



# St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

## St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Animal Control Ordinance

Chief James W. Ransom  
Chief Monica M. Jacobs  
Chief Mark H. Garrow  
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams  
Sub-Chief Ron LaFrance Jr.  
Sub-Chief Pamela D. Brown

### Section 1. Title

This ordinance shall be known as the Animal Control Ordinance.

### Section 2. Definitions

**Animal Control Office** means the agency or department of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe or any designated representative thereof charged with administering the issuance of permits and licenses under the provisions of this ordinance.

**Animal** means any animal, dog, cat, farm animal, reptile, etc., whether domesticated or wild, that is owned, harbored or living on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation.

**At large** means an animal shall be deemed to be at large when off the property of the owner and/or not under restraint or control of the owner.

**"Dangerous" animal** means any animal that without justification attacks a person or domestic animal causing physical injury or death, or behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat, serious injury, or death to one or more persons or domestic animals.

**"Dangerous dog collar"** means a collar which consists of red stripes alternatively spaced with yellow stripes set diagonal to the rim of the collar at an angle, and at least one of the 2 colors reflects light in the dark.

**Exotic Animal** means any animal that is not normally domesticated in Akwesasne or is wild by nature. Exotic animals include but are not limited to, any of the following orders and families, whether bred in the wild or captivity, and also any of their hybrids with domestic species. The animals listed in parentheses are intended to act as examples and are not to be construed as an exhaustive list or limit the generality of each group of animals, unless otherwise specified:

1. Non - human primates and prosimians (monkeys, chimpanzees, baboons)
2. Felidae (lions, tigers, bobcats, lynx, cougars, leopards, jaguars, not domesticated cats)
3. Canidae (wolves, coyotes, foxes, jackals, not domesticated dogs)
4. Ursidae (all bears)
5. Reptilia (all venomous snakes, all constricting snakes)
6. Crocodilia (alligators, crocodiles)
7. Proboscidae (elephants)
8. Hyanenidae (hyenas)

9. Artiodatyla (hippotamuses, giraffes, camels, not cattle or swine or sheep or goats)
10. Procyonidae (raccoons, coatis)
11. Marsupialia (kangaroos, opossums)
12. Perissodactylea (rhinoceroses, tapirs, not horses or donkeys or mules)
13. Edentara (anteaters, sloths, armadillos)
14. Viverridae (mongooses, civets, and genets)

**Humane Manner** means the care of an animal shall include, but is not limited to, adequate shelter, shade, heat, ventilation, sanitary shelter, wholesome food, and a fresh and adequate source of water, consistent with the normal requirements and feedings habits of the animal's size, species, and breed.

**Kennel** means an establishment kept for the purpose of breeding, selling, or boarding animals or engaged in training animals.

**Neutered** means an animal rendered permanently incapable of reproduction.

**Nuisance** means an animal shall be considered a nuisance if it: is at large, damages, soils, defiles, or defecates on private property other than the owner's or on public walks and recreation areas unless such waste is immediately removed and properly disposed of by the owner; causes unsanitary, "dangerous," or offensive conditions; causes a disturbance by excessive barking or other noise making; or chases vehicles, or molests, attacks, or interferes with persons or other domestic animals on public property.

**Owner** means a person having the right of property or custody of an animal or who keeps or harbors an animal or knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by that person.

**Pound** means is a facility designated or recognized by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals.

**Restraint** means an animal shall be considered under restraint if it is fenced within the real property limits of its owner or secured by a leash or lead or under the control of an owner or a responsible person designated by the owner.

**St. Regis Mohawk Reservation** refers to the area within the exterior boundaries of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's jurisdiction.

**Tribal Animal Control Officer** refers to the person or persons designated by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to enforce this ordinance.

**Tribal Council** means the duly elected St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council consisting of three (3) chiefs and three (3) sub-chiefs.

**Tribal Court** refers to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court which shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to preside over all proceedings relating to summons and complaints filed under this ordinance.

**Unaltered** means any animal that has not been neutered.

**Wild Animal** means any animal which is now or historically has been found in the wild, or in the wild state. This term includes, but is not limited to, animals such as: Deer, skunk, opossum, raccoon, mink, armadillo, coyote, squirrel, fox, wolf and wolf-dog hybrids.

**Wildlife sanctuary** means an area specially designated for the protection of wildlife and wherein it is illegal to interfere in anyway with the natural habitat.

### **Section 3. Owner Responsibilities and Offenses**

A. All animals shall be kept under restraint. Owners of "aggressive" animal(s), as determined by the Animal Control Officer, must take extra caution that their animal(s) are not given free, unsupervised access to the general public.

B. An owner must ensure that his animal is not a nuisance in any way to the general public. The owner of every animal shall be held responsible for every behavior of such animal under the provisions of this ordinance.

C. An owner must ensure that his animal is properly cared for in a humane manner.

D. Animals are not to be left unattended in a vehicle in extreme heat or cold temperatures. Animals left in a vehicle in hot or cold temperatures may be subject to seizure or impoundment. If extreme heat or cold is a factor, the Animal Control Officer or the Tribal Police may enter the vehicle with force if necessary to aid an unattended animal

E. Owners shall ensure that their animal carries identification at all times in the form of a microchip, tag, or other means to allow easy identification of the owner.

F. A person shall not abandon, investigate, torture, injure, kill, or poison an animal whether it belongs to him or another; or, inflict any act of cruelty on any animal with the exception of Section 4 of this ordinance.

G. No person shall own, keep, or harbor any dog or cat over four months of age within St. Regis Mohawk Reservation unless such dog or cat is vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A certificate of vaccination shall be issued to the owner of each animal vaccinated. Each owner shall also receive a durable vaccination tag indicating the year in which it was issued. The provisions of this section do not apply to animals held in a government operated or licensed animal shelter.

H. Any dog, not under the control of the owner, that bites a person, shall be quarantined under the authority of the Animal Control Officer/Department. The animal control department may order the owner to quarantine their dog for a period not exceeding 10 days. Any dog subject to quarantine may be destroyed after 10 days.

I. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in a fine. Fines shall be used to offset costs associated with the Animal Control Program.

#### **Section 4. Exemption**

If any dog shall, without justification, attack a person, a companion animal, farm animal or domestic animal, or behaves in a manner which a reasonable person would believe poses a serious and unjustified imminent threat of serious physical injury to a person or such animal, when such person or animal is peaceably conducting himself in a place where he or it may lawfully be, such person or any other person witnessing the attack or threatened attack may destroy such dog and no liability in damages or otherwise shall be incurred on account of such destruction.

#### **Section 5. Issuance of Summons**

The Animal Control Officer shall issue a Summons to a person when, based upon personal observation, eye witness reports or investigation, the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the owner has committed a violation of this ordinance. The Summons will detail the offense, the time, date and location of offense and an exact time and date at which the owner must appear at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court.

The owner shall pay any applicable fine within 30 days from the date the Summons was issued to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court in full satisfaction of the violation. If the owner chooses to contest the citation, it must be done within the 30 days from date listed on the Summons.

The Court fee on Summons in violation of this ordinance shall be \$30.00.

#### **Section 6. Impoundment**

A. Any animal found running at large shall be impounded by the Animal Control Officer in an animal shelter and confined in a humane manner. Immediately upon impounding the animal, the Animal Control Officer shall make every reasonable effort to notify the owner and inform such owner of the conditions whereby custody of the animal may be regained. Animals not claimed by their owners within a period of five (5) days, shall forfeit ownership of the animal, which shall then become the property of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

B. When an animal is found running at large and its ownership is verified by the Animal Control Officer, he may exercise the option of serving the owner with a Summons of violation in lieu of impounding the animal.

C. Any dog that has been impounded and deemed, by the Animal Control Officer, to be aggressive shall not be released to its owner until that owner has satisfied the Animal Control Office that the aggressive behavior no longer poses a threat to the safety or health of any person or animal or reasonable steps have been undertaken by the owner which ensures the safety of the community.

1.) The owner of an aggressive dog shall keep the dog restrained, as defined in section 2 of this ordinance, at all times.

2.) Any dog deemed aggressive by the animal control officer may be required, at the

officer's discretion, to wear a dangerous dog collar at all times

D. In the event that the Animal Control Office finds an animal(s) to be suffering, it shall have the right forthwith to remove or cause to have removed the animal(s) to a safe place for care at the owner's expense; or, to euthanize the animal(s) when necessary to prevent further suffering. Return of an impounded animal(s) to the owner may be withheld until the owner shall have made full payment of violation and for all expenses so incurred.

E. Disposal of an animal by the Animal Control Office or the owner does not relieve the owner of liability for violations and any accrued charges.

### **Section 7. Enforcement and Authority**

A. The Animal Control Officer is hereby delegated and shall have the power to seize animals, and/or to use physical force when necessary to protect self, others, and other animals.

B. The Animal Control Officer shall have the power to enter property (public or private) when in the course of executing the duties and obligations under this ordinance, when he has reasonable cause to believe a violation of this ordinance is occurring and has reason to believe that a potential harm has occurred, or is about to occur.

C. At any and all times, the Animal Control Officer shall have the right to inspect the animal(s) and where it is housed within the jurisdiction of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and upon reasonable notice. Any party who intentionally interferes with or obstructs the inspection violates this ordinance.

D. The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority to issue summons to the Tribal Court for the enforcement of this ordinance.

E. The Animal Control Office shall have the authority to solicit and apply for any grants or assistance in the performance of his duties under the ordinance including but not limited to spaying, neutering and public information ads.

F. The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority to adopt regulations and policies as necessary to implement this Ordinance.

### **Section 8. Issuance and revocation of permits and licenses**

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### **Section 9. Redemption**

A. Any animal impounded may be redeemed by the owner thereof within five (5) days upon payment of an impoundment fees. Impoundment fees shall be inclusive of food, shelter, and services rendered pursuant to a fee schedule established by the Animal Control Office. Payment of impoundment fees is not considered to be in lieu of any fine, penalty, or license fees.

B. Any animal confined for rabies quarantine, evidence, or other purpose may be redeemed by

the owner thereof upon payment of a fee plus incurred expenses.

C. Any animal required to be licensed or vaccinated under this ordinance may NOT be redeemed until provisions for such licensing and vaccination have been fulfilled.

D. The owner must pay all fines and fees prior to animal being returned.

#### **Section 10. Pound and Adoption**

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe shall establish a temporary pound and said pound shall be operated by the Animal Control Office in a secure and humane manner and environment.

A. Any dog in the custody of the pound not claimed by their owner within five (5) days, or seized from their owner for just cause, shall become the property of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

B. Any dog that is deemed suitable for adoption, by the Animal Control Office, may be adopted as an option to euthanasia. An adoption fee shall be assessed at the time of adoption. No dog shall be released for adoption as a pet without being neutered. Vaccination fees, licensing fees, and veterinary costs may be assessed above and beyond the adoption fee.

#### **Section 11. Wild or Exotic Animals**

A. No person shall knowingly possess, harbor, sell, barter, transfer, exchange or import any wild or exotic animal for use as a pet within the territory of Akwesasne, except that this section shall not apply to the following persons and entities with respect to wild or exotic animals owned or harbored by them solely for a purpose other than for use as a pet:

1. Licensed veterinarians and incorporated humane societies, or animal shelters, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals or animal welfare organizations duly licensed by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe or other recognized licensing authority, in the temporary possession of wild animals;
2. A person having custody of a wild animal solely for the purpose of transporting it to a licensed veterinarian, wildlife rehabilitator, humane society or other entity authorized by this section to handle or treat wild animals;

B. The Animal Control Officer is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this section and issue notices of violation to persons in violation of this section, and shall have the authority to seize any wild or exotic animal held in violation of this section. Wild or Exotic animals seized or surrendered pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be transferred to a duly incorporated wildlife sanctuary as defined in this section, or a zoological facility accredited by the American Zoological and Aquarium Association, or shall be humanely euthanized.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who knowingly breeds a wild or exotic animal or knowingly possesses, owns, harbors, sells, barter, transfers, exchanges, or imports a wild or exotic animal for use as a pet in violation of the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalty of not more than \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) for the first offense and not more than \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) for a second and subsequent offenses. Each

instance of breeding, owning, harboring, sale, barter, transfer, exchange, or import of a wild or exotic animal in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

D. Grandfather Clause: Any person who owns, possesses, keeps or harbors exotic or wild animal(s) on or before the effective date of this Ordinance shall be permitted to continue ownership or possession as long as they meet all the requirements set in this Ordinance, however, these animals may not be bred and once they die, they may not be replaced.

## **Section 12. Interference**

No person shall interfere, hinder, or molest any agent of the Animal Control Office in the performance of any duty as herein provided.

Any person violating this section shall be deemed guilty of a civil fine of not more than one thousand dollars \$1,000.00 and may be liable for a criminal offense.

## **Section 13. Inter-Agency Cooperation**

The Animal Control Officer is hereby authorized to coordinate and cooperate with area agencies, including but not limited to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Environment Division; the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Compliance Department, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and any other agency as may be necessary and appropriate.

## **Section 14. Repeals**

The Dog Ordinance, TCR 2001-155, is hereby repealed in its entirety and all other ordinances of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

## **Section 15. Severability**

If any part of this ordinance shall be held invalid, such part shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this ordinance.

## **Section 16. Amendment**

This Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.

## **Section 17. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.

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This Ordinance known as the Animal Control Ordinance has been duly enacted by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.

James W. Ransom 7/30/09  
James W. Ransom, Tribal Chief Date

Monica M. Jacobs 7/31/09  
Monica M. Jacobs, Tribal Chief Date

Mark H. Garrow 7/31/09  
Mark H. Garrow, Tribal Chief Date

I hereby certify that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has duly enacted the foregoing Animal Control Ordinance this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2009.

Corleen Jackson-Jacco  
Corleen Jackson-Jacco, Tribal Clerk

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