



# Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief Barbara A. Lazore  
Chief James W. Ransom  
Chief Monica M. Jacobs  
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams  
Sub-Chief Ronald LaFrance Jr.  
Sub-Chief Pamela D. Brown

## PRESS RELEASE

For release:  
Onerahtkoha/April 1, 2009

For more information:  
Public Information Office  
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Tel: (518) 358-2272 ext. 286 or  
Fax: (518) 358-9675

### MOHAWK ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER ASSISTS IN CAPTURE OF LIKELY WOLF HYBRID

#### *Sightings Recently Reported*

**AKWESASNE TERRITORY** – After reports of a large, wolf-like animal appearing in the community, Derek Comins, Tribal Animal Control Officer, assisted in its capture Monday morning. “We had been getting reports of the presence of this animal for the past week or so and have been looking into the situation,” stated Comins. “Today, we were able to locate it and safely get it to our holding pen.” Dan Morgan, Wildlife Biologist and Mark Carrara, District Supervisor, both of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services answered the call for assistance in capturing the animal. It is a male, weighs approximately 83 pounds and has light-colored fur with dark tips. “He is actually an attractive animal and very accustomed to contact with humans. He’s been hanging around on Tarbell Road and they’ve been feeding him, which helped to establish some routine habits for him and allowed us to capture him. He was actually eating food out of my hand,” said Comins. Despite the animal’s friendliness with people he was tranquilized in order to ensure everybody’s safety and to allow the U.S.D.A. officials to take blood and fur samples to determine the genetic background of the animal through a DNA analysis. Whether the animal is fully grown or not has not been clearly established.

In New York breeding wolf hybrids is illegal because the hybrids maintain the instinct for the high level of social order found with pack animals and have no fear of humans. Apparently, when raised with a human family, the hybrids consider the children of the family to be “part of the pack,” which can have disastrous consequences when the hybrid reaches age two to three and the struggle for dominance begins. “It’s usually at this point where the owner will let the animal out into the wild to fend for itself. The hybrid can become a threat to the children’s safety. Unfortunately, when released, it has no pack membership, may have difficulty fending for itself and may attempt to attach itself to humans again,” stated Comins. “The owners are unable to take the proper responsibility for a hybrid at that point in their development.” The fate of the captured animal will be determined by its genetic make-up and the availability of a refuge.

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the St. Regis Mohawk People.

412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, New York 13655  
Phone: 518.358.2272  
Fax: 518.358.3205

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