

Solutions for Rural Alaskan Communities Underserved With Veterinary Care



Is Rural Alaska Underserved?

No data exists to quantify veterinary needs in rural Alaska



Alaska Veterinary Statute Sec. 08.98.050 (7)
requires the Alaska veterinary board to:

- monitor the standards and availability of veterinary services provided in the state.

A state wide study/ survey needs to be done

Assuming that this lack of rural veterinary care exists, what does it affect?

- increase risk and incidence of zoonotic diseases
- increase risk of human dog bites , maulings and death by mauling
- psychological trauma from witnessing or participating in euthanasia of unwanted or injured/ ill dogs and cats

Possible Solutions:

- Rural veterinary hub clinics
 - Telemedicine
- Non-surgical sterilization
 - Local animal control

Rural Veterinary Hub Clinics

Who will pay for these?

Rural Economic Development Grants

Non-profit groups

Local community efforts

Telemedicine (telehealth)

Veterinary telemedicine is illegal in Alaska unless it is directly between an Alaskan licensed veterinary technician and an Alaska licensed veterinarian.

Recently passed SB 74 allows distance telehealth with physicians and others but not veterinarians.

Veterinary medicine should legally allow for telemedicine.

Non- Surgical Sterilization

The goal of non- surgical sterilization should be permanent sterilization or 1 year minimum duration sterilization that can be timed with rabies vaccination

Male dogs

- Zueterin (in bankruptcy)
- Calcium Chloride
- Suprelorin (desorelin)- not in US

Female dogs

- Suprelorin (desorelin)
- GonaCon/other hormonal products
- Other confidential immunological products (promising and affordable)
- Rabies/ immunocontreceptive combination products

Local Animal Control

- Partnerships with animal adoption placement partners for unwanted animals
- Access to spay/ neuter and economic development grants
- Access to training for humane euthanasia
- Partnership with state rabies lay vaccinator program
- Partner with telemedicine
- Partner with non-surgical sterilization
- Brings local input into veterinary needs

Local input into the veterinary care issue

The people of rural Alaska need to have representation with the Alaskan veterinary board. Because of the low population and the widespread geography, this representation does not exist.

Possible solutions are:

- Add a rural public member to the veterinary board
- Creation of a Rural Alaskan Veterinary Advisory Board. This board can select a representative who will be a public member of the Alaska veterinary board

