

**From:** Sally McLaughlin <[sallyannlesh@gmail.com](mailto:sallyannlesh@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 12:31 PM

**To:** Shelley Owens <[shelley.owens@gustavus-ak.gov](mailto:shelley.owens@gustavus-ak.gov)>; Liesl Barker <[liesl.barker@gustavus-ak.gov](mailto:liesl.barker@gustavus-ak.gov)>

**Subject:** Trapping in Gustavus

Dear Mayor Owens

In response to yesterday's wolf trap/domestic dog incident, I am writing to express concerns that this unfortunate situation exists in Gustavus. I will also contact the State of Alaska Fish and Game department, but I also would like to suggest that we try to address the situation locally.

If we are truly a community "***where all members take social responsibility... and In which people retain a closeness with and caring for each other individually and collectively while working together to...preserve community traditions***", I would hope that we could come together for a community discussion to inform everyone of trapping activity in the Gustavus area that could balance the rights of trappers with the safety of our local residents and pets. My guess is that many local trappers are also dog owners and parents of children that they would not want to have accidentally trapped.

The Fish and Game regulations state that trappers must "***Act responsibly as a trapper and conservationist by trapping in ways to minimize conflict between trapping and other users, for example, avoid high recreational use areas. Avoid situations where you might catch a domestic dog or cat, such as near homes or trails frequently used by hikers, skijorers, dog mushers, or other people.***"

The area in which a dog was trapped yesterday, and to which I was witness, is one that is frequented by hikers and dogs on a regular basis. Any adult, child or dog curious enough to go investigate an old moose carcass could have been caught in that trap, with nothing to mark its location.

At the very least, could the City send out a PSA announcing trapping seasons and general vicinities that trappers do use and locations that are closed to trapping? This could come as a result of the aforementioned community discussion.

I would be willing to assist in any endeavors to address this serious situation, as this is not the first incident, nor will it be the last.

Sincerely,  
Sally McLaughlin