



CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION # 15- 12/12/2024

SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AN OVERALL VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT-RELATIONSHIP (VCPR) THROUGHOUT THE MATAWA FIRST NATIONS AS A HERD-HEALTH MODEL

WHEREAS Matawa member First Nations have different and unique definitions of animal ownership (or none at all) in comparison to municipalities, and;

WHEREAS animal ownership and responsibilities have greater positive or negative effects in Matawa member First Nations where free-roaming dog populations are present, and;

WHEREAS community members mutually care for animals supporting their well-being and life care decisions including herd health, and;

WHEREAS First Nation communities suffer an inequality due to a lack of access (or no access) to veterinary care, and;

WHEREAS a Veterinarian Client Relationship (VCPR) can be described as the first step in accessing clinical veterinary professional services representing an agreement between the veterinary professional and the client. VCPR supports the safe quality of animal care and is the foundation of clinical veterinary medicine supporting the ability of veterinary professionals to deliver effective clinic animal care; and

WHEREAS a VCPR is usually formed with the “owner” of an animal and that, in the Matawa member First Nations, this requirement often results in a roadblock for an animal to receive care; and

WHEREAS current College of Veterinarians of Ontario regulations are cumbersome, restrictive, and in some cases, do not apply to First Nations’ culture and work against the delivery of efficient and innovative veterinary services in Matawa member First Nations; so

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs support the implementation of a Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) to Matawa First Nations Management for all animals in their communities to facilitate the bridge that is needed to ensure veterinarian care,

disease prevention, animal population wellness and herd management to occur without any bureaucratic colonialist roadblocks; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Management Animal Wellness Services continue to advocate and seek funding for new innovative service delivery models that meet the needs of Matawa member First Nation communities to create equality in veterinarian access to services and supplies; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs call on all levels of government/regulatory bodies to support Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination and for them to support the One Health Model regarding the correlation between animal-and-human-health which is unique in First Nations requiring unique solutions.

MOVED BY: Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming First Nation

OPPOSITION(S): 0

ABSTENTION(S): 0

Carried: (9)

Dated, the 11th day of December 2024 in Thunder Bay, Ontario

First Nations Present:

Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming First Nation

Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 First Nation

Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation

Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Proxy Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation

Ogamakan Micheal Sugarhead, Nibinamik First Nation

Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation