

# Vet clinic reports 953 visits

During 1983, nine hundred fifty-three (953) clients were seen through the veterinary clinic. One hundred sixty-one (161) surgeries were performed and five hundred sixteen (516) animals were vaccinated against rabies.

A total of three hundred twenty-one (321) dogs were picked up as strays, of which one hundred fifty-one (151) were euthanized, one hundred twenty-eight (128) were returned to their owners, and 28 were adopted out. Sixty-three people received injuries from dogs.

There were three positive cases of rabies.

All the villages within the North Slope Borough were visited from one to four times. During these visits, animals were vaccinated against rabies, distemper, and parvovirus. Education was provided to students concerning zoonotic disease processes and animal inflicted injuries. Surgeries were also performed during these visits.

Currently, five Arctic Foxes have been confirmed positive for rabies. Three were in Barrow, one was from Wainwright, and one from Nuiqsut. Several dogs that had not been vaccinated or were not current on vaccinations were destroyed as a result of direct exposure to

these foxes.

Rabies is a fatal disease in mammals, including people. The only treatment for dogs is to have them vaccinated before they are exposed. Puppies should be vaccinated between

3-4 months of age and yearly thereafter. All shots are free.

If you have questions about your pet or need to make an appointment, give us a call at 852-2383 between 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.