

Dogs With No Names

In Pursuit Of Courage, Hope & Purpose

THE PROJECT

On a cold winter day in 2009, Lori Rogers, Senior Animal Health Technologist at the Calgary Zoo, and Dr. Judith Samson-French, veterinarian and hospital owner, pondered how to deal with the distressing situation of unwanted and suffering dogs on First Nations land. Judith's clinic borders the Tsuu T'ina reserve in the southern Alberta foothills and has accommodated countless sick and injured dogs from the area. Lori revealed that several North American zoos use a contraceptive implant from Australia in various species to prevent reproduction. After reviewing the available scientific literature, Judith designed a pilot project to implant the contraceptives in reserve dogs. In order to proceed they needed access. They contacted ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation) whose mission is to help dogs on First Nations land. ARF offered their support, and together with Judith's Banded Peak Veterinary Hospital decided to fund the innovative program.

For the first time ever, anywhere, a team headed out to insert contraceptive implants into semi-feral and feral female dogs. Their goal was clear: to humanely reduce the population of unwanted dogs on First Nations reserves. These dogs became fondly known as the "Dogs With No Names".

These dogs are truly expressions of courage and hope. By relating to them, we have started to feel in our hearts what are minds already knew: to travel a path of hopelessness and apathy is not how anyone's journey on earth is meant to unfold. We all need to give and receive love, show understanding, and provide comfort. We need purpose to remain rational in the face of adversity and keep up the struggle of making our lives relevant to stay vibrant. The reserve dogs taught us profound lessons. Leading by example, they showed us that a life well lived is far more than "just getting by." They also showed us to celebrate our lives to the fullest as we accept the uncertainty and randomness of each day. Thank you for purchasing the book and being a positive force.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

You can purchase "Pearls for Paws" Pearlmarks at Pet Planet stores across Canada for only \$15

"Pearls for Paws" Pearlmarks are photographic bookmarks with a set of beautiful pearl and sterling silver earrings attached. Each Pearlmark sold provides 1 kg of dog food to a reserve, rescue group or shelter. They make great gifts for any occasion and help feed dogs with no names!

Visit www.dogswithnonames.com for full details on how you can help this organization.

