

Dear Mr. Steckman and City Council Members,

5/6/21

Thank you for your time and consideration reviewing this proposal prepared for you by The Bering Sea Humane Society. This proposal is seeking funds to support a centralized location to provide access to spay/neuter surgeries, regular vaccinations, and a safe quarantine facility for the communities of the Norton Sound Region. The urgency to protect the progress and measures made thus far, lead us to request a grant of \$250,000.00 to ensure not only the safety of our communities, but the health of our at risk wildlife.

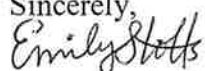
Per the DHSS Alaska Rabies Prevention and Control Manual, published August 2019, version 12

**Alaska Section of Epidemiology (SOE)
General Guidelines for Determining the Disposition of a Dog that Bites or is Bitten¹**

Scenario	Dog vaccinated ²	Dog unvaccinated
Dog bites human	Dog must be quarantined for 10 days. ³ <ul style="list-style-type: none">If animal shows any signs of illness, must be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies.	Dog may be immediately euthanized if sick or stray. If owned and well, dog must be quarantined for 10 days. ^{3,4} <ul style="list-style-type: none">If animal shows any signs of illness, must be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies.Once 10-day period is over, animal should be immediately vaccinated.
Rabid fox bites dog	Dog must be immediately re-vaccinated. Then, confined by the owner for 45 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none">If the owner cannot reliably and completely confine the animal, SOE strongly recommends euthanasia.If animal shows any signs of illness, must be euthanized immediately and may be tested for rabies.	Dog may be immediately euthanized if sick or stray. If owner will not allow dog to be euthanized, animal must be strictly confined for 6 months. ^{4,5} <ul style="list-style-type: none">SOE strongly recommends euthanasia and would like complete assurance that the owner can reliably and completely confine the dog.If animal shows any signs of illness, must be euthanized immediately and may be tested for rabies.Dog should be vaccinated upon entry into confinement or 1 month prior to release.

These are the necessary steps to isolate and control high rate of infection incidents that compromise our ability to avoid outbreak levels. Without the support of a concerted effort, the resources that are available are being exhausted at a rate we will be unable to recover from. The Office of the State Veterinarian has outlined an approved quarantine facility to have at least one room with a closing door; of which, the current Animal Control Facility serving Nome does not have. With the recent outbreaks of Rabies and Distemper in our region, the animal and human wellness connection has become even more apparent; and our need for access to a quarantine facility even more critical. Our State and region have been very responsive amid the COVID crisis, and must continue that vigilance in relation to the healthcare available for our animals if we are to prevent uncontrolled contamination of humans or any canine-related wildlife important to the subsistence lifestyle (i.e. foxes, seals).

The Bering Sea Humane Society is already in motion to provide support for animal and human wellness partners. Through partnerships with local businesses and the City of Nome, we've been able to maintain an effective quarantine protocol; as well as access to veterinary services for our regional residents. Without the ability to maintain this support, our entire region is at risk to moratorium if the Distemper outbreak should reach the mainland without a plan in order. Awarding this grant would have an historical-level impact, providing generational support for years to come, and bringing unprecedented access to basic healthcare and mitigation of preventable infectious diseases for our loved ones.

Sincerely,


Emily Stotts
Director, The Bering Sea Humane Society