

Treaty Three
Pound and Animal Control Bylaw
Proposal

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Treaty #3 Pound and Animal Control Bylaw Proposal
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Introduction:

Recently, the Public Safety Related to Dogs Statute Law Amendment Act came into force in the Province of Ontario. This Act (formerly Bill 132) amends the Dog Owner's Liability Act to ban four breeds of pit bulls, place restrictions on existing pit bulls, and toughen penalties for owners of any dog that poses a danger to the public in Ontario. The strengthened Dog Owner's Liability Act also identifies First Nation constables among enforcing "peace officers", indicates peace officers must deliver seized dogs to a dog pound, and that these dog pounds must meet standards within the Animals for Research Act. The Animals for Research Act not only lists strict building, cleaning, ventilation, housing, veterinary, and record requirements, it also specifies euthanasia protocols for dogs. Gun shot may remain a viable euthanasia alternative for feral (wild), severely injured, or extremely aggressive dogs. However, gun shot is not listed as a protocol for the euthanasia of stray dogs, dogs that violate bylaws, or dogs that simply behave in a menacing manner. First Nation police need appropriate pound services to meet their law enforcement obligations.

A strengthened Dog Owners Liability Act, Treaty Three policing requirements, and pending Federal animal cruelty legislation bring Treaty Three First Nations to a decision point with dog control issues. Treaty Three First Nations need to provide their police force with the infrastructure needed to meet their obligations as a law enforcement agency. The new legislation is already law. The question is no longer "if" dog control measures need to be in place. The question is "how" can pound and animal control infrastructures be provided for the Treaty Three Police force in a quick and efficient manner.

This proposal is not meant to dictate in any manner what types of dog control measures should be instituted or how they should look. Those are answers that bylaw development committees should look at. This proposal simply gives the pound and animal control infrastructure services that are needed to base dog control measures upon. These pound services are part of a veterinary infrastructure. As such, they require the services of veterinarian, a veterinary hospital, and a mobile veterinary unit.

Background:

North America has wolves, coyotes, and foxes, but no wild dog packs. In fact there is no evidence of dogs in the Americas before their European introduction. Dogs are indigenous to Africa but not to Canada. Dogs arrived with the Vikings in the 1200's but were limited mostly to the Hudson's Bay area, its river derivatives, and Newfoundland-Labrador. The more complete introduction of dogs occurred when Europeans colonized North America. Thoughts that dogs had arrived with Inuit traversing the Bering Straight were dashed 20-30 years ago when Nobel Laureate, Barbara Mclintock, used the introduction of corn into the Americas to prove First Nation colonization occurred from the South to the North. (She also proved that there was transcontinental and transoceanic trade long before Europeans arrived.)

The fact dogs are not indigenous to Canada actually explains why there are cultural overtones in many First Nation communities regarding the disposition of stray dogs. Elder teachings

that successfully guide communities with many wildlife issues are generally ineffective with genetically-altered, European-descended dogs. Dog population control is a man-made problem. Unfortunately, the problem is best solved with man-made solutions.

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (humane society) quotes statistics that one pregnant female dog can give rise to 69,000 dogs within 6 years. (They also give statistics saying one pregnant cat can give 420,000 cats within 7 years.) There is no way a community can win the dog control battle without a battle plan. The battle plan 100 years of humane society work has produced is simple; spay and neuter all dogs not used for breeding, find a home for stray dogs, humanely euthanise unwanted dogs, and teach people how to manage their dogs. In this battle plan both the dog population problem and the community's dog pack aggression problems are solved. How First Nations develop dog control measures that fulfill this simple battle plan is their choice. However, the battle plan will need animal control infrastructure services. These services include dog pound, spay/neuter, bylaw enforcement, euthanasia services, and public education services.

Dr. Richard Herbert, D.V.M., has been busy for almost two years developing underlying veterinary infrastructure services First Nations need to provide their communities with animal control infrastructure services. These animal-control-related veterinary infrastructure services are a subset of multiple veterinary-related infrastructures that First Nations do not possess. These veterinary infrastructures not only make communities safer with respect to dogs and nuisance wildlife (bears), they also provide mechanisms for safe food and the development of an international First Nation trade and commerce based on controlled harvest of deer and other wildlife. (An industry worth 10's of millions in Treaty Three and over a \$1,000,000,000 nationally. For further discussion on wild meat programs, please call Dr. Herbert (807-274-2356).

This proposal focuses on pound services; services that are essential to Treaty Three police fulfilling their mandate and for communities as an infrastructure to dog control bylaw development. However, pound services without spay/neuter, euthanasia services, bylaw enforcement, and public education will not permanently control dog population problems. For more complete information on dog-related reserve public health programs, including Rabies prevention, spay/neuter, public education, and euthanasia services, contact Dr. Herbert.

Treaty Three Pound Requirements:

There are aspects of Treaty Three (T3) pound requirements that should be mentioned since they may change the structure or cost of the service. What follows are a series of very brief discussions of these T3-related requirements.

1/ T3 police need an **immediate interim solution and then a not-to-distant permanent long-term solution to their pound and animal control officer services needs**. The reinforced Dog Owner's Liability Legislation came into force August 29, 2005 but there is a grace period that ends October 28, 2005. The interim facility needs to be in place and approved by the pound inspection services of the Ontario

Ministry of Agriculture (OMAF) by that time. This is achievable. The permanent facility could be completed 4- 6 months after the inception of the interim facility.

2/ Some communities do not have dog control bylaws in place. Again, pound services are not about dictating dog control programs. These services are needed by the T3 police and those communities that are in the process of reducing dog-related crises within their communities. **The number of communities using pound services will clearly affect any community program cost that T3 police may wish to share.**

3/ There is a need to “catch-up” on dog control problems in some communities. The amount of work required by the service to gain control of community dog problems and the amount of work to maintain dog control will be dramatically different. Remember, all dogs must be given a minimum of 3 working days, during which the owner can pay fines and pound fees, to reclaim their dog. Because of this 3 day rule, it would appear that T3 could use three dog pounds in strategic locations. However, the overall population size of T3 communities does not require more than one facility after catch-up is completed.. **It is highly recommended that one larger facility be commenced in the Fort Frances area.** As the dog control problem is “caught-up”, the need for other facilities can be assessed.

4/ T3 may consider a **community catch-up euthanasia service** in which a veterinary euthanasia service travels to a community and immediately euthanises dogs legally surrendered to it for euthanasia. However, these surrendered animals can not be strays. They must have an owner surrender the dog by signed consent to enable the veterinarian to legally euthanise the dog. The community would be responsible for body disposal, preferably with a mass burial. Please understand though, **a veterinary euthanasia service would need to travel with a Companion Animal Mobile accreditation, have a fully accredited Companion Animal Hospital within the region from which to base the mobile unit, and it must travel with a veterinarian licensed in the Province of Ontario.** (These requirements are the reason Dr. Herbert has spent almost two years developing First Nation veterinary infrastructure services in the Fort Frances T3 area. These requirements are already in place.)

5/ A pound facility of this size servicing multiple geographically distinct communities **needs daily veterinary service** for new arrival examination, sick animal monitoring and therapy (depending on protocol), euthanasia, pit bull certification, and vaccination of long-term (court case) animals. Ideally, the pound facility should be juxtaposed to the veterinary facility. **The veterinary service meeting the pound’s needs would require a Companion Animal Mobile accreditation, a fully accredited Companion Animal Hospital within the region from which to base the mobile unit, and would require a veterinarian licensed in the Province of Ontario.** (Again, these requirements are the reason Dr. Herbert has developed First Nation veterinary infrastructure services in the Fort Frances T3

area. These requirements are in place.)

6/ Every pound has a **minimum holding period** before the unclaimed animal is euthanised, surrendered to another group (humane society or animal shelter) or adopted out . The minimum time allowed is 3 days. Most pounds have 3 day holding periods to keep costs down. T3 needs to decide on the length of the holding period. Three days is recommended.

7/ **A web site for community members to access photos of animals within the pound**, to see if their dog has been picked up, needs to be set up. It would be inappropriate to collect dogs in communities and then expect people to make long trips just to locate their animal. To meet a 3 working day holding period, we must get photo access for the public.

8/ **Pound protocols for unclaimed animals** need to be established. Most pounds have working relationships with animal shelters and humane societies such that some animals find their way to a new home (animal rescue). Even with established animal rescue protocols, most dogs get euthanised. Again, T3 should indicate what their animal rescue protocol would be.

9/ **Pound protocols for sick animals** need to be established. It is wrong to euthanise someone's pet for a cough or a minor cut, but it is inappropriate to blindly commit funds in an attempt to save all sick or injured animals. Injured stray animal heroics are generally left to humane societies and animal shelters. Veterinarians and pound operators do have the legal right to euthanise animals without the owners consent in the event of severe injuries or illness. Pounds usually keep animals stable (minimal veterinary care) for the mandatory waiting period. Then the animal is euthanised or, if claimed, the owners are left to deal with definitive care of medical problems or injuries. Does T3 wish to stray from these generally accepted sick/injured animal protocols?

10/ T3 Police need access to pound services on a 24 hour schedule, 7 days a week. Further, T3 police will need to have dogs "taken" off their hands in a variety of locations. Unfortunately, we can not know the level of T3 police demand both in clean-up and maintenance phases. Clearly though, any one pound operator or animal control officer can not work 24 hours-a-day 365 days of the year. A clear decision will need to be made for the level of pound and animal control officer services to be provided. **The animal control service can start with one specialized vehicle and one animal control officer.** However, to meet expected community and police needs, it is anticipated that two specialized vehicles and 3-4 animal control officers will be needed to create two mobile units. One of these units would be scheduled to drop in on one or two communities on a five day basis. The other unit would be on emergency call while making a daily circle of T3 police detachments. In this manner, detachments would have a daily animal pick-up service.

11/ There needs to be a provision for **pound services “down” time** each year. The facility needs routine maintenance over two weeks that require the facility be empty.

12/ The **animal control vehicle needs to be customized** to T3 requirements. Unlike other communities where bylaw enforcement officers make a quick run back to the pound after capturing a delinquent animal, T3 animal control officers will need to continue and unload at the end of their day. A minimum of 6 dog cages should be present in each truck. Cages large enough for dogs are in the 30 inch (small and medium dogs) and 36 inch (large dogs) height ranges. They are 36 inches wide with doors of almost 36 inches. This necessitates a truck with at least 6 feet of head clearance (2 stacked rows), with at least 9 feet for 3 columns, and a minimum width of 7 feet to open the cage doors. These cages need to be built in so as not to topple during normal driving or catapult in minor vehicle altercations. The animal containment area needs to be ventilated to the outside, partitioned for the driver, insulated, heated, air conditioned and constructed of easily sanitized material. The truck should also have additional storage areas for equipment such as portable cages, poles, live traps, and etc.. Overall, we need to customize a small commercial vehicle. **These vehicles will actually be mobile pound units designed to bring a centralized pound service to a large geographical area.** It was impossible to get an accurate cost of each vehicle at this point. They will be expensive but the custom boxes will be able to be recycled for at least 3 trucks (9-10 years).

13/ **Disease control in the mobile unit and the base pound facility will be much more important than in traditional one-community pounds.** Many of the 28 First Nation communities are geographically isolated from each other and from non-native communities. This is important with disease transmission. What may be a normal disease for dogs on Couchiching could be devastating to dogs in Lac LaCroix because the disease had never entered their community’s dog population. Spread of disease through the mobile unit or in the base pound will need special attention. Imagine a dog from Whitefish Bay that someone reclaims but breaks with Canine Distemper Virus, picked up either in the mobile unit or in the base pound facility, a few days after return to Whitefish Bay. The virus would make seriously ill, or kill, most of the dogs in Whitefish Bay. Runs, cages, walls, ceilings, floors, ventilation systems, doors, floor drains, sinks, and mobile unit will need to be constructed to meet strict animal shelter disease control guidelines.

14/ **The pound facility will need to have some degree of space reserved for Rabies quarantine dogs.** There is no reason why these cases should be handled with untrained staff in inappropriate settings. Pound fees for rabies quarantine are traditionally passed on to the animal owner. T3 needs to determine how they will handle rabies quarantine within the pound facility.

15/ **There needs to be a disease isolation area** for sick dogs suspected of having contagious viral or diarrheal diseases. This is part of paying close attention to the need for high disease control standards.

16/ Decisions will have to be made regarding **the holding of dogs involved in cases** where police have laid charges. The Ontario Attorney General's office has been contacted and indicated dogs from situations with unresolved or appealed charges, must be held "in custody" until the case has been resolved. There is currently one case in Ontario that has already had the dog in a pound for 7 months due to appeals. Who pays the pound? Clearly if the defendant loses, the court can go after him/her for costs (this is in Bill 132). But if the crown loses? We also need to include the space requirements to meet this legal requirement.

17/ It would be prudent and cost effective to **anticipate the incorporation of the animal control officer into a nuisance wildlife officer or a general bylaw enforcement officer**, or both, as the pound program becomes established and their dog control workload diminishes. The animal control officer may also become involved in public education programs. Time will tell how these positions can be fine-tuned to T3 needs..

18/ The overall intent of this pound proposal is to develop a treaty-wide First Nation pound and animal control service over a course of 5 years and then **transfer that program to T3 ownership** (should they wish). The pounds/animal control services would be developed by Dr. Herbert but the 5 year fine tuning (overseen by Dr. Herbert) and ownership would be within a First Nation **development company called Canadian Aboriginal Infrastructure Development (CAID)**. CAID would set pound costs at expenses plus management fees. CAID would retain copyright of developed protocols and materials but transfer all assets and ownership to T3. CAID is a development service partnership between Mr. Percy Bird and Dr Richard Herbert.

19/ Other aspects of the pound and animal control service should run similarly to standard programs in other communities.

Basic Proposal:

To fill the Treaty Three need for pound and animal control services, it is proposed to:

- 1- Develop and initiate an Interim Facility that could be ready to aid T3 police by October 28, 2005.
- 2- Design and build a pound facility in the Fort Frances area capable of servicing the pound needs for all of Treaty Three. This facility needs to be ready in 6-8 months.
- 3- Design and acquire mobile pound units capable of extending animal control and pound services to the entire Treaty area.
- 4- Design and initiate a web-site dog control/health public information site that includes photos of animals currently in the pound for easy access to the facility by all communities.
- 5- Acquire and train pound staff and animal control officers.
- 6- Organize and facilitate a Treaty Three dog control conference to introduce dog control services, veterinary infrastructure, and lay a working group foundation for Treaty Three standardized dog control bylaw development.
- 7- To manage the first 5 years of facility evolution and then to transfer the facility to complete First Nation reserve or Treaty Three ownership.

It is felt that one mobile unit and one animal control officer should be initiated as soon as possible with the interim facility. When the larger facility is available, the second mobile unit and additional staff should be brought on line. At full capacity the pound will have 2 full-time staff and the two mobile units will have 3 animal control officers.

Basic Running Costs:

All costs have a management cost factored on actual costs for management and continued development. All costs are currently set at maximum to ensure we have everything accounted for. All costs are based on maximum usage (ex: each mobile unit uses approximately \$50,000 in fuel each year). They may well be ways to decrease some of the costs (ex: \$51,000 in annual cremation fees). Accurate pricing for mobile units is not currently available. Except for development costs, there are no load-in costs just a 5 year contract signed in advance of purchasing mobile units and building the permanent facility.

- 1- Interim Facility: \$12,000 per month (\$144,000/yr)
 - has 10 runs and includes all services (including cremation) for 43 dogs per month (maximum capacity)

- will be licensed as a pound with interim license on basis that there is another pound on the way.
- this facility needs to have an offer to purchase placed by September 30, 2005. The facility will simply be purchased by Dr. Herbert and then re-sold the following year.

2- Permanent Facility: \$28,333/mo (\$340,000/yr)

- has 25 runs and includes all services (including cremation) for 104 dogs per month.
- includes all supplies, records, staff, web-site, etc..
- this facility is planned to build into a rental warehouse space located immediately attached to the veterinary hospital so that the facility can be managed and accessed from the veterinary hospital. (The pound was always designed to be part of the First Nation veterinary infrastructure and attached as a unit with the veterinary hospital.
- will be managed by CAID and when transferred to T3 the management costs should translate directly to the cost of increased staff to manage the facility. The transfer will simply cost legal fees.

3- Mobile Units: \$8,750/mo (\$105,000/yr) each. \$210,000/yr for two units.

- These are 6 animal very sterilizable vehicles with stainless steel cages and boxes.
- one ton 4-wheel drive diesel 5 speed std with specialized cube box.

4- Animal control officers: \$5,178/mo (\$62,135/yr) each. \$186,405 for three.

- includes salaries, cell phones, uniforms, etc..

5- Animal Control Officer Training: Too early to estimate.

6- Conference cost: Too early to estimate.

Proposal Needs:

A/ Support for the Lac des Milles Lacs First Nation Veterinary Infrastructure program funding applications: INAC has blocked three funding proposals that would have set up the Veterinary facility, handled pre-negotiation discussions, and would have had two years of legislation/regulation development to empower First Nations to own veterinary facilities, and harvest wild meat for international sale. These proposals included elder and community consultations. We very much need T3 support to Minister Scott at INAC to unblock these proposals, paving the way for development. I have enclosed a background brief on the problem and initiative BCR'ed by Lac des Milles Lacs First Nation.

B/ Development Funding:

- 1- \$20,000: by the end of September, 2005 to acquire/Repair Interim Facility
- 2- \$10,000: Mobile unit development by October 15, 2005
- 3- \$20,000: Web-site development by October 15, 2005.
- 4- \$60,000: Permanent facility design and site management by October 15, 2005.
- 5- \$20,000: Training development. This is a guesstimate at this time.

- 6- \$20,000: Conference development. This is a guestimate at this time.
- 7- \$50,000: Training. This is a guestimate at this time. (5 staff)
- 8- \$50,000: Conference costs. This is a guestimate at this time. (In Kenora)

C/ Running Cost Funding:

- 1- To be discussed:

Closing Comments:

Dr. Herbert has been working towards a First Nation veterinary infrastructure in the Rainy River region for almost 2 years. While it may seem that this pound proposal has suddenly appeared, it was simply part of the infrastructure development. It was the Bill 132 legislation that brought the issue to the forefront at this time. Dog pound services are a key infrastructure in controlling dog populations but without the spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, euthanasia, public education, and bylaw enforcement, the problem will remain. It may seem odd, but contracting the entire new First Nation veterinary hospital to provide humane society-like services (rabies vaccination, spay/neuter, euthanasia, and dog pound veterinary services) for all Treaty 3 First Nations, would work together with bylaw enforcement **to permanently gain control of dog problems** within 1-2 year. After that, the program could be dropped or altered to maintenance programs. It would cost \$360,000 or less per year to dedicate the new facility as a First Nation humane society-like service (\$50,000 of which would be saved from the pound facility proposal with the cost of pound veterinary services).

Attached will be a Veterinary Infrastructure information blurb that was written five months ago. It will explain what you would be supporting for Lac des Milles Lacs. I have also attached my, and Percy's, CV so that you have some background on us. I have worked with Percy throughout the infrastructure development. His expertise and advice have, and will continue to be invaluable.

Please call to arrange a time to discuss these proposals. There is much too much here to write in brief and expect all of us to be on the same page.

Infrastructure is defined as a basic necessary structure or service upon which a desired goal must be built. For Example: All cities need roads upon which all homes and business are built. A veterinary infrastructure is a group of regulations and services that enable man to manage animals. Veterinary services are considered a fundamental community infrastructure in the developed world. Maintaining quality disease-free food supplies, zoonotic¹ disease prevention, companion animal² population control, and the prevention of animal suffering are what make veterinary services essential in today's developed society. Northern Ontario's First Nation communities are within the developed world but lack fundamental veterinary infrastructure services. The absence of these veterinary services in First Nations has left community members at risk from eating uninspected wild meat and fish, exposed to preventable diseases from domestic and wild animals, in danger of dog attacks, and without the wildlife management skills to sustain and excel in traditional lifestyles; including wild meat and fish retail.

All domestic Canadian meat is subject to inspection by both Provincial and Federal inspectors before sale and public consumption. The meat is inspected to lower the exposure of Canadian citizens to food-borne disease. Wild meat is not subject to the same safety measures. The vast majority of communities in Ontario that routinely use wild game as their community's source of meat are First Nation communities. Consequently, First Nation Communities are the only communities in Ontario routinely eating unsecured meat. Further, an entire veterinary services industry (farm service) is geared to prevent disease from entering our food chain by maintaining disease-free farmed animals. There is no current parallel in wildlife disease management. A veterinary infrastructure containing a wild meat inspection program would lower the exposure to food-borne diseases, including tuberculosis. It would also enable First Nation communities to develop a sustainable economy based on wildlife management, harvest, and wild meat retail.

Dog overpopulation is identified as one of the top ten environmental problems within First Nation communities.³ Overpopulation of dogs will result in increased levels of dog bites, dog pack aggression, transmission of zoonotic diseases, and unnecessary animal suffering. All of these dog overpopulation consequences are important environmental issues of public health concern. However, a more pressing concern is the ability of First Nations to comply with changing Federal and Provincial dog-related legislation

It is imperative that humane dog control measures become available to First Nation communities before passage of new Federal animal cruelty legislation. The two most recent evolutions towards new legislation are Bill S-24, currently before the Senate, and a more extreme amendment to the criminal code, Bill C-22, which Provincial humane societies and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association are lobbying to have re-introduced by the Federal government. When legislation of this nature comes into force it will profoundly impact the way First Nation communities manage their dog populations. For example: Shooting, poisoning, or trapping dogs may result in indictable, indefensible willful violations of the criminal code punishable by up to five years in prison. Further, negligence causing animal suffering may become an unjustifiable violation of the criminal code punishable by up to two years in prison. A negligent violation of the new criminal code would include failure to provide veterinary care to sick or injured dogs. The passage of new animal cruelty legislation is inevitable but with First Nation veterinary infrastructure development, First Nations can address legislative changes in a proactive manner

On August 29, 2005 the Public Safety Related to Dogs Statute Law Amendment Act (formerly Bill 132) came into force in the Province of Ontario. This act amended the Dog Owner's Liability Act to ban four breeds of pit bulls, place restrictions on existing pit bulls, and toughen penalties for the owners of any dog that poses a danger to the public in Ontario. The act received Royal Assent on March 9, 2005. However, the effective date of August 29, 2005, was set to allow municipalities time to ensure that the legislation could be applied effectively. Those

¹ Zoonotic diseases are diseases that can be spread from wild or domestic animals to people. Examples: Rabies, tuberculosis, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, scabies, cryptococcosis, psittacosis, campylobacteriosis, yersiniosis, leptospirosis, brucellosis, echinococcosis, visceral larval migrans, strongyloidiasis, giardiasis, trichinosis, blastomycosis, tularaemia, and *etc.*

² Companion animals are traditionally considered to be dogs and cats.

³ Environmental Contaminants & Traditional Foods Workshop Final Report. March 15, 2004. Page 28. Environmental Research Division, First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada. Thunder Bay, Ontario, February 10-11, 2004.

owners currently with pit bulls have until October 28, 2005 to comply with requirements set out in the amendments and the regulations so that their pit bulls will be grandfathered. What will Treaty Police do with no dog pound or animal control officer(s) to fulfill their duties? What will Treaty Three police do with no veterinary facility to provide infrastructure services to their develop their dog pound and animal control officer services?

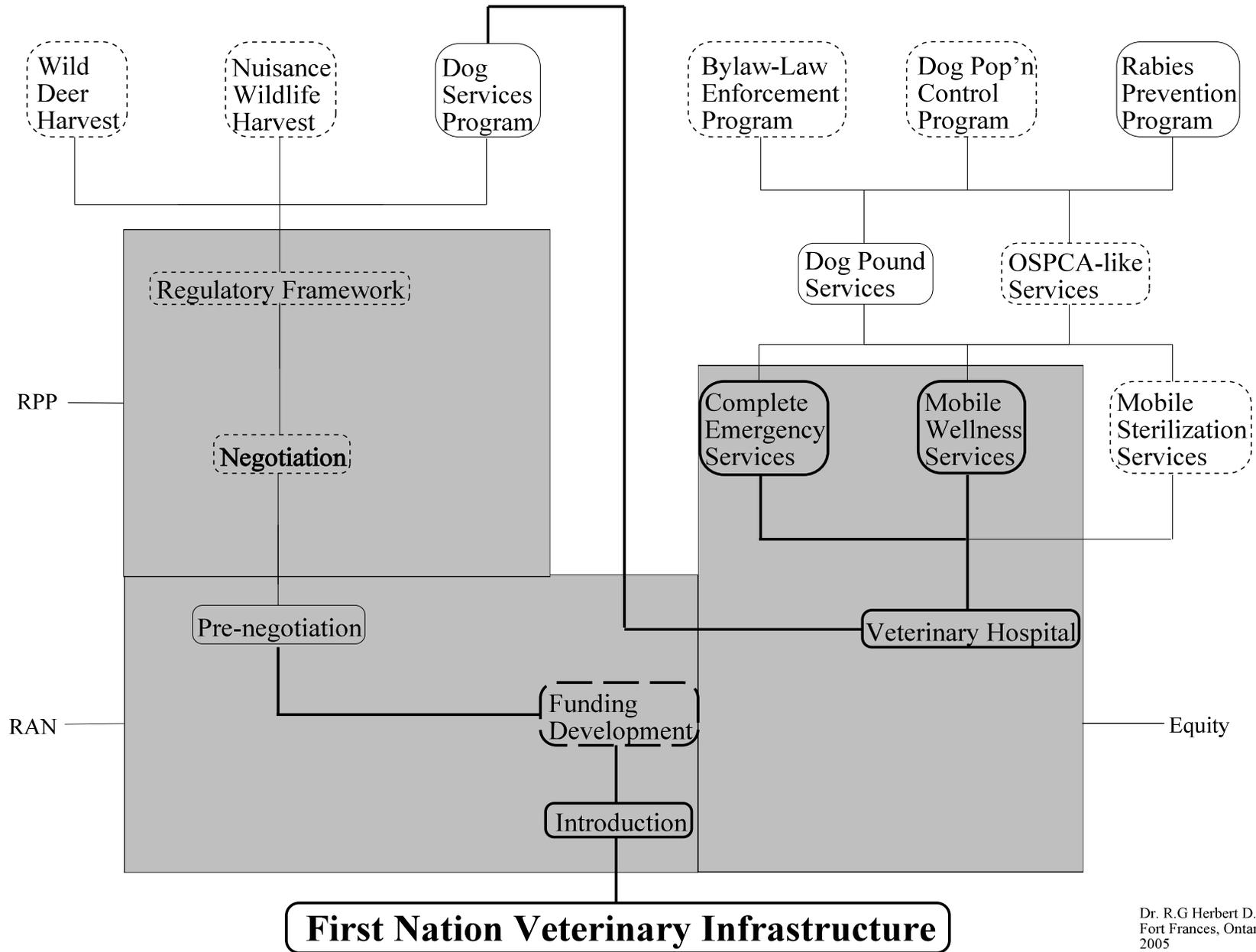
Out-of-control dog populations, public health issues related to dog overpopulation, compliance with changing Federal animal cruelty and Ontario Provincial Dog Owner's Liability legislation, nuisance wildlife control, a meat inspection structure to ensure disease-free traditional foods (wild meat and fish), and protocols to enable Ontario First Nations to manage, harvest, and retail wildlife as part of a sustainable community economic infrastructure are all part of a needed First Nation veterinary infrastructure. First Nation communities need user-defined in-community programs to provide basic veterinary infrastructure services. Access to a veterinary infrastructure will provide First Nation communities with choices they need to humanely control their dog populations and their traditional food supplies.

The Lac des Milles Lacs First Nation has partnered with Dr. Richard Herbert to develop a First Nation veterinary infrastructure. Funding initiatives have been submitted to INAC. The initiative was submitted as three distinct proposals due to their overall size; Resource Access Negotiation (RAN), Regional Partnership Program (RPP), and Equity funding applications. The RAN was for pre-negotiation; concept introduction, identification of concerned parties, identification of concerned party needs, discussion and definition of First Nation needs, partnership and funding development, and initial management and legal consultations. The RPP was for negotiation; elder consultations, community consultations, environmental impact consultations, access negotiation, regulation development, program protocol development, contract development, training development, marketing development, and legislation augmentation. The Equity was a partnership for the development of an interim veterinary facility that could begin to address crisis level dog control issues; Bill 132 compliance (dangerous dog legislation), proactive for Bill S-24 (animal cruelty legislation), pound services, animal control officer services, nuisance wildlife services, rabies prevention services, spay/neuter (population control) services, euthanasia services, and public education services. All of these veterinary facility-based services were to be developed at a central facility but have remote services for outlying reserves.

Please remember that the entire First Nation veterinary proposal is directed to solutions regarding current First Nation problems caused by the lack of a veterinary infrastructure. These problems include, but are not limited to: Out-of-control dog populations (including pound support services for Treaty Three police), public health issues related to dog overpopulation, compliance with changing legislation, nuisance wildlife control, lack of a meat inspection structure to ensure disease-free traditional foods (wild meat and fish), and the lack of a negotiated protocol to enable Ontario First Nations to manage, harvest, and retail wildlife as a part of a sustainable community economic infrastructure.

Early discussions indicate that within this veterinary infrastructure a sustainable wild meat management, harvest, and retail structure with the surplus deer populations in Northwestern Ontario would be developed. The developed framework would then be negotiated as a pilot to a First Nation wild meat economic infrastructure. After negotiation, a business and marketing structure would be created to implement a pilot deer harvest and retail program. Preliminary wild meat pre-negotiation discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have all been favourable. A veterinary facility will be developed to serve as a pilot program base for all veterinary services developed within the First Nation veterinary infrastructure. Including, but not limited to: Wild meat inspection, wildlife management, nuisance wildlife management, dog management, traditional farm management, and public education. If expanded from a pilot program, small strategically located, First Nation owned, regional veterinary facilities could provide a financially viable base from which domestic animals and wildlife resources would be managed

Veterinary legislation has never been adapted to meet Ontario's First Nation communities' needs. This project will lead to the enablement of Treaty three First Nations to manage their domestic animals and their traditional wildlife resources within First Nation governance structures. Virtually every First Nation community in Canada would benefit from a First Nation veterinary infrastructure.



Legend: Hatched boxes are infrastructure development aspects named within each of the 3 funding proposals. Thick lines are parts of the infrastructure already developed. Thin solid lines are parts of the infrastructure currently under development. Dashed lines are part of the infrastructure yet to be developed. Thick dashed lines are part if the infrastructure that appeared to be developed but INAC has blocked.