.
- ▶ Maintaining a webpage to report the number of spays completed and the number remaining available under the fund, and
- ▶ Reporting on and evaluating the project.

This report provides a basic summary. For further details, contact the Animal Protection Officer.

Who used the fund in 2016/17?

- ▶ Only Yukoners outside the Whitehorse Y1A postal code are eligible.

The fund helps offset travel costs for rural Yukoners to get veterinary care, so the number of unwanted dogs in communities is reduced.

- ▶ Clients chose their veterinarian and all Yukon clinics participated.
- ▶ The number of spays in 8 months of this program exceeded those in each year of the previous spay neuter voucher program, although that program also supported neutering male dogs.

Why did this project start?

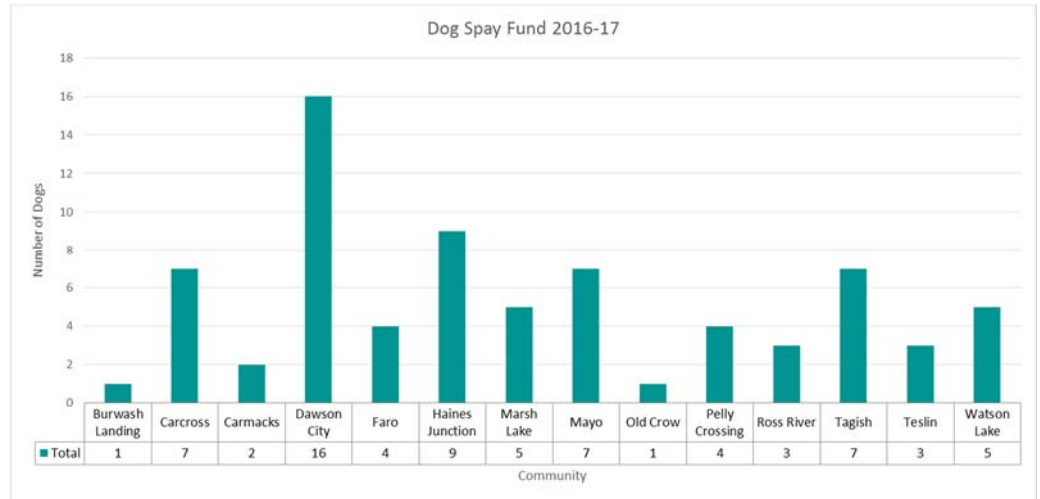
The Community Dog Spay Project grew out of the 2016 evaluation of the spay and neuter voucher program, which the Government of Yukon funded from 2013-2015.

Some recommendations from the evaluation included:

- ▶ 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

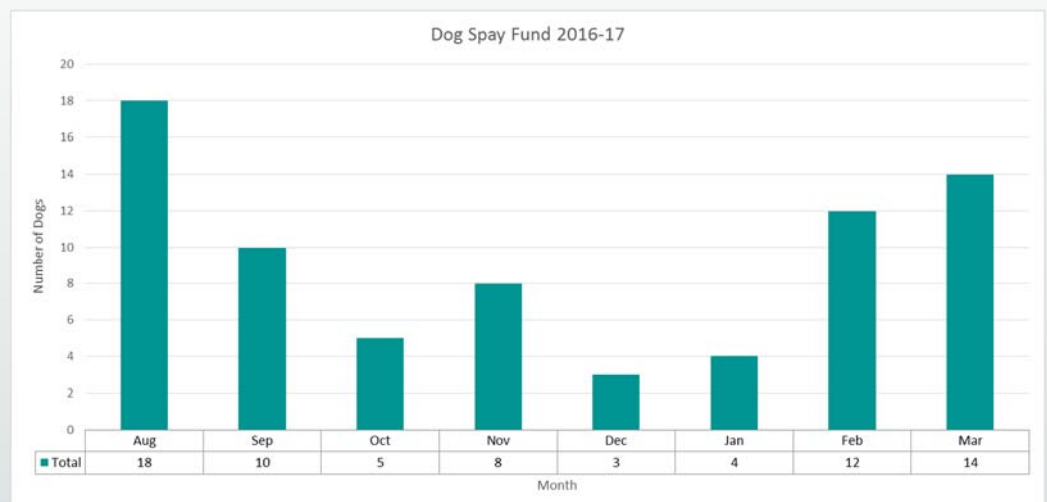
Report on the first 8 months

- ▶ Dog owners were from rural communities across Yukon



- ▶ Of the 74 dogs spayed, 19 were small dogs (under 10 kg) and 55 were medium to large size (over 10 kg).
 - Medium to large dogs are a greater risk to public safety. Data on dog size will be monitored to determine if the fund is meeting its goals.
- ▶ Most dogs spayed (39) were under a year of age and only 13 were three years and older.
 - Dogs spayed at a younger age experience more health benefits from the surgery and don't contribute puppies to the population.

Most of the surgeries were done when the program was launched and then again in the final two months.



...tracking animal health...