



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Healthy Dogs, Healthy Communities

May 14, 2018
COOKTOWN

Community health will be boosted in Coen and Laura with Cook Shire Council's Healthy Dogs – Healthy Communities program.

The two-year program, funded by Queensland Health, aims to improve overall community health by treating or removing unhealthy dogs in the community and increasing education around responsible dog ownership and the flow on effects to community health. More than 90 dogs were treated in Coen in the program's first visit, Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said, which would have positive flow on effects to community health and wellbeing.

Cook Shire Council's animal control officer and nurses from Cooktown-based SeaDog Vets administered tick, flea, worm and mange treatment, as well as birth-control injections for female dogs. Eight dogs were surrendered to Council, 10 female dogs were booked for desexing and 25 female dogs who remained in the community were given birth control injections. "The program will visit Coen and Laura regularly, with the vet in attendance as required," Cr Scott said. "We are aiming for happier, healthier communities in Coen and Laura, with no diseases passed on to humans from their pets, and no unwanted or uncared for pets."

The program is funded by almost \$250,000 from Queensland Health, and will finish in mid 2019.

For more information contact Council's animal control team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

~ end ~