

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

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Dog health program success

Up to 90 dogs were desexed during the second half of a dog health program recently held in Tennant Creek.

Barkly Regional Council's Regional Animal and Environmental Health Officer Brian Radovic said 30 male and 60 female dogs were desexed last week as part of a two-week program promoting awareness about dog health and responsible pet ownership in Tennant Creek.

"It was a busy five days for the three vets (Linda Bradbury, John Brown and Jan Allen), vet nurse Graeme Narrier, the Barkly Regional Council animal health team - Scott Spurling and Dwayne Foster - and a crew of volunteers," said Brian. "They just didn't stop."

"We had Cheeky Dog creator Dion Beasley and his carer Joie Boulter going out with the animal health team to collect dogs from Tennant Creek town camps. Volunteers, Shirley Lewis from Anyinginyi, Jackie Hingston and Jimmy Noonan, were also invaluable, explaining to pet owners that the operation was important and their dogs would be safe and OK."

Organised jointly by Barkly Regional Council and Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC), the two-week dog program had an educational component with visiting ranger Brooke Connor delivering 13 education programs to classes at the Tennant Creek Primary School, Preschool and Child Care Centre during the first week.

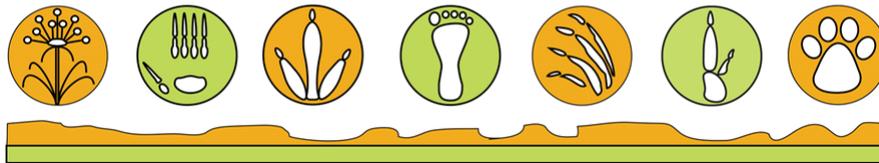
"Local children had the chance to work on doggy friendly activities, such as writing songs about caring for dogs and creating finger puppets which were later used in a performance," said Brooke.

"The older kids ran some brainstorming sessions on educating the public on how to best care for their dogs with ideas such as creating a dog park, having a free vet day once a month and a dog day out."

Brooke also engaged in discussions with store owners about dogs being left at home rather than brought to the main street.

"Locals really got behind the program with a lot of people showing interest and giving me a great deal of feedback with regards an open forum on dog issues in Tennant Creek," she said.

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Brian said Tennant Creek can expect more dog health programs in the future. “In the past much of our focus has been out bush,” he said.

“But as dog health and control improves in regional communities of the Barkly we’re concentrating on letting the Tennant Creek community know what the council and AMRRIC are doing,” he said.

Media contact: Ktima Heathcote 08 89620027 or ktima.heathcote@barkly.nt.com.au