



Hó Ney Ra “small stories”

SFN BULLETIN
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Inye Dochi (How are you) Selkirk Citizens



Marion Catiau and her dog Zen

MEET MARION – OUR NEW ANIMAL SHELTER COORDINATOR (ACS)

Since joining SFN in February, Marion Catiau has jumped into her new role with dedication and heart. She's been hands-on with everything from supporting pet owners to improving the shelter itself.

It's important to note that **Marion is not an Animal Protection Officer and does not have enforcement authority.** Her role focuses on education, advocacy, and supporting the community with a practical and compassionate approach to animal concerns. Her position was created through the Community Safety Officer (CSO) program in direct response to dog-related concerns raised by Citizens. It was also through the CSO program that Selkirk First Nation first engaged the Canadian Animal Assistance Team (CAAT), with Marion now continuing collaboration in that partnership.

Here are a few highlights of what she's been working on:

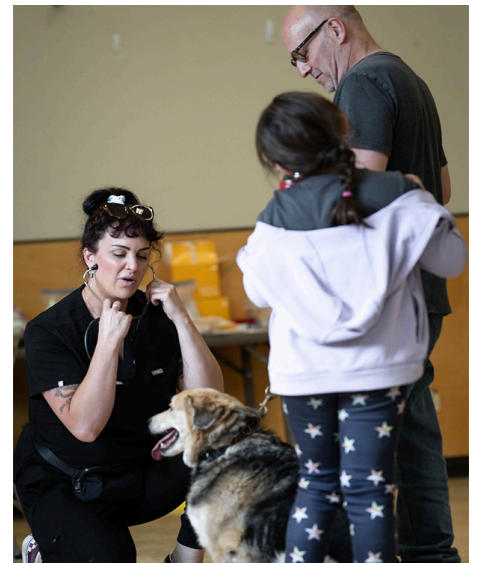
- 🐾 Responding to Citizen concerns and reports of aggressive or at-risk dogs in the community.
- 🐾 Helping to re-home five puppies at the request of their owner, ensuring they found safe, caring homes.
- 🐾 Supporting the humane euthanization of an elderly dog who was suffering due to illness. Although the original plan was to let the dog pass on its own, Marion offered a free and compassionate alternative through a YG program.
- 🐾 Assisting with renovations and improvements to the old shelter, making it a safe & comfortable space for animals.
- 🐾 Staying in contact with Animal Protection Officer Jimmy Kennedy, to help align YG and SFN efforts while encouraging stronger collaboration and increased support where needed.

- 🐾 Assisting with the development of a community-wide Dog Management Plan for SFN.
- 🐾 Gathering donations and supplies through local partnerships, including contributions from The Feed Store.
- 🐾 Creating a dog registry with photos to help reconnect lost pets with their families.

Looking ahead, Marion will focus on education and awareness around pet care and safety, while continuing to build partnerships with SFN Citizens, CAAT, and YG. She's also planning fun, educational gatherings for families and their pets — a chance to connect, learn, and strengthen the bond between people and animals in our community. Join the dedicated Facebook page to follow news and upcoming events.

Canadian Animal Assistance Team (CAAT) in Pelly Crossing

The Canadian Animal Assistance Team (CAAT) is now in its third year of a 5-year partnership with Pelly Crossing, supporting long-term, community-driven solutions



for pet care and education. To date, CAAT has made four visits to the community — including two full veterinary clinics. Across these visits, a team of 34 volunteer veterinarians and vet techs have come to Pelly to provide spay and neuter services, vaccinations, nail trims, and pet health education. Their efforts have also included a Pet First Aid Workshop and Dog Bite Safety presentations for students at Eliza VanBibber School.



CAAT brings dog education into EVBS

CAAT remains committed to walking alongside Selkirk First Nation to support meaningful, community-led action and solutions to our local pet concerns. The goal of this partnership is to support Selkirk First Nation in creating our own long-term plan for community pet care — one that is shaped by Citizen voices, reflects our cultural values, and is rooted in education, compassion, and of course, our Traditional Knowledge*.

*With assistance from SFN Language and Heritage

The next CAAT clinic is scheduled for June 6, 7, and 8, so stay tuned for updates and registration information.

Animal “Shelter” Update

Our new dog shelter is more than just a place to house pets — it’s being reimagined as a vibrant, welcoming space for both animals and people. Thanks to recent renovations, the building will soon be ready to safely accommodate dogs and serve as a hub for community events like BBQs, parades, dog walks, kick sleds, and youth-led activities. Future plans include offering services such as grooming, nail clipping, and training sessions, as well as potential



Shelter under Renovation

summer jobs focused on dog care and education.

The shelter will reflect our community’s values — prioritizing care, connection, and learning over the clinical definition of “shelter.” Name ideas under consideration include The Pack Hub, Paws and People, Wag and Wisdom, and a Northern Tutchone name meaning “we take care of them.”

CAAT is supporting this transition by assisting Marion with writing SOPs (standard operating procedures) which will keep pets safe while in care and guide decision making through a lens of education and compassion. CAAT will also assist with start-up supplies including food to ensure animals are comfortable and well cared for from the beginning.

What Is a Dog Management Plan — And Why Do We Need One?

Selkirk First Nation is currently developing a Dog Management Plan – an important document that will help guide us in how we care for, interact with, and respond to concerns about dogs in our community. It will have a strong focus on our specific community needs, education, safety,



Council & CSO’s meet with YG’s Chief Veterinarian office staff and Animal Protection Officer Jimmy Kennedy to discuss MOU

and long-term solutions that reflect our traditional ways of being with animals.

The Dog Management Plan will:

- 🐾 Outline education and practical assistance available for pet owners.
- 🐾 Provide guidance for addressing aggressive or dangerous dogs.
- 🐾 Define what it means to be a roaming or free-roaming dog in Pelly and reflect on community concerns in creating a safe and respectful way to manage these concerns.
- 🐾 Set culturally appropriate* expectations for dog welfare by offering guidance on providing adequate food, water, and shelter suitable for all seasons. * (for example, the plan will not say dogs must be fed kibble if they are receiving adequate nutrition through any combination of pet food or food harvested from the land).
- 🐾 Help prevent overpopulation of dogs.
- 🐾 Ensure the safety of Citizens regarding encounters with unsupervised pets.

Currently, SFN does not have a local enforcement role, however we are working with YG to develop a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**, a document that outlines shared responsibilities — including enforcement — between SFN and YG. At this time, only the Animal Protection Officer, Jimmy Kennedy, holds enforcement authority under Yukon legislation. Marion continues to play a key role in bridging this partnership and helping bring the SFN Dog Management Plan to life.

Once the Dog Management Plan and MOU are finalized, SFN will have a stronger structure in place to guide us in responding to, and eventually enforce pet-related concerns in a way that is rooted in compassion and community values. Education will remain the foundation of this plan, with an ongoing rollout of learning opportunities for all Citizens.

Please join our Facebook page for all things related to this bulletin -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pellypets>



Mailing address: Selkirk First Nation, P.O. Box 40, Pelly Crossing, YT, Y0B 1P0



communications@selkirkfn.com



Selkirk First Nation
www.facebook.com/selkirkfn



www.selkirkfn.com