

May 21, 2013

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RE: HB 2624 with regards to using dogs to hunt Oregon cougars and bears

Ethical teaching: "What are the Risk and is This the Last Resort?" Vote No

Dear Committee,

I am a Native Oregonian and am here today as a member of Oregon Cougar Action Team. I graduated from OSU with a BS in Philosophy with emphasis on Ethics, Moral Theory and Critical Thinking with regards to animal welfare. I was on a committee at OSU called ACUIE, in which resulted in OSU Veterinary School to teach their students to do surgery on animals and not kill them as an end result. As Chairperson, Lobbyist and Media Spokesperson I served three years for Association for Animal Protection, in which I help, pass the Oregon Pet Theft Law and some other legislation.

According to ethics, we ask, answer and act on questions and one of the questions is: "What are the Risk?" One answer would be the ecosystem changes. Another risk is dogs attacking bears and cougars are injured and mutilated. I have seen footage of packs of dogs tearing a cougar's unborn kittens from her womb. This seems rather inhumane.

Any question important to ask: Is this the last resort? Being that bears and cougars are a moral part of our community, do we not owe some respect and moral obligation towards them? It is my hope we are not so selfish that we can live with their existence. Many studies have shown bears and cougars do not want to be around people. There are usually afraid of us and veer away .

In Critical Thinking, we analyze the worth/value problem? What makes a cougar in captivity worth more or less than a cougar in a zoo? Is a free animal worth less than a captive animal? I value them the same as I would value two five year old children. When I see documentaries on bears and cougars in the wilderness, I put worth on their abilities to be part of our ecosystem. I have knowledge that where safety is concerned, the line is rarely crossed. A person is more likely to die from a dog attack than a bear or cougar.

Respectfully,



Julie Meyers