IMPROVING ANIMAL MANAGEMENT IN REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

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Free-ranging dogs (FRDs) are common pets in remote Aboriginal communities for many reasons including (companionship, hunting, warmth and kinship). Cats have recently become increasingly kept as pets. With issues such as overpopulation, poor animal welfare, zoonosis, and predation of wildlife by FRDs and cats, management needs to be improved. Animal health programs have been implemented in many remote Aboriginal communities where a veterinarian delivers de-sexing, parasite control and voluntary euthanasia. However, due to financial restrictions many of these programs are not frequent enough to fully ‘manage’ a population. Collaborations have occurred, with Outsiders, which were successful for a number of years until the funding stopped. My PhD focuses on a framework we designed to encourage and assist local Aboriginal people to raise an issue, discuss its impacts and causes and how to intervene. Capacity building will be incorporated into all aspects including how to monitor their interventions including census taking and wildlife surveys. This talk will briefly discuss the framework as a whole and detail the baseline data and the first phase: Identifying the issue.

Biography
Brooke completed her Bachelor of Zoology here at UNE along with her Honours in Animal Science. Now in her 1st year of her PhD, she is looking to improve the welfare of companion animals in remote Aboriginal communities as well as building the capacity of the community by involving them in all aspects of the research.