

DOG HEALTH FOR THE HUMAN DOCTOR VISITING ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Dr Rosalie Schultz

Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation

As a doctor visiting remote Aboriginal communities, I find the poor state of dog health troubling. However, the human community needs medical care so the clinic is the focus of my attention. Meanwhile I am dismayed by my lack of capacity to improve the wellbeing of dogs.

Human health might be improved by improving dog health. Diarrhoea, skin sores and dog bites may to some extent be attributable to sick dogs, as may rates of underweight kids and renal disease.

There are growing social and veterinary sciences literatures on dog health in Aboriginal communities. I searched Medline and RMIT's Informit database of Australasian research using the terms "dog" or "canine" and "Aborigin*". From these publications I accessed references to retrieve a total of 20 publications, 9 relevant to this issue.

There were few publications on dog health as a determinant of human health. However effective interventions should be implemented and evaluated.

6H2AXSMW3