

# Ahomapénî; Relations and Rez Dogs



With this film we hope to illuminate relationships  
between people and animals on reserve - bound in  
respect + culture + poverty.





Indigenous people have been interacting with animals on this land for centuries. Only recently have our ways begun to change...



As our culture and lifeways were stripped away, so too were our traditional relationships with animals. Even though we have lost so much, we keep parts of our culture alive. We continue to respect our relations the Sûga, or dog people.



...our neighbors have a very different relationship with their animals, and that relationship with pets is one more thing that is being forced upon us.



We are told that our ways are wrong. The desire for us to change, comes from a place of kindness, and to do what is best for the animals.

**We do what we think is best for animals too... our ways of deciding what is best are just different.**





These are the questions we asked ourselves when we made the film.

We hope they help you explore your own ideas about animal human relationships in thoughtful and compassionate ways, as they did for us



What does good animal care look like?

What do dogs need to be healthy?

What kinds of relationships do people and dogs have?

How are these different in different cultures?



How was the relationship between dogs and people from Morely presented in the film?



Was it what you expected?



How do we learn about care and respect for animals?



Who teaches these things and how are they shared?



Who cares about animals on reserve and why?

Who cares about dogs in cities and why?

How is this care expressed?



What problems exist on reserves that prevent the best animal care?

What problems exist elsewhere that prevents the best animal care?





# Wondering what you can do to help?

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It depends on what you want to "help" with...

1. start by answering the questions posed in this document and think carefully about what you want to do, and why you want to do it.
2. Engage with the community. Please don't try to address issues of animal wellness in our communities without our input, guidance, and help. We can do this work together. Connect with individuals and organizations, every reserve has recognized community groups and programs.
3. Fundraise as a way to bring support. Each community's needs are different, but the root of some animal care issues is economic. Consider fundraising to provide food, vet care, signage at roadside pullouts or other capacities.
4. Bring people together. Many communities work together to promote the wellness of people and animals by building partnerships between different concerned groups. There are many rescues, SPCAs, and vets that mean well, or that do well. Bringing people together in a good way to work collaboratively is better than alienating people who want to help. You can contribute to this work so that we don't always have to shoulder the emotional burden of educating people who mean well but who don't have a balanced understanding of the issues.
5. Advocate for systemic change. Use any access you have to press for change with politicians at various levels. Request implementation of RCAP, UNDRIP, and the TRC Calls to action, and for regulation of the "rescue" industry.
6. Tell people what you know. Don't shy away from tough conversations, People are passionate about animals, and sometimes feelings get hurt when people talk about difficult issues. When we speak to each other with compassion and understanding we can make positive changes for all.



*do it for  
the dogs!*