

Voluntary Dog Surrender

FALL 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.

Contact

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Animal Protection Officer

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What is Voluntary Dog Surrender?

Voluntary Dog Surrender offers residents of Yukon communities an option for when they can no longer care for the dogs that they own.

Voluntarily surrendering an animal is a way to help people who find themselves with too many animals or an animal that they can no longer care for.

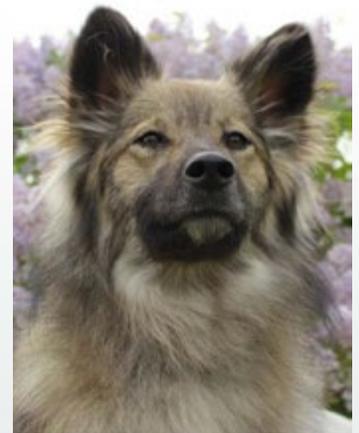
The Animal Health Unit is committed to compassionate alternatives for people and their animals. We know that people take the responsibility for their animals seriously, no matter how they came to have that responsibility. We understand that it is a very difficult decision to give up an animal and are supportive of all requests and any reasons that people have for accessing this service.

Who can use this service?

The Animal Health Unit provides this service to improve dog care and public safety in all Yukon communities. It can be accessed by community leaders or individuals.

People may be seeking help for many reasons:

- ▶ They may have taken care of pets that were abandoned by others
- ▶ They may have 'inherited' pets when family or friends left the community
- ▶ They may not be able to find homes for unplanned litters
- ▶ They may not be able to travel to Whitehorse or Dawson to surrender a pet
- ▶ There may have been a death in the community, leaving pets without an owner
- ▶ A dog may have become too strong or too aggressive to be safely managed by the owner
- ▶ The family may no longer be able to afford the care of a pet



Why is this service being offered?

Promotion of the Voluntary Dog Surrender service began when the Yukon coroner identified that feral dogs were responsible for the death of a young man in Ross River. It was clear that residents of rural Yukon communities needed support to have some dogs removed.

People were clear that they valued their dogs and wanted the best for them. In most cases this was the chance for a new home.

Yukon's humane societies are in Dawson City and Whitehorse. We ensure that adoptable dogs from the communities get to the humane societies in order to find new homes.

In rare cases, when a dog is recognized as being a danger to society or unadoptable, we support the owners and respect the dog by providing humane euthanasia.

What will the Animal Health Unit do to help?

We will support people to either:

- ▶ Transfer ownership of their dog to us so it can be placed in a new home
 - The Animal Protection Program works with humane societies to rehome surrendered dogs
- ▶ Request euthanasia for a dog that is known to be dangerous or is not adoptable

Interested people can contact the Animal Protection Officer (APO) at 867-667-5600 or email animalhealth@gov.yk.ca.

We will ensure:

- ▶ All contact is confidential
 - Your personal information is not shared outside the Animal Health Unit
 - We collect basic information about surrendered animals to help the humane society find them a new home
 - We transfer animals only to the two registered humane societies – Humane Society Yukon (Mae Bachur) and Humane Society Dawson
 - We do not share information about the owner who surrendered the animal with the humane society or anyone else
- ▶ The Animal Protection Officer or one of the veterinarians discusses your concerns with you and will:
 - Return your phone call within one working day
 - Provide some suggestions or options for you to consider
 - Answer any questions you have
 - Explain all the support we can provide
 - Explain what will happen to the animal if you surrender it
- ▶ There is no cost to people or communities for this assistance, however travel to communities to collect dogs is costly. We may need to coordinate multiple dog surrenders in one trip. We consider dangerous dog concerns or requests for euthanasia to be a high priority because of the risk to public safety, and we will be there as soon as possible.
- ▶ While this service was originally intended to deal with dogs only, we will discuss options with owners of other animals.



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