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To whom it may concern:

This Animal Control Program Guide was developed to help assist communities in establishing their own animal control program. The information in this document is continually changing and will require updates. If there is any information you see while using the guide that is not current, inaccurate, or not pertinent to animal control, please submit edits to us. Our contact information is below. Thank you for your tremendous work in the field of animal control and we look forward to working with you in your communities.

Sincerely,

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Animal Control Program Development Guide

Options for Enforcement and Management in Tribal Communities



Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service Division of Environmental Health Services

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Santa Fe Office of Environmental Health & Engineering

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Introduction

In the United States of America approximately 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs every year. Of these, nearly 885,000 seek medical care; 30,000 have reconstructive procedures; 3–18% develop infections and between 10 and 20 fatalities occur. Children make up the largest percentage of people bitten by dogs, with the highest incidence in mid-to-late childhood. The risk of injury to the head and neck is greater in children than in adults, adding to increased severity, necessity for medical treatment and death rates.

Even though there are some scary statistics, the presence of animals is incredibly important. From livestock to our household pets, animals can give us a sense of joy, love, acceptance, and even be a source of revenue. Animal control helps keep these animals that are so cherished safe while providing resources and services to the community to prevent animal cruelty, wild packs of dogs, different animal vaccinations, and to prevent overpopulation. Animal control programs operate differently throughout the United States, although, most of them have very specific components that make them efficient and effective. Animal control is not meant to decrease the animal population or punish owners for their animals, it is meant to control the current population and create programs for sick/unwanted animals. The graphic from the Humane Society of the United States explains why killing an animal of any sort in a community does not solve the problem of overpopulation. Food, shelter, and compassionate people will always be part of the community so animal control programs are implemented using other techniques.

The following pages of this document describe the steps of an effective animal control program as well as the resources, cost, equipment needed, and grant/funding opportunities for each step in the program. All of the components described can be implemented or those the Tribe determines are the most feasible. New grants and funding are made available throughout the year so monitor and review the details of grants with each grant provider.



Animal Control Ordinance

An ordinance is the first step in implementing an effective animal control program. This sets the guidelines for what will or will not be accepted in the community in terms of animals. Animal control ordinances can contain numerous sections but for a basic ordinance one should include:

- definitions,
- administration and enforcement of the ordinance,
- prohibited activities,
- rabies policy,
- animal bite policy,
- impounding procedures, and
- penalties.

More sections can be added to address specific concerns in the community itself. Sections can also be removed if the community feels it does not need to be added or addressed through the ordinance. Sample ordinances from several counties in New Mexico have been included in the appendix to be used as guidance as well as some other tribal communities animal control ordinances. It is important to note that an ordinance is not effective unless it is enforced within the community.

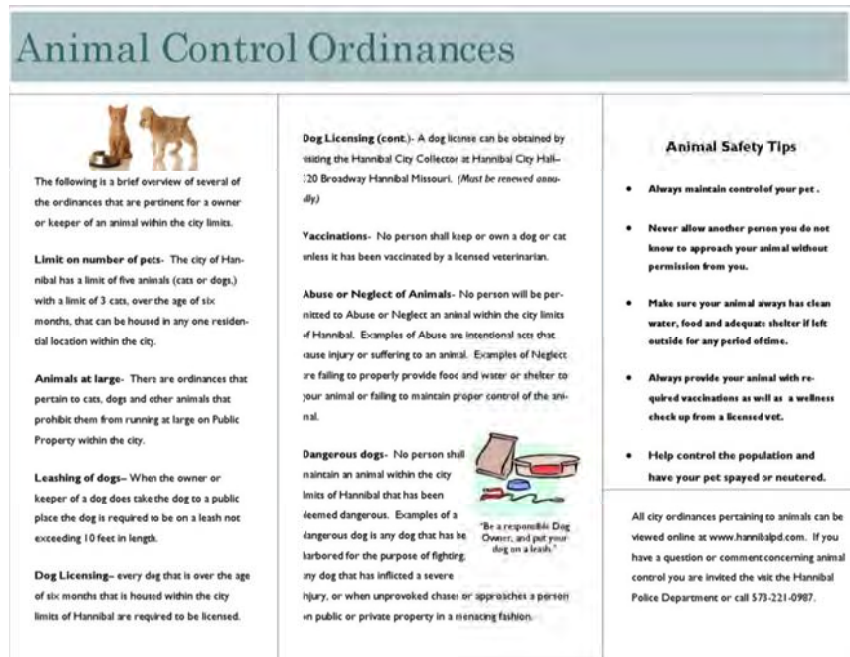
COST: None

GRANTS/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Not known at this time

RESOURCES: See Appendix A

- Bernalillo County Ordinance
- Sandoval County Ordinance
- Valencia County Ordinance
- Jemez Pueblo Ordinance
- Printable Brochure

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: None



The brochure is titled "Animal Control Ordinances" and is divided into several sections. It includes information about dog licensing, vaccinations, animal safety, and leash laws. There are also illustrations of a dog and a cat, and a small graphic of a dog on a leash.

Animal Control Ordinances

The following is a brief overview of several of the ordinances that are pertinent for a owner or keeper of an animal within the city limits.

Limit on number of pets. The city of Hannibal has a limit of five animals (cats or dogs,) with a limit of 3 cats, over the age of six months, that can be housed in any one residential location within the city.

Animals at large. There are ordinances that prohibit them from running at large on Public Property within the city.

Leashing of dogs. When the owner or keeper of a dog does take the dog to a public place the dog is required to be on a leash not exceeding 10 feet in length.

Dog Licensing. every dog that is over the age of six months that is housed within the city limits of Hannibal are required to be licensed.

Dog Licensing (cont.) A dog license can be obtained by visiting the Hannibal City Collector at Hannibal City Hall- 120 Broadway Hannibal Missouri. (Must be renewed annually)

Vaccinations. No person shall keep or own a dog or cat unless it has been vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian.

Abuse or Neglect of Animals. No person will be permitted to Abuse or Neglect an animal within the city limits of Hannibal. Examples of Abuse are intentional acts that cause injury or suffering to an animal. Examples of Neglect are failing to properly provide food and water or shelter to your animal or failing to maintain proper control of the animal.

Dangerous dogs. No person shall maintain an animal within the city limits of Hannibal that has been deemed dangerous. Examples of a dangerous dog is any dog that has been harbored for the purpose of fighting, any dog that has inflicted a severe injury, or when unprovoked chase or approaches a person in public or private property in a menacing fashion.

Animal Safety Tips

- Always maintain control of your pet.
- Never allow another person you do not know to approach your animal without permission from you.
- Make sure your animal always has clean water, food and adequate shelter if left outside for any period of time.
- Always provide your animal with required vaccinations as well as a wellness check up from a licensed vet.
- Help control the population and have your pet spayed or neutered.

All city ordinances pertaining to animals can be viewed online at www.hannibalspd.com. If you have a question or comment concerning animal control you are invited to visit the Hannibal Police Department or call 573-221-0987.

Please see Appendix A for a Printable Version of this Brochure.



Animal Control Officer

After the development of an animal control ordinance, a community might choose to create a position or give the responsibilities of an animal control officer to a specific person. These responsibilities might include but are not limited to

- enforcing the animal control ordinance within the community,
- patrolling the community for unwanted, abandoned or/and sick animals,
- transporting animals to the appropriate place,
- performing emergency animal rescue or first aid,
- educating the public on animal control, wildlife problems, and proper animal care, and
- issuing warning/citations for violating the ordinance.

A sample job description has been included to be used as reference when deciding certain responsibilities. In most communities, one animal control officer serves 16,000-18,000 persons. This can be put to scale for a community of smaller size. However, this option would possibly cost the tribal government money or time away from their current position if given to someone who already works for the Tribe.

COST: Bureau of Labor Statistics states that animal control officers get paid on average \$32,020 a year or \$15.40 per hour. Extra cost would also come from purchasing all of the equipment which could range from \$250-500. Training is also available through National Animal Care and Control Association. http://www.nacanet.org/?page=Training_Schedule

GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Not known at this time

RESOURCES: See Appendix B

- Animal Control Officer Job Description
- Guidelines for the Animal Control Officer

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Name tag, badge, control pole for a dog and a cat, pepper spray, first aid kit, flashlight, baton, radio, protective gloves, and transfer cage. More specific items can be found in Appendix B.



Animal Control Pole



Animal Control Officer with a Caged Vehicle



Animal Housing /Shelter

With an ordinance in place as well as enforcement, building a shelter would be advantageous to be able to transport any dangerous, wild, or loose animals within the community. This could be a temporary holding place or a full functioning shelter where animals are taken until picked up by their owner. A grant through the USDA is available to construct a facility. An approximate breakdown of how much materials, labor, and installation of certain features will cost has been included in the Appendix C. The New Mexico Sheltering Board also has information available on the minimum standards an animal shelter needs to have for humane housing and treatment of sheltered animals. Tribal communities close in proximity could partner to build the shelter to pool resources. Additionally, it is recommended Tribes partner with veterinarians or vet techs to examine animals at the shelter as needed.

COST: Could vary depending on what resources are provided from within the Tribe from: \$113,500 to \$1.2 million.

GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: USDA Rural Development Grant, MEACHAM grant, http://www.animalsheltering.org/how-we-help/strengthen-your-shelter/financial-assistance/grant_listings.html also has a list of grants for sheltering

RESOURCES: See Appendix C

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Materials for the building construction, chain link for fence and/or kennels, food and water, and personnel to staff the building.



Fenced, outdoor shelter



The 10,000-square-foot Almost Home Animal Shelter in Fort Dodge, IA opened September 2010.



Relationships with Veterinarians and Shelters

The community has the option of partnering with others to make the animal control program a success. A list of animal shelters and resources found at <http://www.petroglyphsnm.org/resource.html> can be separated out for different areas of New Mexico. A relationship can be formed between a tribal community and a shelter so when animals are caught and held, the animals are taken there once or twice a week. This can also include contracting out other resources the shelters may offer. Relationships can be made with tribal veterinarians or through other similar programs. This would allow for more specific animal care and vaccinations to occur within the community. Tribal communities could partner to form these relationships if one or more issues are affecting them as well as pooling resources together.

COST: None

GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Banfield Charitable Trust – See Appendix C.

RESOURCES: Contact information available in Appendix C.

- Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society
- Espanola Valley Humane Society
- Watermelon Ranch in Rio Rancho
- Animal Humane Society of New Mexico
- Los Alamos County Animal Shelter
- Rio Rancho Animal Control.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: A veterinarian or veterinarian tech, an agreement between the shelters and veterinarians, a shelter or humane society within a reasonable distance from the community.



Peaceful pets



Veterinarians examining a dog



Spay and Neuter Clinics

Spay and neuter clinics have been determined to be one of the best ways for decreasing the number of unwanted animals in communities. This would assist the animal control officer and ensure all animal control resources are best used. Spaying and neutering is relatively risk free for animals and pre- and post-operation instructions are often given to caretakers to make sure both the operation and recovery go well. Most communities that have animal control programs have access to spay and neuter clinics or have a program/organization they partner with to provide low cost or free procedures to promote it. Grants are available through different organizations. Humane societies outside of the community also provide low cost spay and neuter services in Bernalillo and Santa Fe County.

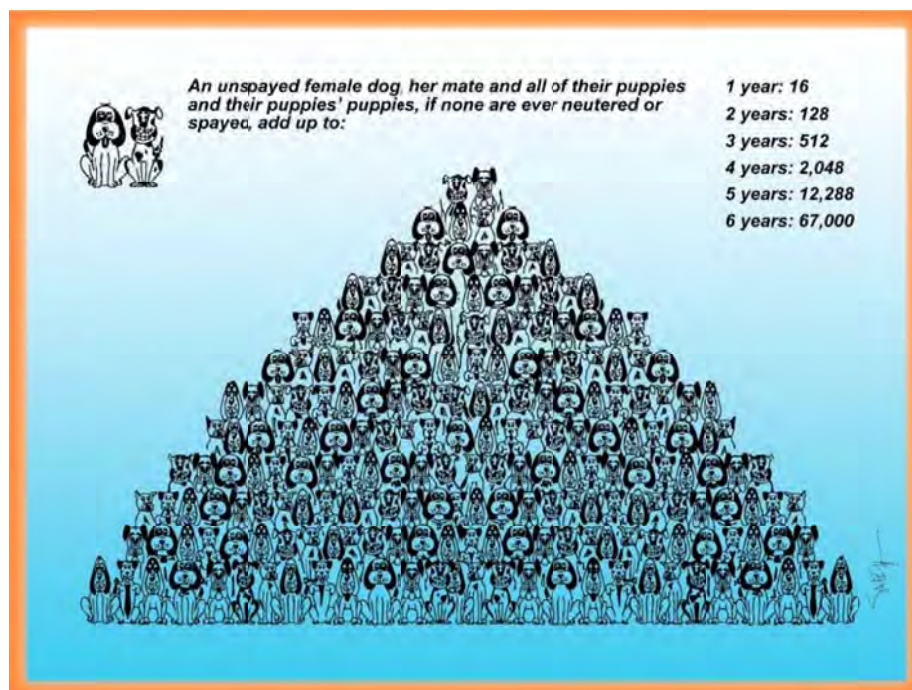
COST: Approximately \$25-\$100 per animal or \$1,800-\$3,000 per/day

GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: ASPCA, waivers for low income families – See Appendix K.

RESOURCES: See Appendix C.

- Zimmer Feline Foundation out of Santa Fe, New Mexico offering spay/neuter programs for cats in communities
- Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Human Society offers a mobile spay and neuter clinic Animal Humane of New Mexico offers low cost spay/neuter to qualified low income families with cats costing \$25 for males and \$35 for females. Dogs cost \$50 to \$100 based on weight and gender.
- Spay First! Offers in community spay/neuter programs where they bring the technical equipment and the community provides the space and volunteers.
- Pre and post operational procedures

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: A veterinarian, a veterinarian tech, surgical equipment and supplies, contract or agreement between shelter/humane society/organization.



Local Government Support

In a municipal New Mexico county with approximately 663,000 people, their animal control program is allotted over 1.8 million dollars a fiscal year. On average, \$2.78 is allocated to animal control programs per resident in Bernalillo County. Other counties could pay more or less depending on the funding provided to animal control programs through taxes. A blanket charge of \$2.00 could be added to existing fees residents pay or charges could be placed on dogs, or both dogs and cats. Local government support should be a constant and unwavering entity within the community, both financially and through program assistance and support. Local government support can also be demonstrated by:

- Choosing to fund animal control programs,
- Making enforcement of the ordinance and education for the community a priority, and
- Following the animal control program guidelines and ordinances to demonstrate the importance of the initiative (for more information please see [page 3](#)).

Without local government support, the rest of the options may not be as effective or taken as seriously within the community. Obtaining Tribal government support is critical to ensuring a successful program will be implemented as well as sustained for the future.

COST: None

GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: N/A

RESOURCES: N/A

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Tribal officials supporting animal control policies through their own actions and coming to community events surrounding animal control



Public Education Programs

For a community to embrace a new program such as animal control, education throughout the community at all levels can be provided to serve as a resource about owner responsibilities, bite prevention and safety, spay and neutering, vaccinations, and how to handle other non-domestic animals. Specifically, Animal Protection of New Mexico provides outreach programs for youth in school settings as weekly programs to cover a variety of topics.

COST: None

GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Animal Welfare Trust – Information is available in Appendix C.

RESOURCES: Animal Protection of New Mexico has developed educational programs for all ages on different animal control and animal caretaking topics. See Appendix D.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Educational materials on animal control, animal cruelty, and owner responsibilities; a platform to present materials such as schools, community functions, or a community newsletter; and someone to compile information to present or distribute.



Animal Control Officer providing education to children



Other Programs/Initiatives

Each individual community can make their animal control program as unique as their community. Other programs and initiatives can be brought in from other communities, creating partnerships from other communities, or securing funding for specific needs that the community can only deal with at this time. For example, a grant through the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) can be obtained for a transportation vehicle. This vehicle could be used for picking up stray animals every week and transporting them to a shelter or it could be used for other animal control initiatives based on the objectives of the grant. Other initiatives could be:

- Outreach to surrounding non-tribal communities about unwanted animals being brought to and left on tribal lands and the effect on the community
- Providing leashes and/or fences to animal owners to ensure they are restrained
- Micro chipping/licensing pets that live in the community to ensure an owner is in compliance with the ordinance and to track other pets who may not have a designated owner

COST: Varies

GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for an animal control vehicle – Please see Appendix C.

RESOURCES: <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/2animal.htm> for a list of animal welfare/animal control grants across the country

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Varies



Outdoor shelter area



Leashes of varying styles



Caged vehicle used to transport animals



Conclusion

In conclusion, any of the options described in this document can be combined with all, or some, of the other options presented. These options cannot stand alone however; animal control is made up of many different elements which create programs to help animal owners and make the community a safer place to live. Community leaders can decide what is best for the community as well as what is feasible financially. Animal control programs are also built over time and can take years to obtain all the necessary resources and funding. This manual will serve as a resource for what the community can do right now and then what the future plans for the program will be.



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Appendix

Animal Control Program Development Guide

Options for Enforcement and Management in Tribal Communities



Appendix - Table of Contents

A: Sample Ordinances

1. Bernalillo County
2. Sandoval County
3. Valencia County
4. Jemez Pueblo
5. Printable Brochure

B: Animal Control Officer

1. Job Description
2. Guidelines

C: Shelter

1. Estimated Shelter Cost
2. Minimum Standards for Animal Shelters in NM

D: Spay and Neuter

1. Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation Spay/Neuter Project
2. Spay and Neuter Resources
3. Pre/Post Spay and Neuter Operational Procedures – Cats
4. Pre/Post Spay and Neuter Operational Procedures – Dogs

F: Education

1. Humane Education Curriculum
2. Humane Education Flyer

