



White Paper Analysis of Law Enforcement Activities & Functions

Navajo Nation Animal Control Program

Glenda Davis, Program Manager

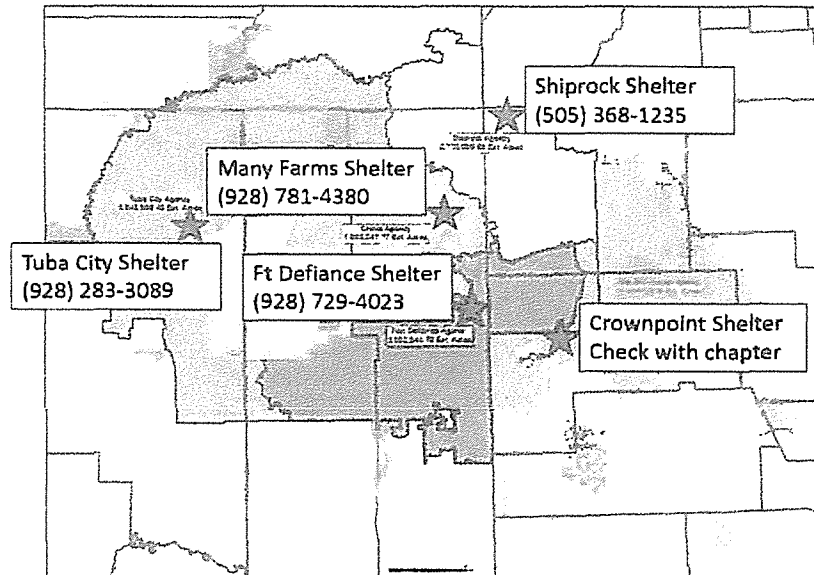
January 17, 2017



Navajo Nation Animal Control Program

PO Box 1480
Window Rock, AZ 86515

www.nndfw.ar1
Animal Control Program

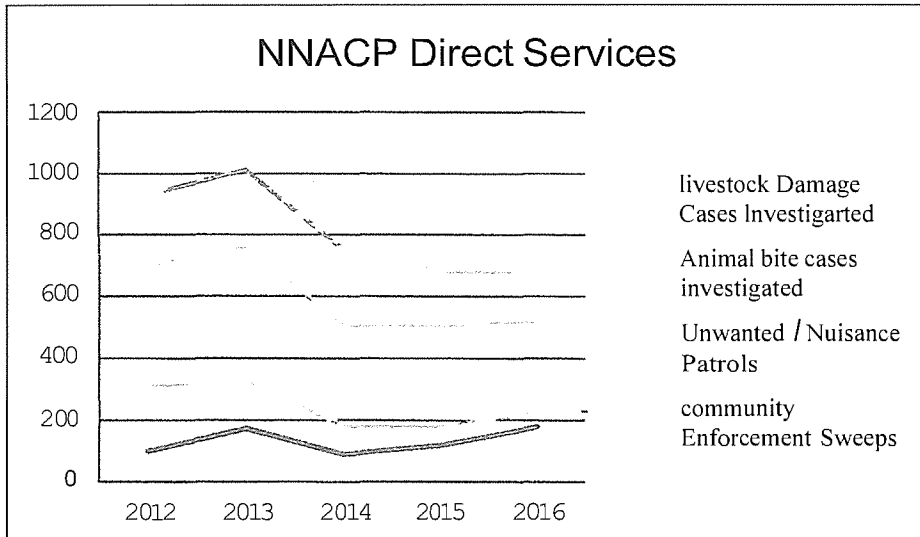


Introduction

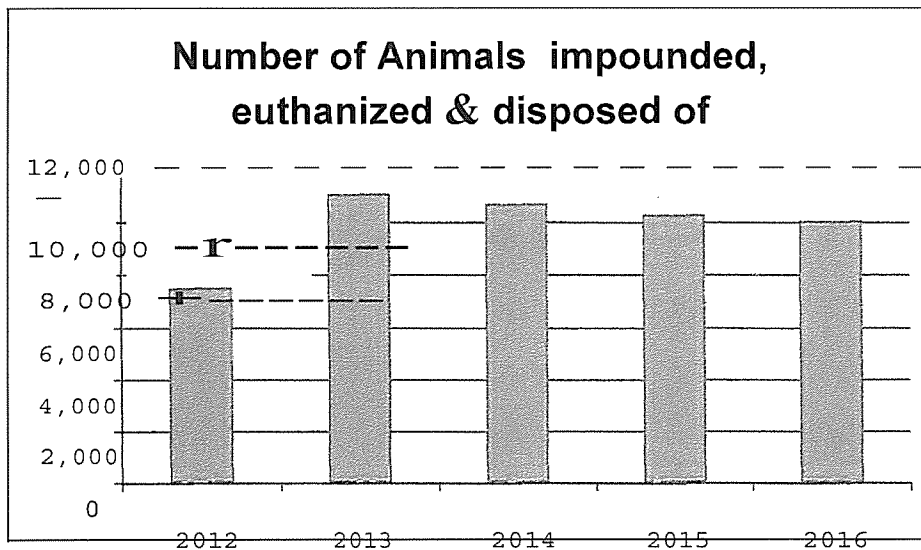
The purpose of the Animal Control Program is to enforce the animal control laws established by the Navajo Nation Council, to protect the health, safety and property of people and animals, address responsible pet ownership, over population, disease and neglect of animals through education, and in the spirit of cooperation, promote and foster spay and neuter clinics and animal adoption programs through the public, other agencies and organizations for the benefit of present and future generations. (Resolution: GSCD-87-02 NNACP Plan of Operation)

Problem Definition

The number of dog bites and livestock damage cases consumes 85% of our field officers' time. While our officers are addressing these investigations, the number of general traffic and service calls accumulate. The sheer volume of dogs running-at-large, the increase of vicious animals on school campuses and unwanted animal pick up requests is alarming within all Navajo Nation communities.

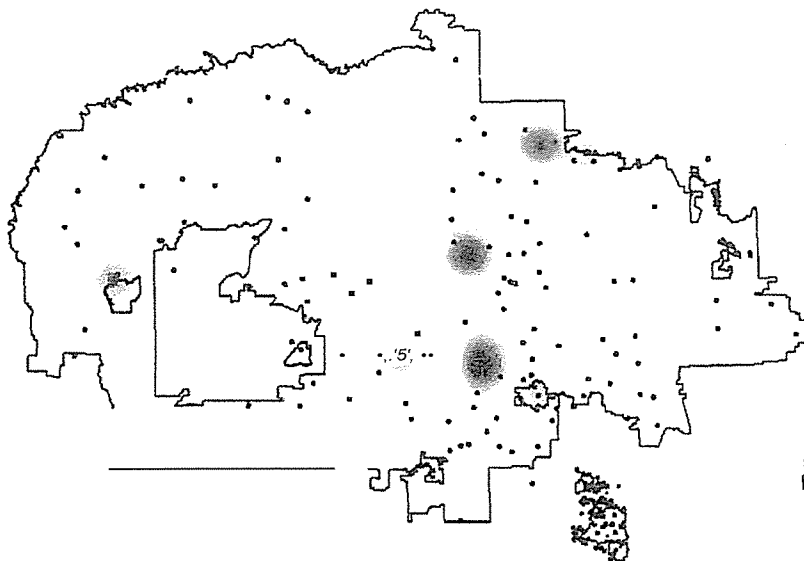


A Navajo Nation wide effort for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Prevention and the coordination of Navajo Nation Programs demonstrated an increase in direct services across all direct service avenues in 2013. The additional funding in 2013, made a remarkable difference in direct services and cases investigated. Whether this decreasing trend is due to a decrease in funding as a direct correlation or if the animal numbers are actually decreasing is difficult to measure after 2013.

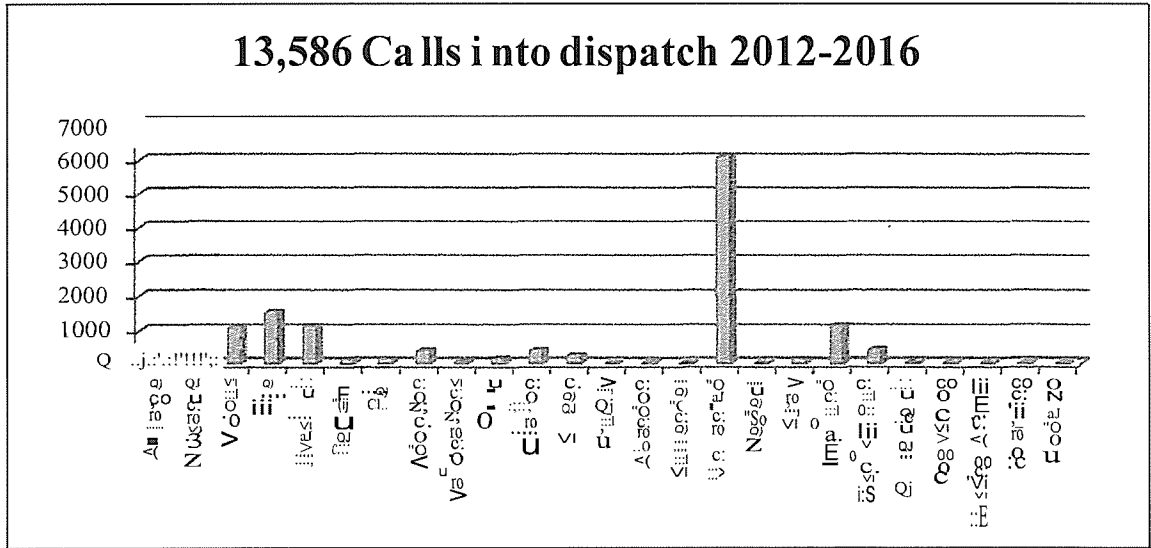


Given that on an annual basis, over 10,000 animals are impounded, euthanized and disposed of brings to question if we truly have any control of our animal population.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife has a single dedicated dispatch personnel for all law enforcement within the department. Communication directly to field officers is critical for the safety of the officers and the investigation of the violation in progress. The following is a summary of the data on the calls received between 2012-2016.



*Concentration of calls over Navajo Nation communities between 2012-2016 from dispatch data; Over 17,056 calls for all of Department of Fish & Wildlife – 65% related to Animal Control at 13,586



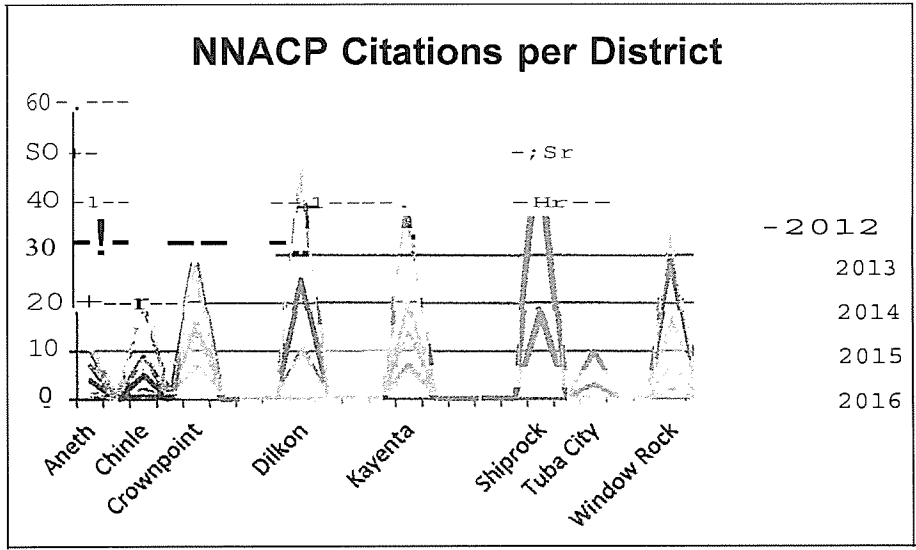
*Breakdown of calls -TOP FIVE: 6,078 Unwanted animals, 1,529 Bite cases, 1,135 Impounded animals, 1,118 Livestock Damage and 1,087 Vicious dogs.

Statistics law enforcement district (Window Rock, Chinle, Dilkon, Tuba City, Kayenta, Shiprock, & Crownpoint)

The Navajo Animal Control Program reported that 1,024 citations were filed in Navajo Nation courts from 2014 - 2016. The Program began monitoring citations in 2014 therefore any previous data was not available for this report.

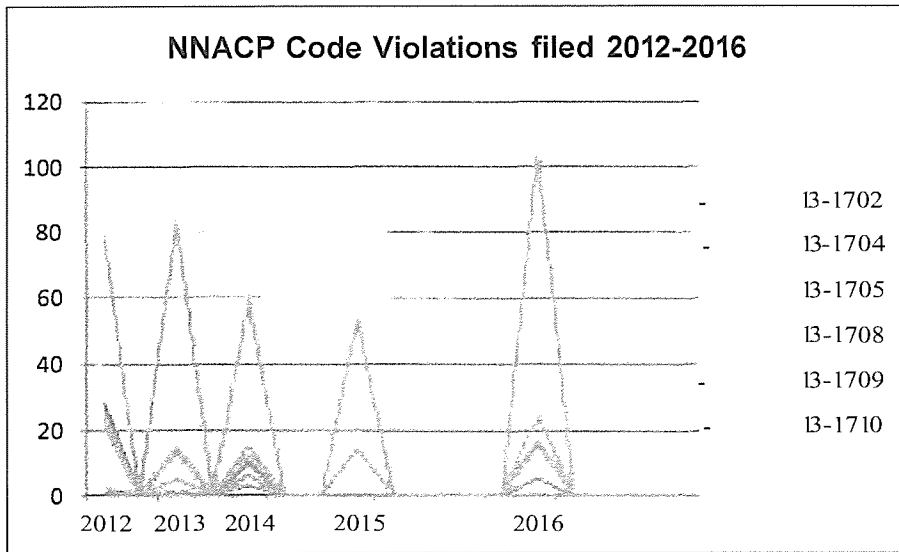
An official review of our citations was requested and compiled by Melanie A. Price. The report was received January 19, 2017. The following information is a summary of the data.

Over a five-year period between 2012 - 2016, six hundred red twelve (612) citations were reported to be filed into the Navajo Courts. Comparing the Animal Control Program data between 2014-2016, the report from the Courts defines that 340 citations were filed whereas the Animal Control Program has reported that 1,024 citations were filed with the courts for the same timeframe.



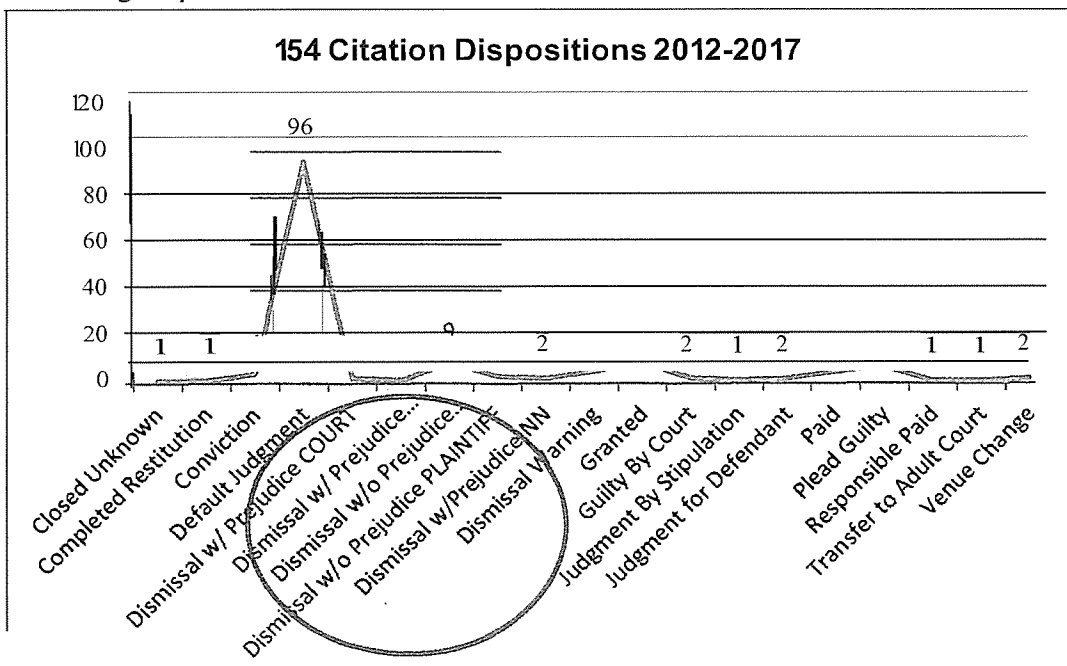
*Window Rock (District 1) - 90 cases filed, Shiprock (District 2) - 162 cases filed, Crownpoint (District 3) - 96 cases filed, Tuba City (District 4) - 13 cases filed, Chinle (District 5) - 20 cases filed, Kayenta (District 6) - 87 cases filed, Dilkon (District 7) - 94 cases filed, and Aneth (District 8) - 33 cases filed

A breakdown of the 612 violations are demonstrated in the graph below with animals running at large the highest at 378 cases followed by vicious animals at 80 cases and other citations.

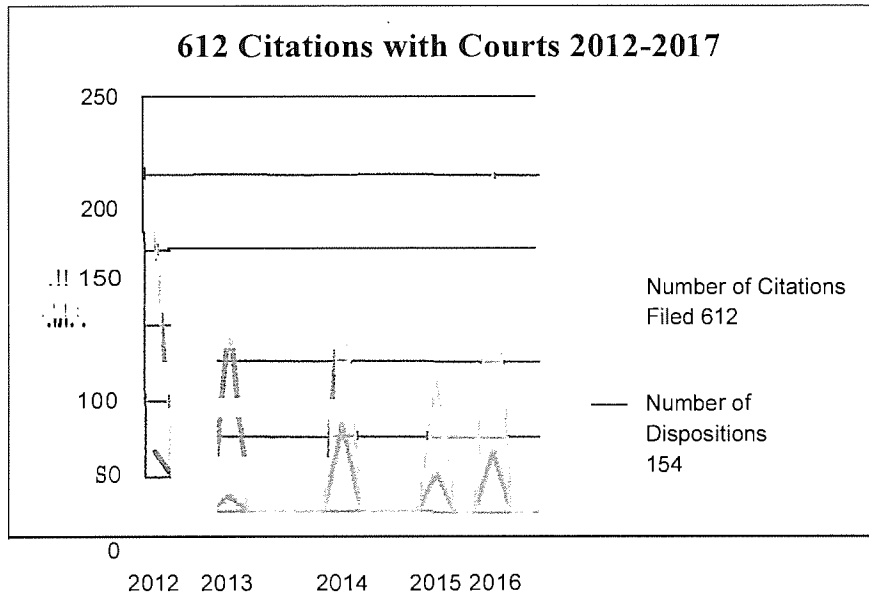


*13-1702 Animal Licenses - 68 citations (11% of 612 citations), 13-1704 Rabies Control - 68 citations (11% of 612 citations), 13-1705 Animal Bites Cases - 5 citations (1% of 612 citations), 13-1708 Nuisance Animals - 13 citations (2% of 612 citations), 13-1709 Restraint of Animals - 378 citations (62% of 612 citations), and 13-1710 Vicious Animals - 80 citations (13% of 612 citations)

The report was analyzed and reported that only 154 citations received dispositions of the 612 citations filed with the courts. Surprisingly 96 of the 154 cases had default judgements with 22 varied dismissal judgements, following by the remaining disposition results.

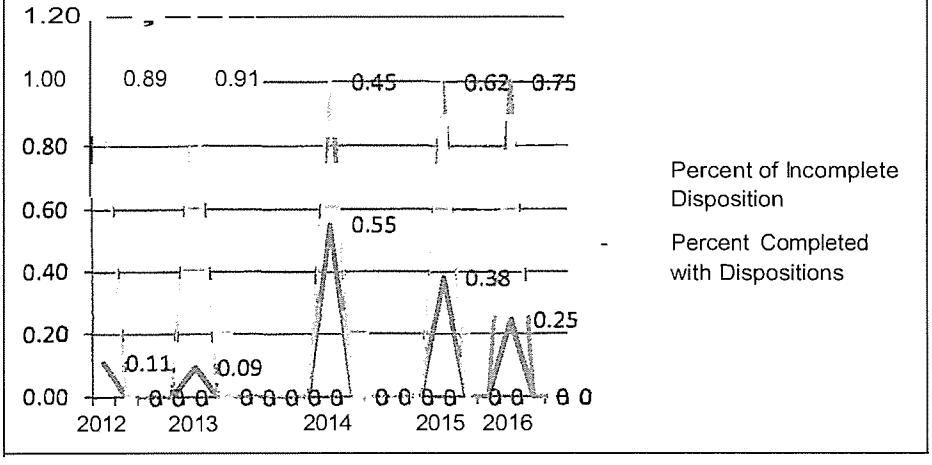


The following graph demonstrates the number of citations filed and the number of dispositions received of the 612 citations between 2012-2017.



Below are the percent of dispositions completed and percentage of pending citations presently with the courts between 2012-2016. The overall average of completed citations with disposition was 25% with 75% incomplete citations that still require dispositions. It was not revealed which districts have the specific disposition results as reported.

612 Citations with Courts 2012-2017



Upstream Issues

Within the Animal Control Program there is a need for additional training on correctly completing citation and warnings to the general public to decrease the number of citations that are dismissed. Outside of the Program, there is a need for a better understanding of the prosecution process especially since 13 NNC 1701-1712, are civil cases. It appears that civil cases are considered a lesser priority over more serious violations.

Over the last five years there has been increase in the severity of dog bite cases. The Animal Control Officers agree that the dogs are becoming more vicious and aggressive.

A need for a massive humane education platform on responsible pet owner and relationship of pet ownership with abiding our Navajo Nation codes for the control of pets within communities.

To begin coordination of services with other programs to assist with service delivery and increasing direct services within communities and at each animal shelter.

Barriers

- To decrease the timeline between the filing of citations and the disposition of each case.
- Lapse of statutes of limitations on cases filed.
- Need to process civil cases, to demonstrate to pet owners to be more responsible for their pets and decrease fines
- Better communication on trial dates

Resource Needs

- Increase in the number of animal control officers to two per shelter and a kennel officer at each shelter
- Funding for a second dispatch
- Massive Humane Education Platform - Responsible Pet Ownership; Obey all Navajo Nation Animal Control Laws

Proposed Solutions

- Increase in the number of animal control officers to two per shelter and a kennel officer at each shelter
- Training with the prosecutors, provide some time for "animal control issues"
- Develop a system to track citations, monitoring citations within the courts. "Just ware" Training on platform and use

Summary

After review of the data, a few specific areas need to be reaffirmed. The data submitted from the district courts, document that 612 citations were received but only 154 dispositions were completed, an estimate of only 25% of citations have dispositions. Of the 154 dispositions, 96 had default judgement with an additional 22 citations that were dismissed. The Animal Control Program is concerned that our citations are not taken serious within the courts, since only 25% have been processed with 460 filed citations pending within the courts since 2012.

Over the three year period, the Animal Control Program reports that 1,024 citations were filed by the officers where only 340 citations were received by the courts.

The dispatch call density map has the communities of Window Rock, Chinle and Shiprock as the areas requesting for a majority of the assistance from the Department of Fish & Wildlife and Animal Control Program.

The personnel of the Animal Control Program expend over \$800,000 in financial resources to keep the Navajo public safe and control our animal numbers. We are seeking your support to recognize the issues and assist the program to prosecute cases in a timely manner.

The humane education effort of the Animal Control Program requires cooperation and acknowledgement that our animal issues are really - People Issues.

Call to Action - "Safety for th**People & Animals**"