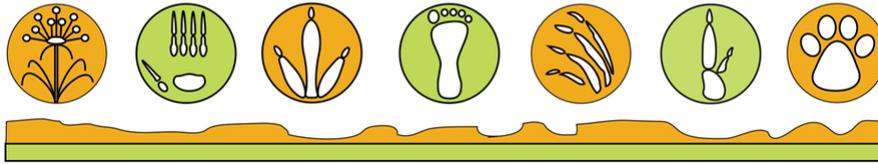


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

28 October 2014

Dog health program unleashed in town

Our four legged friends will have plenty to wag their tails about with an upcoming two weeks of pawsome activities promoting dog health in Tennant Creek.

Events for the first week kick off on Saturday morning with a pooch of an idea for preschoolers at the Tennant Creek Library with an hour of dog stories and craft activities from 10.30-11.30am.

A major highlight of the first week will be the doggie day out at the Civic Centre on Wednesday, November 5 from 10am-4.30pm. Bring along your pet and get free micro chipping and desexing vouchers, learn how to care for dogs, understand dog health and responsible pet ownership, give your dog a bath and draw your own cheeky dog with artist Dion Beasley.

Organised jointly by Barkly Regional Council (BRC) and Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC), there will also be kids' activities, a free BBQ and council's animal management workers to talk to at this free event.

Throughout the week of November 3-7, kids who go to childcare and school will have the chance to work on doggy friendly activities, create a picture for the community art competition and watch some fun educational DVDs about dogs.

Council's Regional Animal and Environmental Health Officer Brian Radovic said the week was all about promoting awareness about dog health and responsible pet ownership in Tennant Creek.

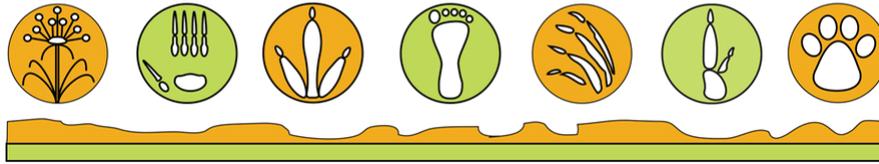
"Much of our focus has been out bush. But as dog health and control improves in regional communities of the Barkly we're concentrating on letting the Tennant Creek community know what the council and AMRRIC are doing," he said.

"The council and AMRRIC are making a real difference, with up to 90 per cent of the female dogs [now] desexed in indigenous communities in the Barkly."

Visiting ranger Brooke Connor and Pritika Desai, Education Officer for AMRRIC, are also in Tennant Creek to help run the two-week dog health program with the council's animal health team.

Brooke has already liaised with schools and local organisations to provide educational presentations and she has engaged in discussions with store owners about dogs being left at home rather than brought to the main street.

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“Locals have 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,” said Brooke.

“While there is an educational bent, the dog program is also going to be great fun. We’ve got DVDs to screen, a free BBQ, opportunities to bath your dog and the chance for kids to make dog puppets and draw their own cheeky dogs.

“Brian will also be handing out free desexing and micro chipping vouchers at the doggie day out and Animal Control Ranger Sam Hodges can offer pet owners a few tricks to handle their dogs better.”

The following week, from November 10-14, the council’s animal management team, two visiting vets and Dr Jan Allen from AMRRIC will be conducting a five-day desexing program for dogs in the Tennant Creek town camps.

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