



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

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PRESS RELEASE

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MOHAWK TRIBE ADOPTS ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Tribal Government Continues to Evolve

Akwesasne Territory. Recognizing the need to protect the public from certain animals and protect the well-being of animals located on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, the Tribal Council adopted an Animal Control Ordinance on July 31st, 2009. “This is part of the effort of the tribe continuing to strive to provide a safe and secure community,” said Derek Comins, Tribal Animal Control Officer. “This ordinance will help to protect both community members and animals.”

This ordinance regulates the treatment of animals on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation and sets forth the responsibilities of owners. Owners must keep their animals under restraint and ensure they are not a nuisance in any way to the public. Owners must also care for their animals in a humane manner and have them vaccinated. The Animal Control Officer has the authority to enter public and private property on the reservation to enforce this ordinance and may use physical force against an animal if necessary to protect himself, other people or other animals. Owners may be assessed fines and fees for violating this ordinance. The Animal Control Officer can impound animals running at large or if they have been neglected. If owners fail to pay the required fees or fines to redeem their animal, the animal may be adopted, or possibly euthanized.

“The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is continually evolving its system of government, including its ordinances, to meet the needs of community members,” noted Assistant General Counsel Danielle Thompson-Lazore. “This is just one more way that we’re making progress in this area.”

Interested community members can view the ordinance on the Tribe’s website at www.srmt-nsn.gov and/or at the Akwesasne Library. They can obtain copies in the lobby of the Tribal building. For questions, Derek Comins, Animal Control Officer is available at 518-358-2272.

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

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

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