

HCR

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TELEGRAM

ECA ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

PHONE: 586-8440

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

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02078 NL TDA UNALAKLEET 50 04-24 430P AST

PMS REP ALVIN OSTERBACK

CHAIRMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

JUN

THE UNALAKLEET NATIVE CORPORATION SUPPORTS YOUR RESOLUTION
DECLARE THE MUSK OXEN NEAR THIS TOWN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS
DOMESTIC ANIMALS. SUCH A STATUS ENABLES THE AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT CUSTOMARY AMONG DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN OTHER AREAS.

PAUL IVANOFF II, PRESIDENT

UNALAKLEET NATIVE CORPORATION

1978 APR 24 PM 9:13

TELEGRAM

HCA ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

PHONE: 586-6440

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

#

02076 POM TDA UNALAKLEET 15 04-24 517P AST

PMS REP ALVIN OSTERBACK

CHAIRMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

JUN

NATIVE VILLAGE COUNSEL OF UNALAKLEET SUPPORT RESOLUTION
TO DECLARE THE MUSKOX A DOMESTIC ANIMAL.

R WEAVER IVANOFF, PRESIDENT

NATIVE VILLAGE COUNSEL OF UNALAKLEET

1978 APR 24 PM 9 15

TELEGRAM

ALASKA ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

PHONE: 586-6440

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

02079 POM ANCHORAGE AK 15 04-24 505P AST

PMS REP ALVIN OSTERBACK

CHAIRMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

JUN

UNALAKLEET CITY COUNCIL URGES PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION

DECLARING OUR LOCAL MUSK OX HERD DOMESTIC.

JOHN ECKELS, MAYOR

1978 APR 24 PM 9 15

'OOMINGMAK'

MUSK OX PRODUCERS' CO-OPERATIVE

604 - H. Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501



QIVIUT HANDKNITS

Representative Alvin Osterback
Chairman, Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V, Juneau, Ak. 99801

please reply to:
Box 447
Bainbridge Island
Washington 98110
(206) 842-4849
21 April '78

Dear Representative Osterback:

The purpose of this letter is to express support for the Resolution under consideration by your committee which declares the hornless musk ox to be a domestic animal. It is also to offer additional information which might be considered useful, especially with regard to the present domestic musk ox industry which provides a growing number of tundra/coastal village people with a significant portion of their annual income.

It has been customary for agriculturalists to consider an animal as domestic if it met the following standards: 1) its breeding were under the control of man, and through selection certain characteristics were emphasized which differed from their occurrence in the wild ancestors; 2) it were maintained under a program of complete husbandry management; 3) it, and its products, were utilized in an active economy.

The musk oxen maintained by this Cooperative meet these standards in the following manners:

I. The present domestic musk ox herd has been selectively bred through several generations. Selection was based upon rapid growth, early maturity, and, particularly, the annual yield of qiviut, the underwool upon which the textile industry is based. An additional factor was selection for small body size in comparison to qiviut yield. In achieving these results, the selective breeding has produced an animal which differs markedly from its wild ancestors, grows faster, matures earlier, and yields more qiviut.

II. The domestic musk ox has been maintained on farms since 1954, is tame, and follows a regular daily agricultural routine which extends from the breeding season in September through the calving and qiviut-collecting season in May-June. It is treated and used as a normal domestic animal.

III. The principal product of the domestic musk ox is its qiviut, or underwool, which is knitted into delicate garments and provides employment and cash incomes for over a hundred persons in the tundra/coastal villages of Alaska. These include Mekoryuk, Tanunuk, Nightrute, Bethel, Goo'news Bay, St. Michaels, St. Marys, Unalakleet, Fortuna Lodge, Marshall, Elim, Nome, Tooksook Bay, Shishmaref, Kotzebue, Wainwright, Pt. Barrow, Kodiak, and others. At present, plans are in progress to locate herds and to train textile knitters in Unalaska, Akutan, Atka, Ueller, St. Lawrence, Kivalina, Point Hope, etc.

IV. Specifically, a domestic musk ox can always be distinguished, even from a distance, because it has no horns - in contrast to its wild ancestors. (The horns have either been removed when calves or, when occurring, the hornless characteristic will be extended through selective breeding

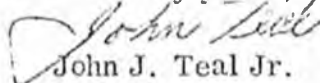
In addition to meeting the above standards for domestic status, these musk oxen have been widely accepted by the general public as domestic, especially with reference to their economic use and farm management. They have also been referred to as domestic animals in the scientific journals, and have been treated as domestic animals in the compilation of agricultural statistics. This followed normal expectations, since domestication has been one of the principal stated goals regarding musk oxen since their importation in 1930.

By means of the Resolution declaring these musk oxen to be domestic, those tundra/coastal people who rely upon them for their livelihood will become eligible for a variety of technical assistance and grants. They also then will enjoy the normal rights and privileges common to the ownership of domestic animals in other areas.

It seems, therefore, that many advantages and benefits will accrue to the participating residents of tundra/coastal Alaska by a declaration that their animal is domestic.

With many thanks for your consideration -

Sincerely yours,

John J. Teal Jr.

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907 465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

April 11, 1978

SUBJECT: Technical Assistance Provided by State Agencies to Domestic Livestock Producers

TO: The Honorable Lisa Rudd

FROM: George Utermohler
Research Analyst J.U.

You have requested us to determine what technical assistance state agencies may provide to domestic livestock producers.

The only state agency which provides services to the producers of domestic livestock is the Division of Agriculture within the Department of Natural Resources. The Division of Agriculture provides veterinary services to livestock producers on a regular basis. The state veterinarian is authorized to "study problems incidental to the raising of livestock and other domestic animals, and advise those engaged therein upon matters pertaining to breeding, care and the prevention and cure of diseases of livestock and other domestic animals" (AS 03.25.020 (6)). Other services which the Division provides to livestock producers include: the assistance of a marketing specialist, particularly for meat and dairy products; meat inspection services; and a slaughter house for reindeer in Nome.

The Alaska statutes do not include a generally applicable definition of "domestic animal" or "domestic livestock". The only definition in the statutes is a definition of "domestic animal" which is meant to include goats, sheep, cattle, horses and swine, however this definition is applicable only to state grazing districts. It would seem that, even in its limited context, this definition is not an exclusive definition of domestic animals. Other livestock or animals would not be excluded from use of state grazing districts by this definition. Thus, in the absence of legislative guidance in the form of statute or resolution, the division of agriculture may exercise its discretion in determining which animals constitute domestic animals or livestock in order to determine eligibility for its services.

GU:ftc



QIVIUT HANDKNITS

'OOMINGMAK'
MUSK OX PRODUCERS' CO-OPERATIVE

Box 447
Bainbridge Island
Wash. 98110
(206) 842-4849
22 March '78

Ms. Ginger Baim
c/o Representative Lisa Rudd
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ginger:

It was great to receive your splendid letter, and to be brought up-to-date on your whereabouts and activities. Your job with Representative Rudd sounds both interesting and exciting, (have you ever not lived excitingly?), and your reasons are plain decent.

Our producers' cooperative and the farm at Unalakleet are going on, completely independent and on their own feet, thanks to the often valiant work of Sigrun and Bart. There are about 170 village people trained as knitters, more than half very active. I hope to answer village requests for more textile workshops so that we can bring this number up to over 200 by the end of this year. As you know, for many years I have thought that there was no occupation so exploited as the cottage industry, and have insisted upon a village woman having the dignity of her labor and her place of work (her home) through decent pay - even for beginners, at least the national minimum wage, and then, their owning the whole works in addition. Now we hope to start training, six at a time, the men and women who have applied for the whole year training program needed to become herders and herd managers. Starting this summer, if possible, in Unalakleet. We still have our original sex mix in occupations, culturally perhaps too early: some female herders; some male knitters.

The Unalakleet herd is to be a distribution center, and the village most eager to have a station is Unalaska, where the social-economic conditions are poor. There are no hoofed native animals on the island, but we still will use the perimeter fencing, etc., for husbandry purposes. The people there really can use the employment.

You kindly asked if there were something you might do to help the project. There is, and it is of great immediate importance. For ten years, since 1968, I have realized that our project must be free to develop in terms of its proper agricultural directions. It cannot do that if we are associated, even in a remote way, with the Department of Fish & Game. Ours are not wild animals, nor animals to be used as targets for trophy hunters. (In fact, they are a relatively recent importation from Greenland.) They are domestic animals selectively bred through some generations, the basis of an agricultural industry providing employment, and hope for more employment, through a product which doesn't require killing them. They belong under the aegis, if anything, of Alaska's equivalent of a department of agriculture; not Fish and Game and wildlife.

Some years ago I corresponded with U.S. Senator George Aiken, who had been chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, to have them declared what they are, a domestic animal. He told me that the logical first step was to have the state legislature declare them, by either resolution or act, a domestic animal, and to define them as "Domestic Musk Oxen", *ovibos domesticus*. Such a resolution would automatically shift them from Fish & Game to agriculture - and make the project eligible for technical assistance from the USDA.

I did not bring the matter up in the late Sixties or early Seventies because, frankly, I was warned that my opposition to the trophy-hunting of Nunivak's wild musk oxen had created such a popular animosity that almost anything I proposed would be defeated.

But now, as we are well into the final stage, the spread of this form of agriculture through the tundra/coastal villages, it is appropriate that no time be lost in getting them declared domestic animals - and out to the aegis of agriculture.

It occurs to me that Representative Rudd might be willing to give it a try? It is vital to us, to a large and growing number of remote village people employed by and members of the Cooperative - and the need is immediate.

Would you be interested in approaching Representative Rudd and asking for her help?

Meanwhile, with many thanks for your letter and good news -

Sincerely,





QIVIUT HANDKNITS

'OOMINGMAK'

MUSK OX PRODUCERS' CO-OPERATIVE

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Box 447
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*Drawn
for HCR124*

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Chairman, Resources Committee
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Pouch V, Juneau, Ak. 99801

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