



ANIMAL CONTROL TEAM (ACT)

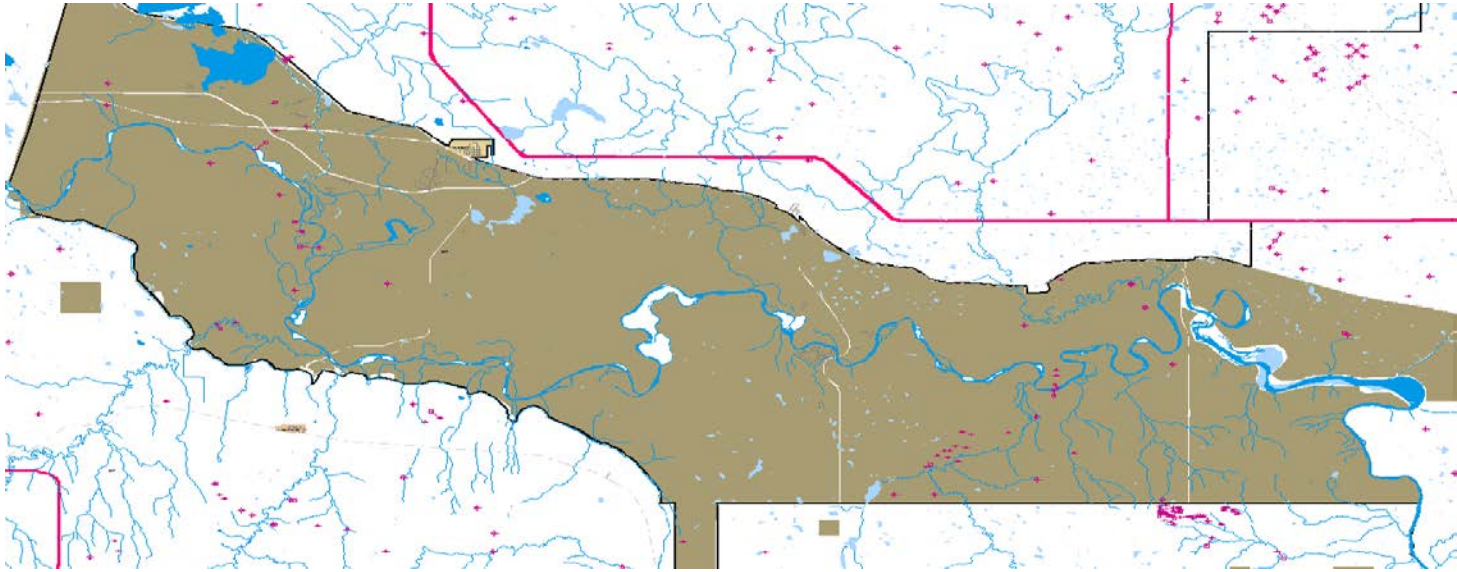
Community Initiative



Siksika Justice Department

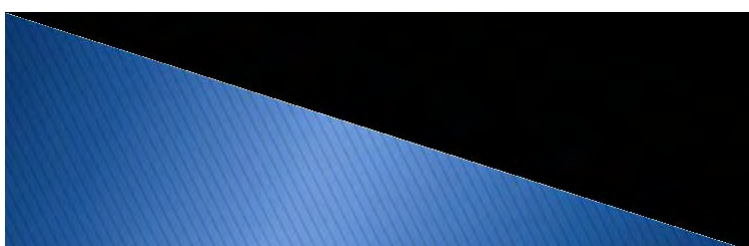


SIKSIKA NATION



□ Siksika Nation is the 2nd largest reserve in Canada, located one hour's drive east of the City of Calgary, 3 kilometres south of the Trans Canada Highway #1, it is surrounded by secondary highways (901, 547 & 842) and the Bow River.


□ Siksika's population is approximately 6000 members: 12 mapped areas and 10 residential communities.





Siksika Animal Control - History

 In 1993 the Siksika Nation Police Service Bylaw Program enforced the Siksika Bylaws including the Animal and Livestock Bylaw until the program was terminated in 2005.

 In 2006, Siksika Health submitted a proposal of \$5000 to the First Nation & Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to build a dog kennel which was approved. Due to no further funding this initiative terminated.

From 2006 to 2008, Siksika community members volunteered their time to address animal control issues especially dogs:


 Muriel (Many Heads) Kirby – community member








 Leslie Stimson – community member





Siksika Animal Control - History




 In 2007 Siksika Chief and Council supported and approved proposal from the Siksika Major Projects and Council Initiatives Service Area to initiated a pilot-project called “Dog Kennel Project:”

-  This initiative was supported because of the high volume of community concerns regarding dogs.
-  The mandate was to educate the community about dog care and assist outside agencies to rescue stray, abandoned and injured animals.
-  Activities included; survey Siksika membership, build and established working relationship with agencies such as ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation), Calgary Humane Society, and dog kennels.
-  Information handbooks were developed and delivered to home owners.
-  Spay and neuter clinic was organized.
-  During this project, 95 animals were rescued and 75 low income families received dog food donated by ARF and Calgary Humane Society.
-  In late 2008, this Dog Kennel Project terminated due to no funding.








Siksika Animal Control - History

-  In 2008 to 2009 the Siksika Justice Service Area continued to receive concerns and complaints about dogs and livestock.
-  In 2008 to 2009 Siksika Legal Services commenced work to re-establish Siksika Bylaws. One of the bylaws that is being worked on is the Animal (Dog) Bylaw. This bylaw will allow the Nation to regulate and control dogs; the bylaw is at its 3rd reading with Chief and Council.
-  In the absence of the Animal Bylaw, in 2010 a group of community agencies formed the Animal Control Team (ACT) including, Siksika Justice, Siksika Health, Siksika Land Management, Siksika Public Works, Siksika Agriculture, RCMP Gleichen Detachment and TSAG (First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group).








Siksika Animal Control - History

-  Siksika ACT (Animal Control Team) are working together to address animal control issues.
-  In the spring of 2010 Siksika Justice took initiative to search for resources to coordinate the efforts of the Siksika ACT (Animal Control Team).
-  In July 2010, one of the 8 Siksika Security Officers was re-assigned as Animal Control Officer to coordinated the ACT Initiative, this arrangement terminated in June 2011 due to budget cutbacks.







Siksika Animal Control - Activities

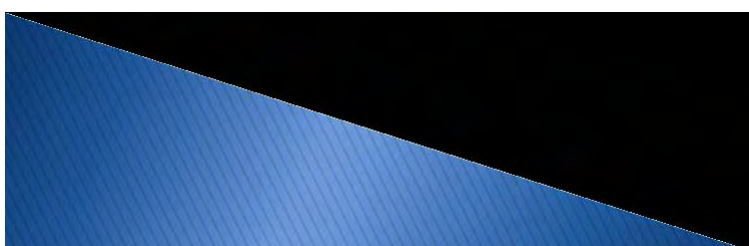
-  In July 2011, the Siksika Security Services received 45% cut on operating budget, the Security Officers have been down-sized from 8 to 4 Officers and the 4 are now assigned to respond to Animal Control issues.
-  We have no operating budget for Animal Control, we are utilizing what we have. Security are down to 2 vehicles that run, these vehicles are not equipped to transport animals, we did receive donations of 2 dog crates.
-  ACT meetings are held once a month hosted by Siksika Justice to discuss how we can continue to work together to address Animal Control issues.





Siksika Animal Control - Activities

-  We developed a schedule to respond to animal calls: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Siksika Land Management, and after 4:30 p.m. Siksika Security Services take over. Saturday and Sunday, Siksika Agriculture respond to the animal concerns, and the RCMP are on call to help us deal with all calls.
-  In addition to our monthly ACT meetings, we also have monthly Siksika Community Justice Forums, where we provide information on pet care, and present Animal Control stats.





Siksika Animal Control - Activities








Since the beginning of ACT in April 2010, we held 3 Pet Wellness Clinics sponsored by Siksika Justice and Alberta Spay and Neuter Task Force:

1. October 2010: 177 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tattooed and treated for internal and external parasites; 10 puppies vaccinated and treated for internal and external parasites, and 101 unwanted animals placed with rescue groups.
2. May 2011: 189 dogs and cats spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tattooed and treated for internal and external parasites, 48 puppies vaccinated and treated for internal and external parasites, and 80 unwanted animals placed with rescue groups.
3. September 2011: 183 dogs and cats spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tattooed and treated for internal and external parasites, 41 puppies vaccinated and treated for internal and external parasites, and 78 unwanted animals placed with rescue groups.









Siksika Animal Control – Future Plans

-  In spite of budget cutbacks, the efforts of A.C.T. continues to exist, activities coordinated by Siksika Justice Security Services.
-  Information on Pet Care is shared at the monthly Siksika Community Justice Forums.
-  We are looking at fund-raising for future pet wellness clinics.
-  We are working on educating community about animals and how they fit within our culture with the help from Elders; we will utilize the Siksika Newspaper to share this information.
-  A long-term goal is to search for funding to continue the initiatives of ACT (Animal Control Team).






Native Legend - DOG


-  According to Native legend, the dog freely chose to become a companion to man. No one can determine exactly when the Native Americans welcomed the wolf into their homes and slowly developed the domesticated dog.
-  Most researchers agree that about 12,000 years ago, a change slowly began to occur in the wolf populations. Some continued to thrive but others began to spend more time with people.
-  It is possible that some wolves tended to be a little more playful than others, this type of personality went well with people. These more friendly dogs entered the camps of the Native American.
-  These dogs still looked to a leader for guidance and felt more comfortable knowing their place within a society, for this reason, the dog readily became a part of the life of Native People. The Native People welcome the dog into their home and community.







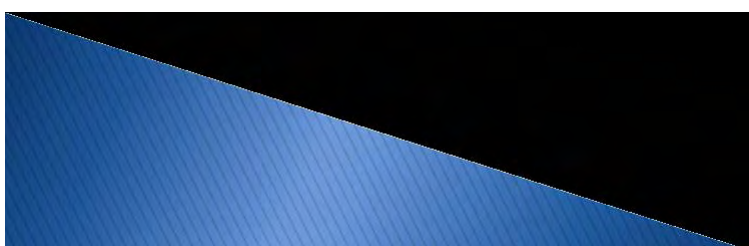
Native Legend - DOG

 Over time, the dog was bred for qualities the Native People needed. These dogs were considered part of the family and were even given names based on their appearance, personality or characteristics. Some excelled at hunting while others were excellent protectors.

 Before Europeans introduced the horse to North America, the dog was used as a method of transportation to help move from one camp to another.

 When Native People left their homes to hunt, they departed knowing that the dogs would protect their families and even livestock. If someone was lost, the dog's keen sense of smell was use to search and find the missing person.

 The dog's bravery, courage and loyalty sealed a place for him in the Native tribal life. The importance of the dog in tribal life can be found in the various legends passed on from generation to generation. The legend of the dog's decision to join man is one example. A spirit had assembled all of earth's creatures. His task was to find the right animal to become a companion to human beings, who had not yet been created. He asked the animals how they would treat people. Some said they would tear humans apart, the dog said his only wish was to live with people, share their food, help them hunt, guard their families and possessions, even risk his own life.





Native Legend - DOG



Another legend states that a dog's life originally spanned 20 years, but that the dog willingly gave up 10 of his own years so people could live longer.



Today, the Native American dog is a distant cousin to the original. Many people feel that the true Indian dog was likely driven to extinction due to interbreeding with wolves and various imported European breeds.



As the early settlers migrated across the country, Indians were forced onto reservations and the dog's popularity and population suffered.



Whether the true Native Plains Indian dog still exists is in dispute. Many Native Americans contend that the breed has wholly ceased to exist, in spite of attempts to re-establish the breed.





Information & Donations

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SIKSIKA
ANIMAL CONTROL TEAM
(A.C.T.)

Thank you
For your interest!

