

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

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Summer/Fall 2012

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of C.A.S.H. - Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting - is to accomplish what its name says in the shortest possible time. Understanding that abolishing hunting entails a process, a series of steps taken and not a single action that would effect our goal overnight, a time frame cannot be established. We hope for building a succession of wins, and if not wins immediately then at least a succession of stirrings of consciousness. We hope to encourage those who are still silent to speak out, awakening community after community about the heavy hand of state and federal wildlife management agencies. We hope to alter whatever belief still exists that sport hunters are conservationists and champions of the environment to a realization that they are destroyers of wildlife and ecosystems in the narrow and broad sense. Where the natural feeling for wildlife doesn't exist, we strive to engender among citizens outrage that their own rights are violated by legal hunting and their quality-of-life diminished.

Luke A. Dommer was the founder of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. He was its president from 1976 until his passing in August 1992. Mr. Dommer's research and publications served as the foundation for the anti-hunting movement. He remains, through this organization, an invaluable and dedicated warrior in the battle to save wild animals, the environment, and general public from the silent economy that encourages and preys on the passion of a few to kill the wildlife that belongs to all.

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C.A.S.H. COURIER

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PRAIRIE DOG HUNTING THE UNNECESSARY CRUELTY

BY JOE MIELE

We've all heard the excuses hunters use for killing deer: they cause car accidents, spread Lyme disease, eat everything in sight, they are starving to death, they are made of meat, we're at the top of the food chain, etc. Each excuse is rooted firmly in lies, misinformation and false beliefs, but that does not stop hunters and their lackeys who work for state and federal hunting agencies from repeating ad nauseam. Hunters indeed talk about deer an awful lot, but they don't talk nearly as much about "small game" animals like squirrels, woodchucks or prairie dogs, though they are killed in the millions.

Most people have never seen a prairie dog, as they live throughout the American West on prairies (imagine that!) and open grassland where few people live. Yet, this does not stop hunters from killing them for target practice or for pure fun.

What kind of animal is a prairie dog? Prairie dogs are mammals and members of the squirrel family, and are herbivores with a natural lifespan of three to four years. They weigh between two and four lbs. and measure from fifteen to nineteen inches from the top of their heads to the tip of their tails. They live underground and



create an extensive system of tunnels and chambers, the construction of which leaves mounds of soil above ground. They are very social animals and their underground habitat sports separate areas that are used as nurseries, sleeping areas, and even toilets. They help other wildlife such as snakes, burrowing owls, and the rare black-footed ferret - all of which use their warrens as homes. Groups of black-tailed prairie dogs live in communities that we call "towns." According to National Geographic, the largest town discovered covered 25,000 square miles and was home to perhaps four hundred million prairie dogs.

Hunters kill prairie dogs - a lot of them. These little animals are the victims of blood lust and are killed in horrific ways. They are despised by

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



What makes me certain that hunting is headed toward extinction is the mail we receive from the public, and not those who are necessarily members or supporters. In Ask Uncle Joe of this issue of the C.A.S.H. Courier, you'll find a letter written by a parent who wants to know how to teach his son respect for wildlife. We trust you will find our response of value.

Our supporters in the eastern states may not know about the brutal killing of prairie dogs. Prairie dogs have a beneficial effect on the environment, but hunters and ranchers who have never met a species of wildlife they haven't wanted to destroy are killing them in the most horrible ways imaginable. We've written a piece on these terribly maligned animals which will motivate you to take the suggested actions to help stop the barbarity.

Through our popular Facebook page we have been able to connect with people from around the world and educate and motivate them. Through one appeal on our page, we were able to speak to wildlife rehabilitators who were kind enough to be interviewed. We've published their thoughts in the Courier as a way to inform our readers about what wildlife rehabilitators do and the

challenges they face.

Here are just some of our new and ongoing efforts since our last publication....

- Maintaining the highly active C.A.S.H. Facebook page. Our page has been a way to connect with thousands of people from around the country and world to deliver our message of abolishing hunting.

- Continuing our series on how Trap/Neuter/Return for feral cats can lessen their impact on domestic wildlife.

- Tabling and collecting signatures against S.2066, the Sportsmen's Heritage Act and delivering the petitions to members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; and New Mexico Senators Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall.

- Presented and exhibited at AR2012, the nation's largest animal rights conference, in Washington, D.C.

- Maintaining the huge database of hunting accidents and violations.

- Contributed to a petition written by **Wild Earth Guardians** of Santa Fe, NM seeking to ban prairie dog shooting in El Malpais National Monument. Wild Earth Guardians is in the forefront of prairie dog protection and C.A.S.H. is proud to be a

part of their effort.

- Met with Westchester (NY) Parks Commissioner with coalition to end the killing of Canada geese.

- Researching and providing material for other activists and organizations in California, Colorado, Florida, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Texas.

- Providing material for journalists directly and via the website and Facebook.

- C.A.S.H.'S Joe Miele had an impromptu discussion about sport fishing at the local food co-op, which turned into an invitation for C.A.S.H. to speak about the subject on an upcoming local radio show.

And more!

As hunting season approaches we'll be inundated with phone calls, e-mails, and personal accounts of wounded animals, trespassing and intimidating hunters, and the horror of hearing gunfire, both legal and illegal, throughout all hours of the day and night. **C.A.S.H. is there to help when and as we can, and to the animals and the people we help, that means everything.**

Please support our work so we can continue to be there for them. Your generous contributions will help us do more.

**Isn't it time to end
the senseless brutality of hunting
that also gravely affects the public?**

Here are two recent reasons that made local news:

TEXAS SCHOOL CHILDREN AT RISK: FROM HUNTERS

Two TX students, aged 13 and 14, were wounded. One boy is in critical condition with a gunshot wound in his back and a bullet embedded in one of his organs. It is known that two "hunting pastures" are within 600 yards of the school.

WISCONSIN WOMAN FINDS SHOTGUN SLUG IN HOME

It will cost her \$500 to repair the damage according to the sheriff's office

**Your generous
contributions will
help us to do
much more.
Thank you for
your support.
Please visit:**

www.abolishsporthunting.org

PRAIRIE DOG

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hunters and cattle ranchers and are exterminated without a thought to their importance to the ecosystem. It is estimated that hunters have killed about 98 percent of all prairie dog species, and that before this they were the most populous mammal species in North America.

While shooting prairie dogs is a source of entertainment for hunters, they have to use other excuses to make it seem like killing the helpless animals is a public service. One hunting website uses these excuses:

1. Hunting decreases the threat of plague (despite the fact that plague is transmitted through flea bites, and that only about 7 cases of plague are discovered in the U.S. each year, and those infections are easily treated with commonly available antibiotics, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

2. Hunting provides needed population control (despite being a prey species for coyotes, eagles, bobcats, badgers and other predators who will naturally keep their populations in check).

3. Hunting generates revenue for businesses and the state through the sale of ammo and hunting licenses (at least they are being honest for a change).

Here in New Mexico, prairie dogs are considered "unprotected," meaning that hunters can lawfully kill as many of them as they want anytime during the year without a hunting license (what was that about hunting seasons being scientifically managed?). If hunting on a state wildlife manage-

ment area, hunters are restricted to using non-toxic ammo, but on private property they can blast as much lead into the environment as their budget will allow.

Hunting guides make big money sending hunters to areas where prairie dog towns are known to exist, and guides can charge \$350 or more per day per hunter for a hunting trip.

In South Dakota prairie dog hunting is legendary. One website says that "prairie dogs offer sportsmen countless hours of entertainment" and their guides set hunters out 500 yards (more than ¼ mile) or more past prairie dog burrows "for a real long range challenge." Hunters do this because they believe it hones their skills for shooting an elk or buck at 400 yards - a distance that many hunters will tell you is unethical because of the high risk of injury to the hunted animal. But prairie dog hunters turned deer hunters don't care about injuring an animal if that's what happens when they take shots from more than ¼ mile away (what was that about fair chase?). If prairie dogs remain hidden due to inclement weather, the guides will not let you go home empty handed, and they will be kind enough to allow you to shoot coyotes at dawn and dusk. Like prairie dogs, coyotes are unprotected and anyone can kill them any time.

One hunter, talking about his favorite ammunition to use against prairie dogs had this to say: "my all time favorite is the 243/backed up with a 70 grain Nosler BT. This caliber will



do 3,600 feet per second with a 70 gr and with the energy it has at 500, it's "smoking" when it plows the prairie dogs. Below is a picture of a dog shot at 500 and needless to say, he flipped several times for the side show!" What was that about hunters having respect for wildlife?

One prairie dog hunter in Texas brags that he has "several thousand personal kills... on prairie dogs as well as other small game including cottontail rabbit as well as Jackrabbits" and that during his "best" night of hunting he killed 385 jackrabbits in 12 hours. He also killed a prairie dog from 1,044 yards - more than ½ mile away (a half-mile is 880 yards). He'll teach you how to do this at the rock-bottom rate of \$300.00 per person for a half-day hunt. And all this time hunters have been telling us that they need to hunt to put food on the table. It seems to me that most of them have plenty of money for food.

Hunters are not the only problem faced by prairie dogs. They are also exterminated en masse by the USDA's Wildlife Services - the animal extermination branch of the agency that works to support the ranching industries in their efforts against wildlife. Wildlife Services uses rodenticides to poison prairie dogs, and fires canisters of carbon monoxide gas into prairie dog dens to suffocate them to death.

Toxic bait such as zinc phosphide is used to poison prairie dogs. While not a danger to livestock when used carefully, it causes a horrific death in prairie dogs and other small rodents. Zinc phosphide poisoning causes shock, vomiting, diarrhea, cyanosis (a condition that prevents blood from carrying enough oxygen), and an increase of fluid in the lungs.

Another poison that is used is the chemical Acrolein. Acrolein causes lacrimation (tearing of the eyes) and respiratory failure and is used against

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squirrels as well as prairie dogs.

Prairie dog killing has also brought out the entrepreneur in some people. A device advertized on TV attaches to the tailpipe of your car and is inserted into prairie dog burrows to kill the animals with engine exhaust. The inventor of this device says that their product does not care about "what type of critter you need to get rid of" since the **toxic exhaust will kill all animals who inhale it.**

But perhaps the cruelest method of killing prairie dogs is how exterminators literally blow up the dens. An oxygen/propane mix is injected into prairie dog burrows and then ignited. This produces an expanding force that can travel up to 5,000 feet per second, with the concussion from the explosion flattening tunnels and killing up to 90% of all the animals inside the dens. The remaining animals are suffocated when the earth collapses around them, or they are shot as they attempt to dig exit holes.

Killing prairie dogs is unnecessary since properly managing range land will solve or prevent problems from occurring. If land is not over farmed or over grazed, prairie dogs are less likely to become a problem. Prairie dogs prefer low grass with minimal obstruction so they can more easily detect danger, so keeping native

grasses high will keep prairie dog numbers low. Switchgrass can be planted to establish a safe and natural prairie dog barrier. Small areas can be protected from burrowing prairie dogs by burying mesh wire fencing two feet deep and allowing it to protrude 3 feet above ground.

Trapping and relocating prairie dogs is effective and humane, with an injury rate of about 5% and a survival rate for relocated animals up to 95% in the best situations. Live traps need to be checked regularly to insure that trapped animals are treated humanely and are not exposed to the elements for an unreasonable amount of time. A modified street sweeper vacuum has been used to suck prairie dogs out of their burrows, and this method has been used as a nonlethal approach when relocating prairie dogs.

As in most situations, prairie dogs needn't be a problem if care is taken to treat them responsibly and humanely.



Do you want to help them?

Here's what you can do:

If you live in the west and have a large tract of land, offer your property as a possible prairie dog relocation spot. The animals are constantly in need of places for relocation when their towns are threatened by hunting, development or human intolerance. C.A.S.H. will connect you with those who are working directly on hands-on prairie dog rescue efforts.

Learn more about prairie dogs. Research their biology, their habitat, their habits and their lives. **Put together a presentation** and use your public library or other community space to garner support for ending this brutality. C.A.S.H. can help you get organized.

Work towards creating a wildlife watching economy to replace hunting. Go prairie dog watching!

Start a chapter of the **League of Humane Voters** to vote in the politicians who will work for wildlife protection, and win protective laws so that what is happening becomes a nightmare of the past. Visit www.LOHV.org

“Hunting is a crime against wildlife and the natural world.”

Letter to Taos News 8-11-12

To the Editor:

A recent article mentioned a bill introduced by Rep. Martin Heinrich which would require several government agencies to develop a plan to provide sport hunters access to federal lands previously out of reach. Bill HR 6086 is harmful and should be opposed by those of us who wish to preserve and protect wildlife and their habitat.

Hunters already have access to millions of acres of land on which to needlessly kill wildlife and HR 6086 threatens to defile some of our last remaining natural areas outside of wilderness, national parks & national monuments. It is supported by extremist special interest groups that promote violence as recreation and will degrade our natural world even further than it has already been degraded.

The sport hunting industry is in panic mode. Every year there are fewer people who hunt and the age of the average hunter increases (according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 72% of hunters are aged 35 or older). Hunters are dying or otherwise dropping out of the sport faster than young people can be recruited and this threatens state and federal hunting agencies that depend upon hunters to fund their wildlife-killing programs.

Hunting is a crime against wildlife and the natural world. To learn what you can do to prevent this bill from becoming law, join our members and supporters in New Mexico and throughout the country in visiting www.AbolishSportHunting.org. The future of wildlife and habitat rests in our hands.

Joe Miele, President

The Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting

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Gunfire Causes Forest Fires

YET ANOTHER REASON THAT HUNTING AND SHOOTING HAVE TO GO



<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2012/0623/Too-many-wild-fires-caused-by-gun-owners-says-Utah-governor-video>

In the tinder-dry western half of the United States, and during a year that has seen record-breaking droughts in many parts of the country, one would think that government officials would ban any sort of recreational activity that might start forest fires – or “wildfires,” as authorities now call them.

One of the activities that can be clamped down on is camping. This seemingly harmless pastime can lead to a catastrophic blaze when inexperienced or careless campers fail to sufficiently douse their campfires. Other known origins of fires are car backfire and vehicular accidents. Smokers have been known to cause brush fires with a recklessly tossed cigarette butt. Demented thrill-seekers certainly have been arsonists on too many occasions to mention; and sometimes they are caught and brought to justice. Lightning can also be a culprit, possibly the only “natural” villain we can blame.

However, there is one other cause of fires that many people do not consider, and that officialdom is not doing enough to address: hunters and “recreational” shooters. You know, those who go out into “the wilderness” not to enjoy nature but to kill wildlife, or even just to shoot at stationary targets (remember the Saguaros from two issues ago? If not, visit:

<http://www.wildwatch.org/Binocular/bino26/SHOOTINGsaguaro.pdf>) These guys have been doing tremendous damage, of course to the individual animals they kill and maim, but also by **destroying millions of acres of land when sparks from their guns ignite a blaze. They also indirectly cause long-lasting pollution when firefighters and airplanes spray and drop harmful chemicals on the fires to try to slow them down.**

The fact that gunfire causes forest fires has been recognized by no less than the oft-intransigent Bureau of Land Management. Not known for their consideration of the right of wild animals to live unmolested, the BLM does at least admit that the discharge of firearms has caused numerous conflagrations, as much as a third of all fires on lands they manage.

This year alone, 11 of 31 Idaho wildfires were set off by shooters. (USA Today, 7/3/12) Utah reportedly had 21 of their recent fires started by firearms. In one national forest in Arizona alone, gunfire was shown to have caused seven fires in 2010, ten in 2011, and five so far in 2012. (CBS) New Mexico, Washington, California, and Colorado have all had calamitous fires this year. Can we ever know how many of them could have been prevented, how much suffering could have been spared for wildlife and humans alike, if only shooting of all sorts had been banned in wild lands?

Not that all officials have ignored this matter. Recognizing the gun connection, the Republican Governor of Utah, Gary Herbert, did authorize restrictions for target shooting on state and county lands (not on hunting, unfortunately), but he came under metaphorical fire himself for daring to challenge the “right” of people to blast

BY E.M. FAY

away at anything they like. The Second Amendment, as usual, was speciously used to back up the gun nuts’ claim.

Gov. Herbert stated, “This does not abridge anybody’s constitutional right to bear firearms. But we’re facing a serious fire season, and the state forester has the authority to limit [shooting] in unincorporated areas.”

In Washington State, target shooting has been limited because of a gun-caused fire in June.

Other states are attempting to take similar measures. Besides the opposition of hunters and others who



claim Constitutional support, the institution of bans is made more difficult by the fact that the federal government does not list shooting as a cause when making out fire reports. This willful blindness to the facts seems outrageous.

Not surprisingly, such persons as the chairman of the Utah Sports Shooting Council downplay the risk of guns causing fires. “I don’t know how much of a problem it really is,” says Clark Aposhian. He guessed that target shooting was responsible for possibly 5% of fires in Utah.

Even if this obviously conservative estimate were accurate, even *one* fire sparked by shooting is too many.

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Particularly as this cause of fire is very preventable, if state and national authorities would only be courageous enough to stand up to the NRA and other pro-hunting and -shooting entities.

Louinda Downs, a County Commissioner in Utah, said, "When your pleasure hobby is infringing or threatening someone else's right to have property or life, shouldn't we be able to somehow have some authority so we can restrict that?"

A very reasonable question. But unfortunately, neither hunters, nor the proponents of target shooting, are willing to see reason regarding this issue. Unless legislation is passed making it a felony to shoot in wilder-



ness regions, more and more wildfires are likely to take the lives of countless wild animals, and destroy more public lands and private property.

Officials say sparks from steel-jacketed bullets striking rocks have ignited the dry, surrounding vegetation. They also blame targets that explode when hit.

Officials are recommending that shooters use lead bullets because they

don't spark, although they do pose poisoning dangers to wildlife and the environment.

Even though Ms. Downs' question was posed regarding the threat to human life, we at C.A.S.H. believe the sentiment should extend to wildlife's right to live unthreatened by guns and gun-caused fires, as well.

Every citizen who wishes to help prevent the terrible fires caused by hunters and other shooters should lobby their representatives at every level to pass legislation making it a felony to discharge a firearm on public land, for any reason.

E.M. Fay is Assoc. Editor of the C.A.S.H. Courier, a publication of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting.

A Letter to C.A.S.H. about Feral Hogs

Dear C.A.S.H. team,

I read with interest your story on feral hogs. I want to share my experience with them since I've been living with them for 30 years. My first knowledge of them was when I went to a neighbor's on horseback and it looked as if the hill-



side had been plowed. When I asked what he was doing, he said it was the effect of wild pigs. I said, 'We don't have any.' He replied, 'You will.' Sure enough they did come and make themselves at home.

The land layout is that we have a section (640 acres) and it borders our neighbor who has 3000 acres.

We have had between 4 and 40 pigs over the years. They definitely destroy other wildlife and its habitat, they eat a wide variety of whatever's out there. We lost all our meadowlarks for a few years, and our bulb wildflowers like shooting stars, and we saw fewer and fewer snakes. We did not notice a difference in

the lizard population, but oddly enough the toads, which were plentiful (they come out of their holes at dusk) have disappeared.

I have no idea if that's due to the pigs.

It is difficult to see the hills all chewed up and almost impossible to walk without spraining an ankle. I don't like the pigs being there. **However, we have a policy of killing nothing, so in spite of neighbors asking to hunt on our land because they drool over the pigs out in the open, we say NO. Hunting or killing would have been a short-term policy sure to fail. The interesting thing is that some years there were very few, and if we had killed them, we would have said, 'oh that method worked.'** We were so dumbfounded as to why there were fewer some years, we even suggested they'd been taken up in spaceships.

I used to walk at night a lot and often run into the pigs; they were never aggressive.

The only time someone was chased was when a dog went after the pig and the pig went after the dog, and the dog came and hid behind the man (who jumped on an old car).

There were lots of litters we came to know. We had to train the dogs not to kill them.

They are good at finding water; we have springs and water holes that have been discovered and dug out by pigs.

The pigs have never tried to get in our gardens, although they come right next to them to eat the fallen apples from the trees outside the fence.

I don't feel much kinship with the pigs; possibly because you can't have eye contact with both their eyes at once, and I certainly miss the unplowed fields and inhabitants, but now that I've seen their numbers fluctuate so much, I don't feel like we have to "do something about it." I write this to you because you said you would be "checking into what hogs ate."

No easy solutions for feral pigs. **I've also heard they are rather hard to kill because of bone structure, so this makes me believe that they suffer tremendously when hunted.**

Thanks for your work,
 Jen T., Glenview, Illinois.

Our land with pigs is 20 miles in from the coastline in northern California, Mendocino County.

Wildlife Rehabilitators (And Hunting)

BY JOE MIELE

Though hunters like to portray themselves as expert sharpshooters, able to kill animals with a single shot, the truth is that many victims of hunting are wounded and left to fend for themselves.



Woodpecker being fed grubs

While these animals will most likely die of infection or will be attacked and killed by predators since their weakened state affords them no chance for escape or self defense, a tiny number of them somehow end up in the hands of licensed wildlife rehabilitators who do their best to return the animals to health and release them back to their natural habitat.

Wildlife rehabilitators are licensed animal care givers who help injured, orphaned, or sick wildlife. The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to provide food, housing and medical care to wildlife in need before returning them to the wild when the animals are ready to be released. Rehabbers do not turn the animals into human companions, they care for them as well as possible, while still allowing them to retain their "wild" instincts and behaviors. Wild animals are often transitioned from a hands-on situation (such as bottle feeding orphaned babies) to an enclosed area with little human interaction other than routine watering, feeding, and observation before they are released back to the wild. In some cases they are taught to hunt or find food in other ways.

Animals are brought to rehabbers by game agents, ani-

mal rescue groups, and the public. **Though they are licensed by the state hunting agencies, they receive no compensation for the work they do.** All expenses are covered by the rehabilitators themselves or through public donations. Sometimes rehabilitators will come together to establish wildlife rescue centers, but most often they will act on their own.

Wildlife rehabilitators often specialize in the kinds of animals they will care for. There are mammal specialists, avian specialists, reptile and amphibian specialists, etc. They will often speak to schools and civic groups about the importance of wildlife and the kind of work they do, sometimes bringing a fortunate but unreleaseable animal with them as a living example of their important work.

In this article, we'd like to highlight the work of wildlife rehabbers who selflessly subject themselves to sleepless nights, scratches and dangerous bites, zero leisure time, financial hardship, and more emotional ups and downs than a roller coaster at Six Flags. C.A.S.H. reached out to wildlife rehabilitators through our Facebook page and heard from two rehabbers who were kind enough to answer our questions. Their names have been changed to protect their identities, something that is necessary because the agencies that license them are the same state hunting agencies responsible for animal suffering. If rehabbers speak on the record negatively about hunting it could jeopardize the work they do for the animals.

We are thankful to these wonderful people for doing such difficult work on behalf of wildlife. Keep in mind that the thoughts and opinions stated below are those of the rehabber themselves and not necessarily those of C.A.S.H. or its officers.

C.A.S.H.: We have a few questions for you. Which species do you rehabilitate?

Mike: I work with coyotes, bobcats, foxes, raccoons, skunks, squirrels (tree, ground, flying), moles, voles, gophers, wild rats, wild mice and bats. No birds.

Nancy: Small mammals, mostly opossums, squirrels and fawns and birds that are not covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (because I do not have a federal rehab license).

C.A.S.H.: How has hunting affected your rehab work/affected the wild animals?

Mike: I am located in a major met-

ropolitan city so there is no real hunting where I live and work. The hunters were trying to make it legal to use dogs to tree bobcats and bears in other areas of the state and fortunately we fought that and it didn't pass. If you've ever seen videos of dogs ripping raccoons apart while they are still alive, it is gruesome. A rehabber friend of mine has major problems with hunters. Some have trespassed onto her property and killed her sanctuary animals. Sometimes hunters will not make a kill shot and just maim the animal. The rehabber then has to patch them up. She also has problems with fur trappers. People's dogs or cats are accidentally trapped and killed in the traps.

It's a constant battle where she is.

There is a problem in the city with illegal "hunters." They are probably just young men or kids shooting them with guns and bows and arrows. I can't tell you how many bb's, darts and arrow tips I've pulled out of wildlife. The police don't even realize that it's illegal so they don't do anything when we complain. Most mammals are protected as are most birds. With some species it's a \$20,000 fine to harm them. With endangered species it's up to \$100,000.

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Wildlife Rehabilitators

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We do have a problem with fishermen. They get upset when a wild animal such as a pelican takes their catch. Few years back someone was killing pelicans for this reason. Fishermen also hate seals for the same reason. They were putting explosive bait on the line. The seals and sea lions would take the bait and their mouths would explode.

Nancy: Many animals come in with wounds caused by hunting or trapping. The huge problem with trapping is, besides being plain cruel, is that it is indiscriminate and non-target animals suffer. I am still haunted by the image harbored in my brain of the Red Tail hawk who was caught in a leghold trap. She had obviously been stuck in that snare for a very long time. Her leg was necrotized and the foot hanging by tissue. You could see in her eyes that she had accepted death. I had to euthanize her. I still cry over it. Every year, I get called for at least one goose impaled by an arrow. I find it frustrating that hunters are often looked at as the gurus of wildlife and their positions are more valid than mine and people often consult a hunter in regard to a wildlife rehabbing issue. Somehow, there is a perception that the hunter knows best, which is not the case. I have taken orphans that almost didn't get saved because a hunter said the mother will retrieve them, which was not so with this species.

C.A.S.H.: Are you impacted by pest control services or animal damage control trappers? How so?

Mike: We are indeed. At least with hunting you can't take an adult female during the time she would normally have babies. Pest control operators can set traps or kill mothers any time and they leave orphaned babies behind. This happens mainly with raccoons and squirrels. We get inundated during baby season with orphans to the point we have to turn them away. We're try-



Internet photo from:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2117544/Orphaned-baby-owls-Linford-Christie-hoot-new-home.html>

ing to lobby for a new law to make it illegal to take mothers during baby season. Most of the animals we get in are orphans.

Nancy: I often get called to remove "nuisance" animals though I am not licensed to do this. The so-called "nuisance" experts rely on propaganda and fear to motivate customers to buy their services. Because of this, it is difficult trying to re-educate the public in regard to wildlife control strategies. Many times an animal will just leave on her own without further intervention. This is especially true of mothers with young who have taken up residence in a tree, under a porch, or under a shed. I try to convince people to wait out baby season before taking any action against the animal and if they can't, to at least get them to use non-lethal environmental modifications that will discourage wildlife from taking up residence. I also point out the good that animals do and how they are beneficial to the environment. I am happy to say that most people are receptive to this approach and most do not want the animals harmed. But sadly, every year I see either non-target animals caught on glue traps, snap traps or birds of prey that succumb to rodenticide after ingesting prey that has eaten rat poison. Very sad and unnecessary.

C.A.S.H.: How does the game agency affect rehabbers/rehabilitation efforts?

Mike: All wildlife rehabilitators are

licensed by the state wildlife agency – the same one that sets hunting seasons and bag limits. My state has a rehabilitator coordinator who oversees all rehabbers. We have to pay for a permit, must be inspected and follow a long list of rules and regulations. We are no longer allowed to rehabilitate large mammals such as adult bears, mountain lions, deer or wild boar. They believe it's too dangerous. We can rehab baby bears, mountain lions, and fawns if we have the proper permits.

Nancy: In my state, they require licensing to rehabilitate and a special license to rehabilitate what are considered Rabies Vector Species (bats, raccoons, skunks - RVS). I have been told by a high level agency official that they really don't even want us rehabbing RVS. It was felt that people would rehab anyway, so they put the license in place and at least there would be some monitoring of RVS. The state game agency does not support rehabbing. They offer no education, training, or funding. The agency does not do any physical monitoring of rehabbers, and their practices and any policy of acceptable standards is lacking, for example, there are no caging requirements for non-RVS species. They have also prohibited rehabbers from using public land to release rehabbed animals.

C.A.S.H.: Which species are most affected by hunting?

Nancy: This is hard to determine. Every year, I see at least 2 waterfowl that are injured because of fishing line left in the water. It is very difficult to catch waterfowl and by the time I am able to do so, the bird is debilitated to the point beyond any help. I picked up a goose whose feet were entwined with line. One foot fell off. He had to be euthanized as federal law prohibits the release of a goose missing a foot. The opossum, whose full name is the Virginia Opossum because it is indigenous to the State of Virginia, was brought to my state by hunters because

Please see **WILDLIFE
REHABILITATORS** Story, Page 9

Wildlife Rehabilitators

Continued from page 8

they were bored with indigenous wildlife - they wanted something different to kill. The Virginia Opossum is not native to my state or climate and therefore does not do well in the winter, often succumbing to frostbite or starvation. Until the 1990s, rabies was almost unheard of in my state, until hunters illegally imported raccoons from Florida. It was believed that Florida raccoons were hardier and therefore more of a challenge to kill. Now we have a problem with the raccoon strain of rabies in my state. Cats and dogs are now required by law to be vaccinated against rabies.

C.A.S.H.: Does hunting have any effect on release?

Mike: Yes. Rehabbers who live in hunting areas cannot release animals where hunting is permitted.

Nancy: Yes. I try to find areas where the animal will be less likely to be hunted.

C.A.S.H.: Is it painful to know that wild animals are being released to be killed by hunters?

Mike: The rehabbers I know in hunting areas have cried many a night when they've found their released deer shot dead. Sometimes the wildlife we release probably end up getting killed by cars, dogs or humans. That is painful enough. We just try to do our best to give them the best chance at survival.

Nancy: Very much. It is hard to release an animal and know what you are releasing it to. To know that you helped an animal to survive through precarious times and it could all be snuffed out in a second is difficult.

C.A.S.H.: How do you feel about natural predation (raptors, coyotes, etc.) – how does that differ from a human hunter killing wild animals?

Mike: I can understand a wild animal killing another animal for food. That is nature. With some species we care for we must feed them mice and rats. I'm

not happy about it, but we must teach them to survive. Now humans are another matter. **There is no need for almost anyone to hunt anymore.** Hunters generally do it for the thrill, I guess. My dad's a hunter and that's what I see when he talks about hunting.

Nancy: Well, I don't like to think about it, but I accept that this is nature and it serves a purpose. It is different because some animals are obligate carnivores, meaning they MUST eat flesh or die. Humans at best are, in my opinion, opportunistic omnivores, not even omnivore. A natural predator takes usually the least fit to survive, whereas human hunters take anything, which is antithetical to natural selection.

C.A.S.H.: How do you feel about pet dogs or cats killing wildlife? Any suggestions for this?

Mike: Cats and dogs are doing what comes naturally, but I think it is the responsibility of the pet's owner to make sure their pet doesn't kill wildlife. For starters I think cats should be indoors. It's better for the cat and wildlife. Your cat will be healthier and live longer. I also think you should walk your dog on a leash for their own safety.

Nancy: While they can't be held accountable, they do need to be controlled. Cats and dogs we keep as pets are not indigenous to the North American continent and predation by these species has a negative impact on local wildlife populations. About 25% of the animals I get in are from cat attacks. They cause far more suffering than hunting does. This is not an indictment of felis domesticus - I have 6 cats. Until I saw through rehabbing the damage that cats do, I let my cats roam outside. No more. They are strictly indoors.

C.A.S.H.: Anything else you'd like to add?

Mike: I see no reason why people should be sport hunting. Why not just photograph the animals? Why not just hike in nature and enjoying viewing the animals? **There really is no need for sport hunting in this day and age. I'm very happy that in my state the popularity of hunting is way down.**

Nancy: From interacting with people



Photo From:

<http://www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/articles/patient-updates/teach-out-ill-be-there>

through my rehabbing activities, I have seen there is a great need for public education regarding wildlife. Most people are unnecessarily fearful of wildlife. Rehabbing is what keeps me from giving up on people all together and restores my faith in humanity, when I see people, grown men included, very emotional over an injured animal and begging me to save it.

As this article is quite critical of the game agencies that license rehabbers, to avoid problems, all rehab photos are from UK sites

Joe Miele is president of C.A.S.H.

HOW YOU CAN HELP WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS:

1 - Volunteer.

2 - Donate. Wildlife rehabilitators receive no funding from the state agencies that license them. All needed funds are out of their own pockets. If you cannot donate money, then ask about donating services such as landscaping, printing, carpentry/plumbing, etc.

3 - Offer transportation help. Often there are times when animals need to be brought to the wildlife rehabilitator from people who have rescued them. Sometimes the rehabilitator can use your help to take animals to a veterinarian. The rehabilitator will teach you how to protect yourself. Need to find a rehabber in your area? Check out the website of your state fish and wildlife agency and if a list of rehabbers is not online, call them for more information. You can also call the Wildlife Watch hotline at 877-WILDHELP.

FIRST NATIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BAN BEAR HUNTING

By E.M. FAY

With great scenic beauty and a wide variety of wildlife, British Columbia is well known as an attractive destination for wildlife tourism. The provincial government welcomes revenue of hundreds of millions of dollars annually, whether visitors are there for the peaceful pastime of wildlife watching or the more sinister activity of killing the native animals.

Bears in particular are big business for B.C., as hunters consider them an especially prestigious "trophy." The bears have a traditional ally, however, people who have long respected these magnificent animals and are now speaking up for them in a meaningful way.

Recently, a coalition of ten First Nations communities, whose lands extend along BC's central and northern coasts, ordered a ban on bear hunting in their territory. The leader of one of these Nations, Chief Doug Neasloss of the Kitsoo Xai'xais, stated that the ban is for both conservation of the bears and public safety.

First Nations feel that the only justification for killing animals is self-defense or subsistence. These are not the motives of hunters, however, who seek to gratify some cruel or self-aggrandizing aspect of their own natures.

Another important point being made by First Nations representatives is that hunters usually go after the larger, likely genetically-superior bears, which naturally weakens the gene pool in the general population of bears.

Not surprisingly, bear hunting guides are opposed to the ban, fearing loss of income. Unfortunately, the provincial government of BC is also against the ban, as they profit from allowing 300 grizzlies to be killed annually, among other hunting

horrors.

Knowing how disrespectful hunters can be, we asked Chief Neasloss if it was difficult to keep them off the Coastal Nations' land, and were told that they do often barge right in. But Nation members patrol the area, both in the forests and along the coast.

"We have Coastal Guardian Watchmen with eleven boats in the water. All ten communities patrol the coastline from Prince Rupert to the north end of Vancouver Island."

The Coastal First Nations alliance includes the Wuikinuxv Nation, Heiltsuk, Kitsoo/Xaixais, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Haisla, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate, and Council of the Haida Nation.

Regarding the dispute with the provincial government, Chief Neasloss said, "Despite years of effort by the Coastal First Nations to find a resolution to this issue with the province, the senseless and brutal trophy hunt continues."

They do not want to have to go to court over this conflict, but it is a possibility if the provincial government continues to deny the First Nations' sovereign right to protect their own land.

Jessie Housty, Councillor for the Heiltsuk Nation, added, "It's not a part of our culture to kill an animal for sport and hang them on a wall."

Hunters often kill bears when they are most vulnerable, foraging along the water's edge. And there is always the danger that they may unintentionally kill a black bear who carries the rare recessive gene of the Kermode Spirit Bear, an animal sacred to many First Nations. For these and other reasons, the ban on hunting is a wise idea.

Some assistance with the ban has come from the non-profit Raincoast Conservation Foundation, who are also opposed to hunting. They announced



Photo by Marni Grossman

on September 15th that they had purchased the commercial hunting rights over 3500 square kilometers on BC's central coast from a guide outfitter to protect the bears in that region. Their ownership of these hunting territories is in perpetuity.

RCF wants to help First Nations and others with the economic opportunities offered by harmless wildlife watching. Executive Director Chris Genovali said, "Ecological issues aside, the coastal trophy bear hunt cannot be justified from either an ethical or economic perspective." Visit RCF at: www.raincoast.org

Regarding the proposed ban, public support could be helpful. As Chief Neasloss said, "Our first priority is to get the word out to people."

C.A.S.H. is grateful to the First Nations communities who are taking this significant step towards protecting bears from the vile hunters who have no respect for the individual lives they take.

Learn more about the wildlife of BC and see some amazing photographs by Chief Neasloss at: <http://www.dougneasloss.com/index.html>

E.M. Fay is a journalist who specializes in environment and wildlife. She is Assoc. Editor of the **C.A.S.H. Courier** and the **Wildlife Watch Binocular**.

REVENGE KILLING OF WILDLIFE IS SENSELESS

BY E.M. FAY



Photo by Jim Robertson <http://www.all-creatures.org/aw/>

Whenever we venture into national parks or other wild lands it is incumbent upon us to inform ourselves beforehand about the wildlife who call the area home. Although Americans generally think of public land as belonging to us all, we should remember that the forests, prairies, and other landscapes we are privileged to visit are the very real homelands of many types of animals, and respect them as such.

This respect should not be so hard to come by considering that most people grasp the concept

of human-owned property, and know that they will get into trouble if they just walk boldly into a person's house unannounced. If we simply apply that idea to the wilderness, we might save wildlife and ourselves much grief.

In late August, a 49-year-old man from San Diego, Richard White, was hiking in Alaska's Denali National Park when he came upon a male grizzly bear grazing. He stopped to photograph the impressive animal for, what the record shows, was at least eight minutes. Sadly, for both Mr. White and the bear, his actions were upsetting in some way, and the bear eventually lost patience with the intruder and mauled him to death. Officials said this was the first fatal attack in the Park's history.

Denali Park rules require people to keep at least a quarter of a mile distance between themselves and wildlife. However, Mr. White was far closer, approx. 50 yards from the bear when he photographed him. Had he merely stumbled upon the grizzly and then backed away, perhaps they would both still be alive and well, but he chose to interact with the bear, whether he realized it or not, when he started photographing him.

When surprised at close range, grizzly bears are known to be more dangerous than black bears. But in general, most bears do not want to bother with humans at all. They simply wish to be left alone.

In this case, after Mr. White's death was discovered by other hikers, his camera was found, and the investigators reported that the photographs show the bear behaving peacefully before the fatal attack.

Park Superintendent Paul Anderson stated, "They show the bear grazing in the willows, not acting aggressive in any form or manner during that period of time."

In spite of this evidence, state police hunted the bear using a helicopter, shot and killed him. It was determined from the autopsy that it was indeed the same bear who killed Mr. White.

But where is the justification or even the logic in this revenge killing of the grizzly?

Typically, when a human is killed by an animal - be it a bear, a tiger, a shark - the local authorities, as well as any hunters who might be nearby, dash out immediately to search and destroy. Often, they have no idea if they are "punishing" the actual "culprit" or some innocent bystander; and usually, a number of animals are destroyed as "collateral damage." No thought is given as to the injustice of such actions, let alone considering that the animal was acting in self defense against what was essentially an intruder in his home.

This particular grizzly may well have had a family he was protecting - a family that is now defenseless.

Clearly, our government needs a more enlightened policy. As tragic as a person's death is, killing an animal for revenge does not revive the deceased human and inflicts undeserved suffering on wildlife. Let's think rationally. People need to be taught to respect the home territory of all wild animals, whether they are deemed dangerous or not. Trespassing in their habitat should not be done casually, without considering possible consequences. Occasionally a human will pay a price for a foolish choice that he or she has made, but the animal whose home was invaded should not be blamed, and certainly not other animals who also fall victim to "revenge killing."

E. M. Fay writes about wildlife and the environment.

Revenge Killing of Alligator



Another revenge killing happened recently in Florida when a little dog brushed up against a gator. His guardian was able to rescue the little dog, and the gator took off, likely never to encounter a little dog again. Nevertheless, a trapper went out to

capture the gator, kill him, and stuff him for the man to keep as a memento. We are happy the little dog was saved and the man was certainly heroic, but question what practical good was done by this benighted response.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE HUNTER HARASSMENT LAW

Yvonne Thomas had been feeding domestic ducks at a boat launch for approximately four years. On Dec. 30, 2011, after sunset, she went down to feed the ducks. It was getting dark. She spotted a boat parked at the boat launch area with decoys in the water. There was a smell in the air of gunshot, although hunting season had closed at sunset. She started taking pictures of what she thought were muskrats. A hunter came walking across the parking lot carrying a dead duck. Ms. Thomas asked him if he had shot any white ducks, and he replied that he hadn't. The time date stamp on her camera would prove that it was after sunset. She told him that it wasn't legal to hunt there. He said he had permission from NYSDEC to hunt. Ms. Thomas continued to take pictures and photographed him picking up his decoys. When she went home, she called the DEC and was told by a dispatcher in Albany that hunting was not allowed there, so she gave them the hunter's truck license plate number.

On Dec. 31, she returned to feed the ducks and, once again, there were decoys in the water, a boat parked in the launch area, and trucks and trailers in the parking area. Additionally, there were other boats out in the water. The ducks come when she calls them or if they see her van. She thought she heard a gunshot. She blew her horn so the ducks would not come to her. All of a sudden, a hunter appeared at the window of her van, screaming and verbal-



ly abusing her. She called the Yates County Sheriff's office and was told to stay there until a deputy arrived. She told them the man was off the wall and had a gun, and that she would meet them a mile and a half away in a parking lot. When the deputy arrived and started taking her statement, she became the target. He took her statement and together they returned to the boat launch where another deputy and the NYSDEC officer were with the hunter. They were there at least four more hours. The DEC officer talked to her for approximately five minutes. The hunter's truck was missing a headlight unit and Ms. Thomas asked that he be ticketed for that. The deputy responded that he wasn't driving it at that moment. When the hunter left, one deputy followed him up the road. Ms. Thomas took pictures of the deputies and the DEC officer with the hunter as they did their investigation.

Then in Jan., 2012, Ms. Thomas was issued a ticket for hunter harassment. When the case was finally scheduled, in testimony, the NYSDEC officer said

they did not want to charge her but the A.D.A. had insisted on it. Thomas's lawyer said she only charged her as a favor to two police officers. It also was stated that neither officer had checked to see if the hunter had a license. It was also shown that hunting season was closed on Dec. 30, when the hunter and Ms. Thomas met. It was proven that this area is a bait area and it is unlawful to hunt in a bait area. It was proven by the sign posted at Severne that you need written permission from the NYSDEC to do anything other than launch a boat within 100 feet of the exit or entrance ramps of a boat launch. This includes both on-shore and off-shore ramps. The hunter testified in court that he and the deputy walked off 100 feet. Ms. Thomas photographed the deputy measuring the distance. The judge mailed out his decision, finding Ms. Thomas guilty and fining her \$175. She has filed for an appeal.

Reading the transcripts of the court case, C.A.S.H. was struck by the line of questioning.

"Are you an animal lover? Do you think you own the animals?"

"Do you object to hunting? Do the animals sleep at your home?"

These questions were clearly designed to intimidate and befuddle Ms. Thomas.

Laws are needed to rescind the unconstitutional hunter harassment statutes!

To C.A.S.H. from Herman Lenz, IA

On Page 12 of the C.A.S.H. Courier, Spring 2012, the citizens charged for "hunter harassment" should take their cases before a jury. Judges are bound by "rules" and they want to "enhance their own careers," but jurors have the right and duty to "put the law and charges on trial as well as the defendant," and to give a verdict correct with

their own conscience, even if it means to vote 'not guilty' when they know the defendant is guilty anyway. Jurors are not there to enhance their own careers. The highest purpose of a jury is not to feed the defendant to the lions to satisfy an over-zealous prosecution program (as a judge has to), but rather, to 'protect fellow citizens from tyrannical prosecu-

tions.' A juror should be more than just an intimidated wimp. Cases are won during jury selection, but prosecutors will dismiss anyone who seems to know his or her constitutional rights, or has a mind of his or her own. For more information on 'Jurors' Rights' check into www.fija.org

Indiana Coyote Rescue Center

This is the wonderful rehabilitation center that was founded by the late **Ceann Lambert** who worked so hard for coyote protection. It has since been passed into the caring hands of wildlife rehabilitator, **Holly Hadac**.

ICRC has plans to improve and expand the center to take in more coyotes. Please help them fulfill their dream. You can visit and contribute at www.coyoterescue.org or contact Jami Hammer, VP, ICRC.

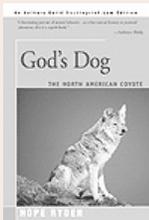
Indiana Coyote Rescue Center, 7975 E. 300 S., Bringhurst, IN 46915; phone 765-566-3800. www.coyoterescue.org



Photo from the Indiana Coyote Rescue Center

God's Dog

We were happy to learn from Hope Ryden that her amazing book, **God's Dog** is back in print. We encourage you to read it and give it to others to read. Ask libraries to order it, and give it to friends for holidays and birthdays. It will be a gift that will last a lifetime, for it will change the reader's perspective of coyotes forever.



God's Dog : A Celebration of the North American Coyote
by Hope Ryden

"Full of charm and tenacious inquisitiveness as the appealing animal she pleads is allowed to live."—*The Washington Post*.

\$24.95 or \$20.95 members.

Perseverance

I doubt that she,
or any of the others,
ever think about it.

Somehow,
when younger,
she injured one leg,

she could not
use it at all,
never put weight on it.

We kept hoping
it would get better,
but it never did,

and then
we feared
she was doomed.

This was
several years ago.

Now ?
a great-grandmother,
having raised fawns
almost every year,

Now ?
the matriarch
of a small herd
of beautiful does,

Now ?
still able
to feed and breed
and even run quickly
on three legs,

she just
carries on,

she just
endures,

she just
continues

to live fully.

John Cannon,
Shenandoah Valley, VA



Her name is Amazing Grace

**YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS WILL
HELP US TO DO MUCH MORE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**
www.all-creatures.org/cash/join.html

ASK UNCLE JOE



BY JOE MIELE

GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JOE? YOU CAN E-MAIL IT TO CASH@ABOLISHSPORTHUNTING.COM. WOULD YOU RATHER SNAIL MAIL YOUR QUESTION? SEND IT TO:

**ASK UNCLE JOE,
P.O. Box 13815, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88013**

UNCLE JOE GETS A LOT OF MAIL SO DON'T BE OFFENDED IF HE CANNOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION IN THE COURIER. HECK, HE'S GOTTA WORK A DAY JOB, TOO.

LETTERS ARE PRINTED AS RECEIVED. THEY ARE UNEDITED.

Dear Uncle Joe - 9/15/12

*Dear Uncle *^#&\$ (expletive deleted):*

I hope all you animal worshipping tree huggers are happy now that the wolves you worship are killing cattle and making them suffer. Have you seen what a wolfe will do to a calf? Obviously not, because you live in a city surrounded by buildings and concrete and would not know a olfe from a chicken. Duh. Ranchers have to guard their cattle and kill wolves on sight because people like you needed to fight to reintroduce them to areas where they were not wanted. Everything you eat is now more expensive and our taxes are going up because the government has to spend money killing the wolves. I am glad there is a hunting season on them and I will personally take a wolfe for each of your ignorant followers.

Martin L.

Kalispell, MT

Dear Martin:

I'm not going to insult your inability to spell the words "wolf" and "wolves" and I am not going to point out how stupid it is to threaten to break the law by killing thousands of wolves (ok, maybe I will). Obviously, you do not understand that wolves (spelled correctly) are not a problem in Montana or anywhere else. Yes, wolves kill cattle (duh). But consider this - cattle ranchers are the ones putting the lives of cattle at risk by grazing them in wolf habitat and leaving them unprotected. Additionally, the calves are in greater danger being around cattle ranchers than they are around wolves. But you don't really care about the calves, do you? All you want to do is find excuses so you can go wolf hunting with a clear conscience (as if you have any conscience at all). Your feigned concern for the calves is transparent.

Wildlife reintroductions are indeed controversial and you will find both hunters and wildlife advocates on each side of the issue. What wildlife advocates can agree upon, though, is that the recreational killing of wolves practiced by you and your knuckle-dragging, mouth-breathing buddies is unethical on every level.

Uncle Joe

Dear Uncle Joe:

Your comments on your Facebook page show your complete lack of ANY knowledge on the subject of wildlife and hunting. You imply that deer breeders in Missouri are adding to the wild population. THEY ARE NOT! Stop looking at everything through the fogged lenses of emotion and join the rest of us in the REAL world, where animals kill other animals and death is a part of the life cycle

Gavin,

Park Hills, MO

Dear Gavin:

Thanks for being a fan of our facebook page, even though it seems that you do not take the time to read and understand the material presented there. For those who have not seen the thread, I posted an article that mentioned the Missouri Conservation Commission has licensed 277 wildlife breeders to breed white-tailed deer. If deer overpopulation is the terrible problem that hunters believe it to be, why would the Conservation Commission license people to breed them?

Sadly, deer are bred for canned hunting ranches (there are at least 27 of them in Missouri) so people like you can kill them without putting in too much effort. Deer are also bred for the meat trade since it is illegal to market and sell the carcasses of hunted animals. And if you think some deer breeders are not breeding huge bucks with huge antlers and releasing them as a "tease" for hunters, you're fooling only yourself.

Animals kill other animals, blah, blah, blah. Death is part of the life cycle, blah, blah, blah. It's incredible how many times you hunters repeat the same things over and over again. I'm not impressed by your lack of original thought.

Uncle Joe

Dear Uncle Joe:

The Department of Natural Resources is encouraging the use of coyotes as live bait in hunting dog penning exercises. I don't know why they can do this because it is really no different than dog fighting, which is illegal in the state.

Sandra B.,

Bloomington, IN

Hi Sandra:

State hunting agencies exploit loopholes in the law in order to allow hunters to pursue their sadistic hobbies. In this case, the DNR permits coyote and fox penning because they see it as a training technique that enables dogs to pursue "game" without actually "hunting" the animals.

For those who are unaware, penning is a practice where wildlife such as coyotes and foxes are trapped in the wild (often with leghold traps) and dumped into a fenced enclosure where hunters release their dogs to chase and terrorize them. Proponents of penning point to the existence of "safe areas" like holes in the ground or in rock piles that are large enough for coyotes to fit into but too small for hunting dogs, but the truth is that sometimes the dogs get to the coyotes before they are able to find the safe areas. Indiana allows 7 hunting dogs for every penned coyote or fox and the coyotes have no chance against them. If the dogs catch up to the coyote before the coyote finds safety, the dogs will viciously rip her to pieces while alive. Even if she survives the hunt, her terror is only compounded when she is chased and tormented by another pack of dogs soon after.

Penning is such a disgrace that even some hunting groups oppose the practice. The pro-hunting Indiana Wildlife Federation is "fundamentally opposed" to penning in part because it violates the rule of fair chase (regardless of what we think of their "rule of fair chase" I am glad they oppose penning). Additionally, thirty-nine states have banned the atrocity of penning.

There is a legal effort underway being run in part by the Indiana Coyote Rescue Center, Animal Legal Defense Fund, and others to make penning illegal in Indiana. We hope their efforts are successful because as far as C.A.S.H. is concerned, penning is nothing but legalized dog fighting and its supporters are as sick as Michael Vick and his dog fighting cronies.

Sincerely,

Uncle Joe

C.A.S.H. CATALOG

A Voice in the Wilderness

Videotape approximately 20 minutes.
\$12.00 and \$8 for members.

This video is an expose of wildlife management by **Luke Dommer, founder of C.A.S.H.** It was produced by **Focus on Animals, CT.** **Esther Mechler** of Focus has generously given C.A.S.H. the right to sell this videotape. Copies have been generously donated by **Nancy Gordon of HAVE**, an audio-visual company in Hudson, NY.



Luke Dommer

CASH HAT

Neon Orange, one size fits all. \$7.50



C.A.S.H. T-SHIRT,

X-LARGE,
BRIGHT ORANGE—\$12.00



Front of shirt

HOW YOU CAN HELP US DO MORE:

√ Become a member
√ Include WILDLIFE WATCH, INC. in your will (you may earmark bequests for C.A.S.H.). If you have general questions about leaving a bequest in your Will to Wildlife Watch, or making Wildlife Watch the beneficiary of life insurance or other assets, you can contact Frances Carlisle, Esq. at 212-213-0172. Frances Carlisle is a trusts and estates attorney with expertise in advising clients about bequests and other types of disposition to charitable organizations.

√ Donate shares of stock, avoid capital gains and get a tax deduction! Notify your broker or the company whose stock you hold. Ask them to transfer stock to Wildlife Watch, Inc. Federal Tax Identification Number: 13-3076705

A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained from Wildlife Watch, Inc., or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

PETER'S HUMOR? C.A.S.H. apologizes if you are not amused

BY PETER MULLER, V.P. C.A.S.H

A boy in the second grade comes back from school one evening. He runs to his dad and exclaims: "Daddy, today at school we learnt how to count. Well, all the others only counted to 5, but listen to me: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10! That's good, isn't it?"

"Yes, darling, very good," answers dad.

"Is that because I'm a hunter?" he asks.

"Yes, darling, it's because you're a hunter," Dad says.

Next day, the boy comes back from school and says: "Daddy, today at school we learnt the alphabet. All the other kids only went as far as D, but listen to me: A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K! That's good, isn't it?"

"Yes, darling, very good," answers Dad.

"Is that because I'm a hunter, Daddy?" he asks.

"Yes, darling it's because you're a hunter," Dad says.

Next day, he returns from school and cries: "Daddy, today we went to the gym. Well, all the others could only lift a five pound weight, but I lifted a 12 pound weight clear off the floor. Is that because I'm a hunter, Daddy?"

"No darling, it's because you're 25."

☺☺☺

A guy goes to the doctor, and says, "Doctor, I'm hurting all over my body." "That's odd," replied the doctor. "Show me what you mean." So he pokes himself in the elbow

and screams in pain. He touches his knee and cries out in agony and so on. The doctor says, "You're a hunter, aren't you?"

"Yes," he admits.

"I thought so... your finger is broken," replies the doctor.

☺☺☺

A woman was at a graveyard.

She began to moan, "Why did you die? Oh, why did you have to die?"

A passerby knelt down next to the woman and said, "Was this person very close to you?"

"No, actually I never met her!" replied the woman.

"Why are you mourning then?" asked the curious passerby.

"She was my horrible hunter husband's first wife!"

☺☺☺

A hunter took his family to the state capital for the first time to attend a lobby-day at the capitol the next day. The father and son are in the hotel lobby when they see an elevator for the first time in their lives. "What's that, Paw?" The boy asked. "I ain't never did see nothin' like that in my life," replied the father. Seconds later an old frail woman walked in the hotel door and hobbled to the elevator. She pressed the button with her cane, waited for the doors to open and got in. The father and son, still amazed by this contraption, continued to watch. They heard a chime, and the door opened again. Out stepped a beautiful 20-year-old woman. The father looked at his son and said, "Go get your Maw!"



Fans of Pete's Humor

www.ebaumsworld.com/pictures/view/557305/#

As always, we are grateful to
**The Mary T. and Frank L. Hoffman
Family Foundation**
for hosting the C.A.S.H. website!



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