

Grey Bruce Aboriginal Qimmiq Team Aims

The GBAQT aims to support the well-being of Aboriginal dog populations through respectful population control methods. We provide spay/neuter surgeries in remote Ontario communities where other methods of dog population management, such as culls, are in place. As we visit the community, our team will provide immunizations, parasite control, and essential veterinary care aimed at improving both the health and overall well-being of the community and animals.

We believe in the importance of respectful animal education for both children and adults. Our education efforts aim to foster a sense of responsibility among dog owners, promoting effective population management and the well-being of individual animals. We are open to collaborating with local knowledge keepers, elders, educators, police, and nurses to enhance our community education initiatives.

Communities chosen for our visit are defined as “remote”. This means communities with no access to regular veterinary care. Frequently these communities are only accessible by plane.

We believe that the success of our dog population control program hinges on the genuine interest and commitment of the communities we visit. The desire for effective animal control measures should arise organically from within the community. We select communities for our visits based on their expressed interest in exploring humane options for animal control. Those communities willing to contribute financially to support the transportation costs of our team will be viewed as actively participating in and supporting population control initiatives. This collaboration is envisioned to foster a sense of 'ownership' of the project within the community.

Repeat visits should be based on the community response to our visits in terms of improvement in dog and owner relationships and a subsequent decrease in the number of dog shoots. There should be a method of evaluation of the success of our program in the community that is tangible. An initial assessment and consideration of all potential relevant factors within the community affecting the dog population must be achieved before the dog population control program is started. For successful population control, the goal is for 70 percent of the females to be spayed or sterilized. Initially, the main indicators to be monitored are the number of animals in the community, the percentage of female dogs spayed, and the need for and number of dog shoots.

GBAQT would only consider removing dogs from a community if they have medical or surgical problems beyond the scope of the GBAQT, or if their life is threatened if they stay in the community. Similarly, euthanizing animals in the community during our visit should only be performed if the animal has a life-threatening condition that is not curable. Rescues would only be performed if

the resources are available to do so.

The team will follow CVO guidelines in meeting the requirements of the remote veterinary hospital, and at least one veterinary team member must have a valid CVO license.

GBAQT is a non-profit organization that will do its best to provide travel and meals at little or no cost to the team members. The team members are all selected based on an application form. All time spent is volunteered by each individual member. Veterinarians may be asked to provide \$500 towards their travel expenses. This may be provided by their own fundraising.

COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. A survey of the dog population must be completed prior to the veterinary team visit. The survey should give us an idea of the number of dogs owned and unowned in the community as well as a basic idea of attitudes towards dogs and the uses of dogs in the community. We also need to know how the dog population control has occurred in the past & what the requirements for dog shoots are and how often dog culls have occurred.
2. Communities visited will be required to offer the team suitable housing and sleeping arrangements.
3. Potable drinking water is required for the team, and if possible, assistance with meals and meal preparation would be appreciated.
4. A place for the team to set up a surgery is required.
5. A member of the community is required to assist the team in picking up and delivering dogs from the surgery.
6. Advance notice of our visit to be advertised within the community. Surgery and vaccine lists need to be prepared ahead of time.