

**MEDIA RELEASE-DRAFT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 25, 2026

## **Matawa Animal Wellness Services Kicks off Week-Long Spay/Neuter Clinic in Long Lake #58 First Nation**

Thunder Bay, ON – Matawa Animal Wellness Services, in partnership with; Long Lake #58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, The Global Alliance for Pets and People, Northern Reach Network supported by PetSmart Charities of Canada, and the Municipality of Greenstone; are hosting a week-long spay/neuter and vaccination clinic taking place at the Long Lake #58 First Nation Community Hall, from May 26th to May 31st, 2026.

Matawa Animal Wellness Services have teamed up with a skilled veterinary team from The Global Alliance for Pets and People, who will provide services including; spaying and neutering, microchip implants, vaccinations, deworming, flea/tick treatment, and wellness grooming pets.

“We understand most of Highway 11 in our region is a ‘veterinarian desert’, so we’re expanding our reach to support surrounding areas,” said Judi Cannon, Indigenous animal wellness specialist with Matawa Animal Wellness Services. “For too long, Matawa member First Nation communities have gone without veterinary care, but with support from PetSmart Charities of Canada grant funding through Northern Reach Network, we can provide these critically needed services.”

Veterinarian services are not just animal services - they serve as a public health and safety function. More than 300 pets are expected to be treated over this week-long clinic. This will greatly increase the number of pets who are spayed or neutered and vaccinated, helping regulate the dog population, reduce roaming dogs and dog bites, and strengthening protection against zoonotic diseases like rabies. Healthier pets make healthier communities because pets are part of the family and are interconnected to wellness and wellbeing.

Members from the Matawa member First Nations and Greenstone Residents are all welcome to register for the clinic [here](#). Please see attached poster for registration link and QR code.

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*For more information, please contact Judi Cannon, Indigenous Animal Wellness Specialist with Matawa’s Animal Wellness Services, at [jcannon@matawa.on.ca](mailto:jcannon@matawa.on.ca).*

