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Sustainable economies are not build on the killing of animals. Hound hunting, dog fighting, and grey hound racing - is what it is, animal abuse in exchange for money and it attracts crime and poaching. There is no way around this. Hound hunting was voted down twice because it creates a culture of animal abuse and crime we need to move away from. And it is NOT a sustainable answer to our cougar conflict issues. It exacerbates it. We are killing more cougar now without public hound hunters, than before M18.

DIRECTOR JEWELL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR HAS STATED THAT FOR EVERY DOLLAR THEY INVEST IN THE WILDLIFE PROGRAMS, THEY SEE \$5.00 COMING BACK FROM WILDLIFE WATCHING - USA WIDE - AND EXCEEDS HUNTING INCOME BY SEVERAL MILLION, THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE JOBS THAT ARE CREATED FROM WILDLIFE WATCHING.

Human and livestock safety cougar conflict issues ARE BEST ADDRESSED BY Dr. Wielgus's peer review of ODFW CMP (Cougar Management Plan) which states that killing more cougar creates more cougar conflict issues. ODFW statistician Dr. Jackson's reports agree this is true and further stated that dispersing cougars raised by their mother in the wild has significantly less conflict issues than the orphaned cougars -which we know hunting creates. Please note, 100's more children are yearly killed or crippled by pet domestic dogs and we know too many children are being shot in schools. Yes, cougars are dangerous, but killing them makes it more-so. Please note the documents attached regarding Oregon Dog bit laws and a document referencing the abuse to the hound dogs.

IN DR. WIELGUS'S REVIEW OF OUR CMP, HE CLEARLY OUTLINES THE FLAWS TO THE SCIENCE AND THE POPULATION MODEL COUNT. HE FURTHER STATES THAT WE MUST "GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND START OVER AND WRITE A BETTER COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE ECONOMICS , SUSTAINABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OF OUR COUGAR CONFLICT AND SAFETY ISSUES. HE STATES THE VERY BEST RECOURSES TO DO SO ARE RIGHT HERE IN OREGON AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR WILLIAM RIPPLE AND DR. BETCHA, SPECIALISTS IN TROPIC CASCADE ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

WHEN WE FIX OUR CMP, WE WILL SAVE THE TAXPAYERS 10'S OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND EXPERIENCE LESS COUGAR CONFLICT ISSUES WITHOUT OPENING THE DOOR TO ANIMAL ABUSE AND THE CRIMES THAT COME WITH IT OR USURPING THE VOTERS VOICE.

There is no shame in poverty, like the shame and misery of poverty that stems from a damaged ecosystem. When food and ecosystem suffer, there is no divide between rural and cities, therefor, there is no divide now.

In regards to our apex predators, ODFW has not adopted an ecosystem management approach that reflects the sound science and accurate cougar population model account that Oregonians deserve. Instead they have a mono-culture species designed for hunting and INADEQUATELY takes into account the full spectrum of diversity and the ecological process that sustains it OR THE IMPACT OF A CHANGING CLIMATE ISSUE. IT MAKES NO SENCE TO MANAGE OUR GUILD APEX PREDATORS, THE COUGAR, THE WOLF AND THE BEAR TO GENTIC UNSUSTAINABLE NUMBERS and usurping the voters voice to do so. OUR WILDLIFE AND DOGS MUST NOT BE TURNED INTO A COMMODITY FOR HOUND HUNTERS, POACHERS AND TROPHY HUNTING. THAT IS NOT GOOD BUSINESS.

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Dog bite victim seeks change in Oregon law

March 7, 2007

COOS BAY — It was nearly 19 months ago, but Sara Weidenhaft is still haunted by the animal's amber eyes just moments after it ripped her lips apart.

It remains a part of every word that escapes her mangled lips, every stare from a stranger. And it's a part of her resolve to change a law.

She had leaned into a truck to hug the dog's owner.

"He bit it off," Weidenhaft said through a small opening where her lips once were. "I didn't even know the dog was in the car until he had my lip in his mouth."

She has had five surgeries to repair the damage and faces more.

She didn't press charges or try to have the dog put down, but learned that in Oregon, the owner of a normally friendly dog is not liable for damages after a first-time attack. The dog's owner, a friend of Weidenhaft's, paid \$5,000 through her insurance company, but didn't have to.

Insurance has covered most of the surgery but she doesn't believe she alone should have to pay the rest.

"So far my surgeries are in excess of \$66,000 and I'm still not fixed," Weidenhaft, 52, told lawmakers at a hearing in Salem for House Bill 2345, a dog-bite measure proposed by Rep. Wayne Krieger, R-Gold Beach.

The dog's owner would be responsible for medical expenses but the owner would retain defenses such as provocation of the dog.

"If a dog comes into my pasture and kills one of my sheep, not only can I kill the dog ... I can collect up to three times the value of the sheep. But, if a dog bites my lip off, I have to pay? Something isn't right with this picture," Weidenhaft said.

Oregon is among several states that never altered dog-bite laws that date from 16th-century England, Krieger said.

He said a poor family whose child is attacked by a dog may not be able to afford reconstructive surgery. "Not many (young families) have \$50,000, \$60,000, or \$70,000 for reconstructive surgery."

Weidenhaft, an animal lover with a ranch, says she doesn't hate the dog.

But she says she wants people to realize they don't know dogs as well as they think they do, or what they will do.

Weidenhaft said she thinks the Great Dane reacted to his owner's surprise when she leaned in for the hug.

Her husband, Ted Weidenhaft said they are working through the impact the incident has caused.



State
Star

> In all these years, the only damage that we have had from the
> timberland inhabitants is the damage to fences by the elk that come
to

> forage in our pastures.

> Although there have been reports of cougar being seen by hunters in
> this timberland,

> we have never had any problems on our property.

> On the other hand, we have seldom (maybe 3 years in the past 25)
> gone through a spring/summer without "domestic dogs" coming into our
> fields and killing lambs or sheep. Some of these kills have been
> within 100 feet of our house. The sad thing is that the dog owners
> never believe that their precious little pet could kill a sheep.

> And there is the summer that a pack of dogs chased a young buck
> out of the timberlands and into our pasture. The buck jumped the
> first fence, stopped before the second fence and ran back to the
first

> fence. This back and forth thing went on 3 or 4 times, before the
> deer colapsed, DEAD. The deer had been run to death. His coat was
> covered with lather and his tongue was hanging out of his mouth.

> We could hear the dogs barking up on the hill, but never saw
> them until 3 days later, when they were in our fields, chasing our
> sheep.

> In short, my negative experiences have not been with the
> wildlife as much as they have been with our highly revered domestic
> pets, otherwise known as the dog.

> Thank you for your time.

>

> Sincerely, Sara Weidenhaft

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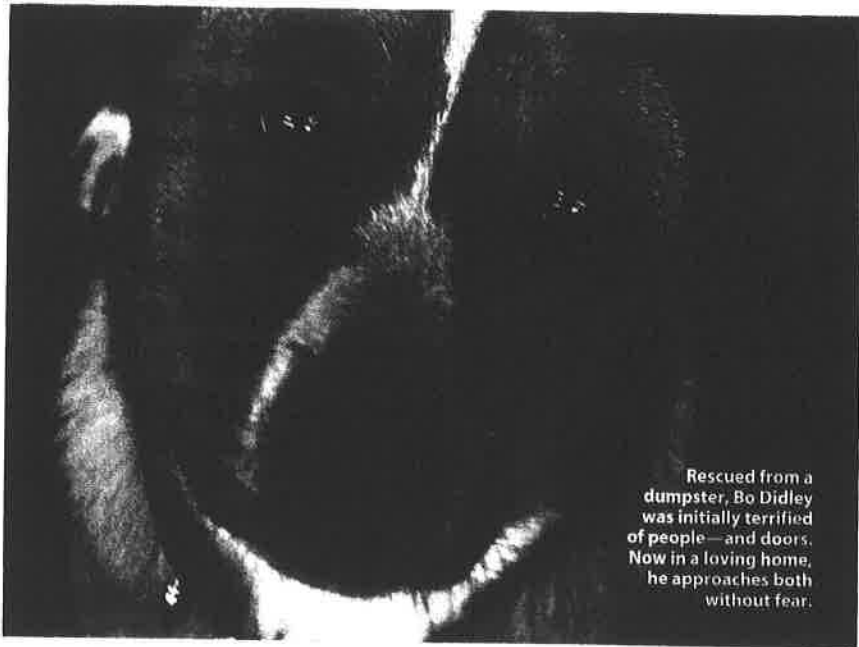
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> 60065 Roderick Road

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> Coos Bay, OR 97420



Rescued from a dumpster, Bo Didley was initially terrified of people—and doors. Now in a loving home, he approaches both without fear.

Hound Hunting: No Life for a Dog

In the nearly three years that Rabiah Seminole has lived on her 40-acre southern Virginia property, the horse rescuer and rehabilitator has heard endless gunshots crack over nearby fields. In the fences, roads, and brush that separate her from the hunt, she has rescued 16 hounds, abandoned to fend for themselves or simply lost in the confusion of the carnage.

Each was starving and desperate: Willy Wags had a bone jutting from his leg. Sienna was entangled in barbed wire. Choy and Charlie had been tossed in dumpsters; Lily and Jazz were wandering in the road.

Hundreds of these hounds are used every year to hunt deer and bear in Virginia. They're released in packs of up to 40 animals, often fitted with GPS devices so the human hunter doesn't have to keep pace. They put their lives on the line: A

black bear can disembowel an overeager hound in a single swipe. The picture is just as bleak for the animals on the other end of the chase; in their desperation for food, starved dogs can mutilate deer so much that

their human companions have no more use for their prey.

When they become old, sick, pregnant, or injured—or are judged to be bad hunters—many loyal hounds receive the bitter thanks of desertion. The dogs “are viewed as little more than hunting equipment,” says Megan Sewell, deputy manager of The HSUS’s Wildlife Abuse Campaign. “At the close of hunting season, countless hunting dogs

are simply abandoned to die or be struck by vehicles as they attempt to find food.”

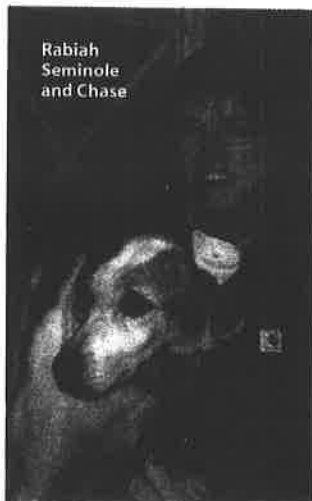
Some end up at animal shelters already overrun with the breeds. Largely unsocialized and unhealthy, they often make poor candi-

dates for adoption. Widespread complaints—including those from HSUS members in Virginia and from hunters themselves—have prompted the state’s Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to review the practice, which is already illegal in many other states. The HSUS has asked Virginia to adopt regulations that ensure the welfare of the dogs and more humane treatment of the wildlife they chase.

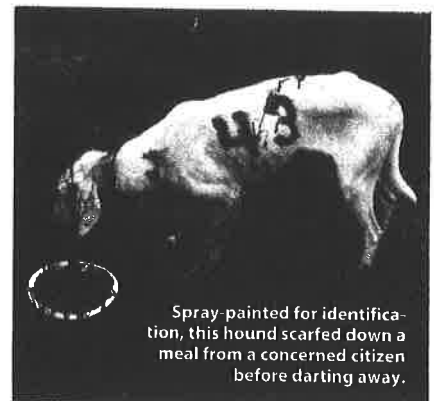
Alethea White-Previs is one of the many Virginians who would like to see hound hunting outlawed. A hound found on her mother’s property “had rampant heartworms, kidney failure, and five or six more pretty bad health problems,” she says. Try as she might, White-Previs couldn’t save her, and Violet died nine months later. Her story lives on through an HSUS ad about hound hunting that features her picture.

It’s the sad life histories that have moved Seminole to protect her hounds. One was tied to a tree, alone in the woods. Some wore bright orange collars with no nametags. Most were covered in ticks. Of all the dogs, Chase looked the worst—his body so scrawny it appeared his skin was all that held up his legs, his lips receded to his gums in a “terminal smile” so frightening that those who saw him sucked in their breath.

Sienna’s story is perhaps the most pitiful: The tiny dog was found hanging by her hind leg, tangled in a barbed wire fence bordering a quiet back road. Another hound, likely a member of Sienna’s pack, kept company nearby. But as Seminole untangled the wire and freed Sienna, the other hound took off into the darkness. — *Pepper Ballard*



Rabiah Seminole and Chase



Spray-painted for identification, this hound scarfed down a meal from a concerned citizen before darting away.