

First Nation Veterinary Infrastructure

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First Nation Veterinary Infrastructure Project: Meeting Notes
Prepared by Dr. Richard G. Herbert B.Sc., D.V.M.

Christian **A**boriginal **I**nfrastucture **D**evelopments

A Not-for-profit, Charitable NGO
Canada

info@caid.ca www.caid.ca

First Nation Veterinary Infrastructure Meeting Notes

Dr. Richard G. Herbert and Fort Frances Chiefs Secretariat, Richard Bruyere

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Veterinary-Related Needs: - developed from discussions

A/ Dog-Related:

1/ Delivery of Services:

- mobile services
- centralized services
- shuttle services

2/ Physical Services:

- education (public & training)
- basic vet. services
- population control services
- emergency services

B/ Bylaw-Related:

1/ Dog-related:

- education
- enactment
- enforcement
- facility

2/ Vet-related:

- accreditation standards.
- veterinary act

3/ Humane Society-Related:

- stray services (collection, exam, vaccine, deworm, spay/neuter, euthanasia)
- socioeconomic-related services
- enforcement of cruelty laws

C/ Wild Animal-Related:

1/Nuisance-Related:

- education
- mobile service

2/ Traditional Meat-Related:

- education
- inspection services
- retail industry
- wildlife management

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Circumstance-Dictated Veterinary-Related Needs: -through which the veterinary-related needs (Page 2) must be filtered (or seen)

A/ Dog Control:

- safe environment (bites/attacks/disease)
- reduce suffering-related cruelty

B/ Traditional Food:

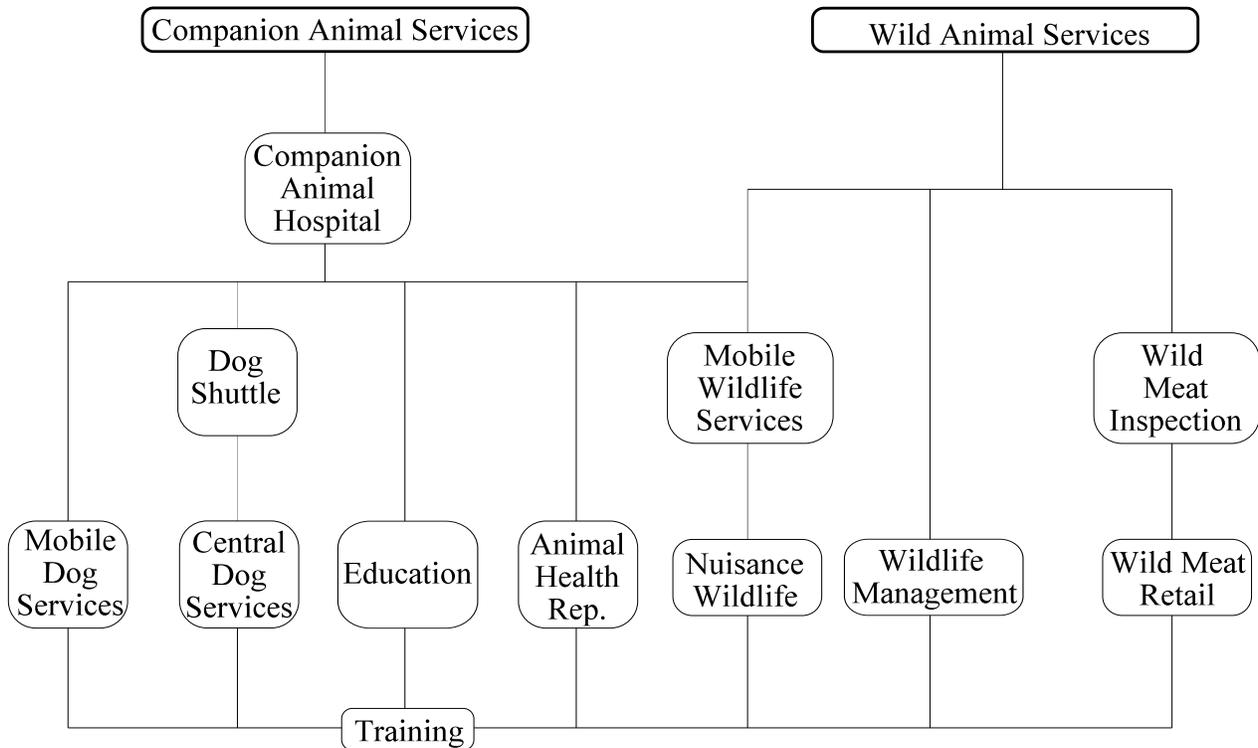
- Safe Food
- traditional food-related industry

C/ Bill C22 Compliance:

- animal cruelty
- domestic violence

D/ Wildlife Management:

- safe environment (nuisance wildlife)
- sustainable harvest
- disease/toxicity monitoring



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Wild Animal Services:

A/ Nuisance:

- mobile service based from hospital or from farm mobile unit
- could have separate First Nation service to trap/translocate/cull
- in-community education program for a variety of wildlife-related problems

B/ Wild meat inspection:

- inspected = CFIA approved
- monitored = sampling for specific diseases
- inspect as part of retail industry or monitor as part of local or regional public health program
- need to develop a wildlife management/disease monitoring scheme with Provincial/Federal ministries
- retail meat industry had no barriers with CFIA
 - a viable business
 - develop partnership with all concerned parties
 - develop and institute a CFIA approved protocol
 - apply for import permits for each international market meeting import requirements for each country by submitting protocols for approval
 - deer must be carefully monitored for chronic wasting disease and bear for trichinosis
 - done as seasonal aboriginal hunts in Nunavet for muskox/caribou (February/March) and Australia for kangaroo (winter) with privately owned abattoirs
 - is considered a valuable tool in Nunavet for promotion of traditional lifestyle
 - could harvest entire animal or if disease then parts (especially bear if trichinosis present in region)
 - easier to work big game in defined cool-weather hunting seasons
 - could work something for trapped animals but would be harder to set protocols (muskrat, beaver, etc.)
 - would take about 2 years to develop partnerships and protocols
 - wildlife management and a “commercial” tag system would have to be developed to ensure don’t deplete populations
 - once protocols are developed anyone could do (anyone could decide to develop a wild meat industry at any time)
- overall:
 - i- Hunting:
 - harvest and field dressing
 - ii- Depots:
 - chilling collection stations

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- need trails to get field-dressed carcass to depot within 1+ hour of killing
- iii- Dressing Facility:
 - dressed and CFIA inspected
 - byproduct generation (hides, antlers, alternative meat products, etc.)
 - carcass must be dressed within 24 hours of killing
 - set for seasonal harvest of different species (deer, fish, trapped game, bear) so facility used year round if permanent
 - could use mobile dressing facility but need to restrict hunt to approximately 2 weeks done 1-2 times in fall-winter
- iv- Abattoir Facility:
 - must be CFIA approved
 - final product packaging/shipping from dressed carcasses
 - either use a regional CFIA-approved abattoir or build one

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Companion Animal Services:

- virtually all veterinary legislation is provincial does not address First Nation situations and communities
- note that municipal governments can own a spay/neuter facility
- note that humane societies can own a veterinary hospital
- need some degree of funding to bring services into an affordable reach due to socioeconomic reasons

A/ Companion Animal Hospital:

- hub for all services except wild meat inspection/retail/management
- acts as base for mobile dog services, dog shuttle service, central dog services mobile wildlife services, education services, and animal health Representative services
- can also contain a centrally located dog pound
- has all the basic services plus the “more advanced” services necessary for emergency work (x-ray, laboratory testing, dental, hospitalization, emergency access) so that could comply with proposed new animal cruelty legislation
- a viable business if managed appropriately but the First Nation “clientelle” need some degree of financial assistance to afford services
- potential to set up a few different ways
 - i- Private off-reserve:
 - could be up and running very quickly (within 6-8 months)
 - First Nations would contract services
 - would be under Provincial authority except for mobile services given on-reserve (after bylaws are passed)
 - initially it could provide a mobile dog service under Provincial laws immediately until bylaws are in place (companion animal mobile or remote accreditation after 100 km radius)
 - ii- Private on-reserve:
 - up and running within 8-12 months
 - First Nations contract services
 - under Provincial authority until or if bylaw trail for First Nation ownership is established
 - need BCR or CCR
 - set as 50 year lease with guaranteed road and utility access
- a/ Transfer to First Nations:
 - sell to First Nations for cost plus professional start-up associated fees within 12 months (or when bylaw trail is ready for First Nation ownership)
 - need veterinarian director
- b/ Keep as Private:
- iii- First Nation owned:

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- up and running within 18-24 months
- need veterinarian director during construction for consultation, x-ray licensing, supply purchasing, and training
- bylaws must be in place for First Nation ownership before start-up
- should still have BCR's and 50 year lease with guaranteed road and utility access

B/ Mobile Dog Services:

- need a base from which to work and under current provincial law this base must be a companion animal hospital
- would make services accessible to remote reserves but need funding to get vet service to the community
- under current Provincial regulations
 - i- Companion Animal Mobile:
 - no anaesthesia or surgery requiring anaesthesia
 - ii- Companion Animal Remote Accreditation:
 - does all a hospital can do but must carry most of the equipment needed for a hospital (ex: centrifuges, autoclave, ...)
 - can only be used outside a radius greater than 100 km from the nearest companion animal hospital
- First Nation bylaws are necessary to make mobile services accessible and "fit" the needs of reserve communities
 - i- Basic:
 - exam + vaccination + deworm + euthanize
 - humane society-like services
 - ii- Basic Plus:
 - as above (basic) but add spay/neuter
 - humane society-like services
 - iii- Advanced:
 - as above (basic plus) but add basic medicine
 - would be like a companion animal mobile + spay/neuter
 - iv- Advanced Plus:
 - as above (advanced) but add all so that becomes equivalent to a remote accreditation

C/ Shuttle Dog Services:

- gives access to vet services in a central facility (companion animal hospital) but need funding to get the animal to the central facility
- shuttle dogs for routine spay/neuter to central facility for communities up to 1 hr radius from central facility (including an overnight hospital stay)
- may be able to work with a central dog pound pick-up drop off service for bylaw

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enforcement

D/ Animal Health Representative:

- a multi-task position that could be called “animal control officer”

i- Bylaw Enforcement:

- dog control bylaws (dog catcher, Stoop & Scoop, licensing)

- public education

- no property-based taxation system for municipal funding this

ii- Nuisance Wildlife:

- public education

- live trap (translocate)

- dart (translocate)

- cull (kill)

- no property-based taxation system for municipal funding this

iii- Humane Society:

- humane societies are provincial and do not exist on reserves

- would be traditionally funded by donations collected from a large population base... unavailable to First Nations

- stray/unwanted/abandoned animal services

- unwanted kitten/puppy services

- public education (animal care/cruelty, disease control, spay/neuter)

- stray/unwanted animal euthanasia services

- unclaimed injured animal services

iv- Veterinary Assisting:

- routine non-rabies vaccine/deworming under indirect vet supervision

- potential for assisting veterinarian during mobile community service

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Education: - combination of public health, awareness, information, and training
- much of this is developing a social awareness to the need for a veterinary infrastructure and the benefits it brings to the community

A/ Regional Tribal Council: - advisory information for decision making

i- Veterinary Infrastructure:

- dog, farm, wildlife, cruelty legislation, and safe food issues
- organizational structure
- wild meat industry

ii- Bylaw Infrastructure:

- dog control issues
- humane society issues
- veterinary legislation-related issues

iii- New Industries:

- wild meat, by-product (hides etc.), wildlife management, nuisance wildlife, farming

B/ Chief and Council: - educational information for decision making

i- Veterinary Infrastructure:

- dog, wildlife, and cruelty issues
- service delivery organization

ii- Bylaw Infrastructure:

- dog control issues
- nuisance wildlife issues
- veterinary accreditation issues (in-community facility issues)

iii- New Industries:

- animal health representative
- wild meat harvest

C/ Community Members: - educational, practical, and supportive information

i- Veterinary Infrastructure:

- cruelty issues

ii- Bylaw Infrastructure:

- dog control issues

iii- New Industries:

- wild meat harvest

iv- Public Health

- animal care
- zoonotic disease prevention
- animal behaviour
- veterinary care

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D/ Elder/Traditionalist: - consultation and bilateral exchange of information

i- Dog Control:

- traditional roles of dogs
- animal behaviour
- animal care
- zoonotic disease prevention

ii- Wildlife:

- traditional trade from animal harvest
- sustainable harvest
- role in traditional lifestyle maintenance
- consultation with Nunavet and Australia
- meat inspection and food safety
- nuisance wildlife management
- wildlife management

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Training:

A/ Animal Health Representative:

- veterinary assistant training
- bylaw enforcement training (dog control)
- humane society training
- nuisance wildlife training

B/ Veterinary Hospital Staff:

- veterinary assistant
- veterinary technician
- receptionist/billing clerk

C/ Wildlife Industry:

- harvest/field dressing training
- field dressed carcass handling/depot management training
- dressing facility employee training
- byproduct industry training (example deer: tannery, antler velvet, antler)
- potential abattoir employee training

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Social Capitol Survey:

- an very important aspect of evaluation and future program support
- social capitol is that part of a community that has been invested over time and returns to the community in ways that provide a supportive infrastructure for the community to flourish irregardless of economic status (ex: volunteers, exhortation, commitment, community esteem, motivation, social cohesiveness, networking, etc.)
- develop the survey in cooperation with the University of Guelph (Ontario Veterinary College) and the University of Manitoba (Centre for Aboriginal Health).
- need to have First Nation communities' cooperation to administer the survey
- would need to validate, then give the survey to 5-10 communities, and then repeat the survey 2-3 years after the veterinary infrastructure start-up
- veterinary-related issues can adversely affect social capitol through dog or wildlife issues by reducing the amount of community time available to develop social capitol:
 - i- Children play outside less:
 - ii- Fewer outdoor facilities for children:
 - iii- Fewer outdoor programs for children:
 - iii- Fewer outdoor family meals:
 - iv- Fewer people walking for recreation:
 - v- Fewer outdoor community activities:
 - vi- Abuse of the Human-Animal Bond:

A/Dog Control Problems: - prevent members from enjoying their community and each other due to:

- i- Fear of dogs: - from previously being attacked or seeing attacks
- ii- Dog fights: - ex: over territory or food,
- iii- Dog pack aggression: -ex: a pack attacking children or other animals for enjoyment
- iv- Dominance aggression: -ex: attacking if you have food
- v- Territory aggression:-ex: attacking when you walk across their "imagined" territory
- vi- Other aggression-related biting: -more then 10 other common reasons to be bitten
- vii- Faecal/urine soiling: -in public areas
- viii- General Nuisance: -ex: stealing food from a picnic or spilling/ripping garbage open
- ix- Desensitization: - abuse of the human-animal bond will result in desensitization to domestic violence

B/ Nuisance wildlife problems: -prevent members from enjoying their community

- i- Large: - fear due to frequent bear sorties into the community
 - ex: bears, cougars
- ii- Small: - damage property or litter the community making it unpleasant
 - ex: raccoons, skunks, foxes

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Summary of Identified Veterinary Services Needs:

- A/ Companion Animal Hospital Services: - different potential formats
 - 1/ Off Reserve: is privately owned
 - 2/ On Reserve:
 - i- Privately Owned:
 - ii- First Nation Owned:
 - a- Delayed Ownership
 - b- Outset Ownership
- B/ Mobile Dog Services:
- C/ Shuttle Dog Services:
- D/ Animal Health Representative Services:
- E/ Nuisance Wildlife Services:
- F/ Wild meat:
 - 1/ Species:
 - i- Large Game
 - ii- Fish
 - iii- Trapped Game
 - 2/ Monitoring Services: - is wildlife management
 - 3/ Inspection Services:
 - 4/ Wild Meat Retail:
 - i- Ownership: -First Nation or Private
 - a- Chilling Depots
 - b- Dressing Facility
 - c- Abattoir
 - ii- Byproduct Industries: - tannery, antlers, meat byproducts
 - a- Ownership
- G/ Education:
 - 1/ Regional Tribal Council:
 - 2/ Chief and Council:
 - 3/ Community Members:
 - 4/ Elders/Traditionalist:
- H/ Training:
 - 1/ Animal Health Representative:
 - 2/ Veterinary Assistant:
 - 3/ Veterinary Technician:
 - 4/ Receptionist/Billing Clerk
 - 5/ Wild Meat Harvest Hunter:
 - 6/ Wild Meat Depot Maintenance:
 - 7/ Wild Meat Dressing
- I/ Social Capitol Survey:

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Identified Services Grouped by Potential Funding: - services grouped according to potential funding categories

A/ Social Development: - INAC

1/ Education:

- i- Regional Tribal Council:
- ii- Chief and Council:
- iii Community Members:
- iv- Elders/Traditionalist:

2/Social Capitol Survey:

B/ Environment and Public Health: - INAC, Health Canada, Environment, - Health Canada FNIHB had their Traditional Food Conference in February, 2004 define dog problems as a major environmental issue

1/ Companion Animal Hospital Services: - a viable business (private funding potential)

2/ Mobile Dog Services:

3/ Shuttle Dog Services:

4/ Animal Health Representative Services:

5/ Nuisance Wildlife Services:

C/ Natural Resources: - INAC, MNM Heritage, Ontario Trillium Foundation

1/ Wild meat:

2/ Monitoring Services: (wildlife management)

3/ Inspection Services:

4/ Wild Meat Retail: - **a viable business** (private funding potential)

5/ Byproduct Industries:

D/ Training:- INAC

1/ Animal Health Representative:

2/ Veterinary Assistant:

3/ Veterinary Technician:

4/ Receptionist/Billing Clerk

5/ Wild Meat Harvest Hunter:

6/ Wild Meat Depot Maintenance:

7/ Wild Meat Dressing

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Start-up Recommendations:

-recommendations made on the assumption that all services will be implemented over time

A/ Contract Veterinary Consultant:

- to ensure that services will be available to the completion of the infrastructure development (at least by retainer at this time)

B/ Apply for appropriate Funding: -need \$25-30,000 start-up immediately and then development funds \$500-800,000 over 2 years aside from capital grants, etc. for various aspects of the infrastructure which will come to fruition over 4 years
- now that INAC first contact has been submitted a first stage heritage for the wild meat should be done

C/ Start-up the Companion Animal Hospital:

- the sooner it is running the sooner dog problems begin to be addressed
- it will provide a financial and a physical base from which to implement mobile or shuttle services
- this can be started without funding through bank financing since it is a viable business
- whether on/off reserve or private/First Nation owned does not harm the overall program...it simply alters the structure of service delivery
- if on reserve need to decide which reserve (Couchiching vs Rainy River)

D/ Start-up with Current Provincial Regulations:

- start with CVO's accreditation standards and regulations for companion animal work (dog control) so can work in section 88 changes as progress
- will get things up and running quickly
- start with companion animal hospital + companion animal mobile + proposed companion animal remote accreditation licenses
- may be able to work with another local veterinarian to use their hospital as base so could be up and running almost immediately (have the companion animal mobile and remote CVO accreditations up and running with their inherent restrictions)

E/ Start-up Education:

- get all of the information presentations to the chiefs and their communities while working with elders and traditionalists

F/ Begin Discussions for the Wild Meat Retail:

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- this is a two year process in which local/Provincial discussions must be completed before the CFIA becomes involved for protocol approval after which things would be sent out for “country of destination” import permits
- the process is the same if private or First Nation ownership

G/ Work in Other Aspects:

- work in other components as they are prepared and funding permits