

# NORTHERN INTER-TRIBAL HEALTH AUTHORITY INC.



**Mailing Address: Box 787, 2300 – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West - Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201  
Peter Ballantyne Office Complex, Main Floor - Prince Albert, SK ~ S6V 5S4, Canada  
Telephone: 306-953-5000 / Confidential Fax: 306-953-5020**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It has come to our attention that you are the owner or responsible person for a dog/dogs in the community of \_\_\_\_\_.

There are concerns in your community about the behavior and appropriate control of your animal/animals. This letter is to provide you information regarding what would be considered responsible pet ownership and to provide you some options to ensure you are meeting your obligation to both your animal and your community.

A responsible owner in the eyes of the community would be a person who accepts and agrees to perform various duties to ensure compliance with local laws or bylaws in place. A responsible owner places importance on meeting the behavioral, environmental and physical needs of a dog or other animal and to the prevention of risks (aggression, disease transmission or injuries) that the dog may pose to the community, other animals, or the environment.

Some examples of what this means include:

- Not allowing an animal to become a nuisance to others through barking or digging to the point it disrupts others sleep or use of their home in peace;
- Ensuring your animal is seen by a trained veterinarian if it appears ill (not eating/drinking/sleeping normally or suddenly being aggressive);
- Ensuring that you animal is up-to-date with recommended vaccines;
- If your animal is particularly aggressive or protective of his yard or the homes' occupants, it may mean ensuring no access to the animal by community members by fencing the area where the pet is kept. Typically a chain is not sufficient against aggressive behavior as the public can still approach the animal. If however, the dog is aggressive, it should not be allowed to roam the community.

When an animal is allowed to roam off leash it can have many consequences including but not limited to:

- The potential transmission of rabies infection to humans;
- The potential spread of disease from animal to animal;

- The potential for unwanted breeding/population growth;
- The potential for physical harm to your animal or others due to fighting or a motor vehicle collision.

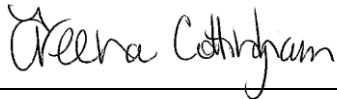
Most dog/animal bites occur to children. These children are unfortunately put through a series of four to five very painful vaccines to ensure they do not acquire rabies infection. Should this occur, the parents and the community could have negative feelings towards the dog/animal owner.

If after becoming aware of these responsibilities you are unable to commit to providing this level of care or control of the animal, please ask your band office for assistance in finding a more appropriate home or possibly putting the animal down if its behavior is putting others at risk.

By this letter, we assume that you are now fully informed of the expectation of dog/animal owners in your community and you are willing to provide this level of care and control.

If you have any questions you may contact your local Environmental Health Officer or the Environmental Health Advisor at NITHA (306) 953 - 5028.

Thank you.



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Treena Cottingham  
Environmental Health Advisor  
NITHA



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Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka  
Medical Health Officer  
NITHA