

**1999 HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

**HB 1148**

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1148

House Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-15-99

| Tape Number                                    | Side A | Side B | Meter #     |
|--|--------|--------|-------------|
| ONE HB 1148                                    | x      |        | 05.0 to end |
|  |        |        |             |
|  |        |        |             |
| Committee Clerk Signature <i>Arline Houser</i> |        |        |             |

Minutes:

Summary of bill: Relating to duties of the board of animal health and ownership of certain carnivorous animals and non-human primates.

Michael Mullen: Dept of Health. (Testimony attached.) Also included an amendment to the bill presented by the Dept of Animal Health. (Attached)

Mr Mullen: The rationale for the current bill as compared to the one heard in 1997 is this prohibits the ownership of large or vicious carnivorous animals. Section 3 of the bill amends section 36-01-08.4, which currently prohibits a person from keeping a skunk or raccoon. Those limitations were enacted in 1997 as part of HB 1182. As introduced 1997, HB 1182, also prohibited the ownership of a wolf or wolf hybrid, and non-human primates. But, the latter categories were deleted from the bill during the course of its consideration by the Legislative Assembly. Most of the discussions surrounding the four species of carnivores prohibited under

the 1997 measure related to the risk of rabies. In contrast to that bill, the rationale for the current proposed legislation is the physical danger posed by large or vicious carnivorous animals. Thus, under this bill, HB 1148, a person is prohibited from keeping a wolf, a wolf hybrid, mountain lion, tiger, bear, wolverine, or any other carnivorous animal of a species (other than a dog) in which the average weight of the adult male is more than 80 pounds. Also, in contrast to the prior bill, however, this limitation on the ownership or keeping of large carnivorous animal does not apply to a "licensed animal breeder or fur grower". In other words, the primary thrust of this legislation is to prohibit the ownership of a large carnivorous animal as a pet.

Rep Froelich: How does common person tell the difference between Hybrid Wolves and Regular Wolves, (Siberian Husky)

Rep Brusegaard: As far as I can see the examples you distributed, the attacks all seem to be from wild animals not domesticated ones??

Mr Mullen: All depends on what you call domesticated animals or define them. I was trying to point out the type of species that could present a danger or risk to human beings if maintained in close captivity. Up to a short time ago when I last checked there was only one wolf licensed to be kept in ND.

Rep Pollert: If your on the farm and you got horses in a pen and if you antagonize that horse, that horse is going to kick you in the head or kick you anywhere now that's bodily damage now are we going to see something on that and is there a difference in antagonizing a horse and a wild animal. if that animal is penned up?

Mr Mullen: That's a very good question. But in our view this is a risk in being around farm animals but those animals are domestic animals and they understand human beings better then

wild animals. Humans understand how they react. They don't have nearly the potential to inflict damage that wolves and other wild animals have.

Rep Froelich: Have any other states banned private ownership of wild animals?

Mr Mullen: 25 states ban the possession of wolves and 12 states ban the possession of wolf hybrids. It's not that the other states have said that it's okay for wolf hybrids, a lot of the animal laws were enacted at the turn of the century and are pretty old and they have legal opinion that a wolf dog is not considered a Hybrid.

Rep Froelich: How does a common person tell the difference between a Hybrid and a regular wolf?

Mr Mullen: It's my understanding that the wolf, purebred wolf, is under the endangered species and farmers and ranchers are not at liberty to shoot them or otherwise harm them.

The problem is that from appearance really can't tell whether an animal is a wolf or a wolf hybrid. Or in some cases a Siberian Husky. Behavior of a Wolf or Wolf Hybrid is different than a tame animal and it will kind of retreat or react in a predatory manner.

Rep Koppang: What kind of a population for pets of Hybrid wolves in North Dakota?

Mr. Mullen: At the present time there was only one wolf licensed by the ST of ND. And only one person who has received a license in ND and believe that have about 3 wolf hybrids. One other wolf in the State that is not licensed now.

Rep Berg: Two purposes for this bill, one is to prevent injury from attack and understand there has been no attack in ND in the last few years. Has there been any disease in ND.?

Mr Mullen: No, there hasn't.

Opposition to the bill:

Daune Bohnsack: Grand Forks owner of a Pet Store. If you ban these wolves you are going to drive them underground. I get a lot of calls from around the state where people in the State have wolf pups and have them for sale. They try to sell them to me to sell as pets, they are companion animals living in their homes. I hope you do not pass this bill as it will just drive these animals underground and I want to make sure when you pass laws like this that you are passing the laws and not giving the power to the health Dept or board of Animal Health to legislate other animals. I've never feared govt before in my life, I do fear govt now. I do not fear you guys as legislators, I have a chance to speak here today but when somebody writes a law and doesn't tell us about it we have no input into the process..we have bird breeders, \$25 to \$50 Million dollar input in state, all over the state who are now going to have to licenses and nobody asked us anything.

Jack Sund: ND Pet Retailers Assoc. wants a do not pass on this bill, testimony attached)

Pete Lies: Lies Farm, Pres of ND Exotic Animals Assoc, (Testimony attached)

Mitchel Charles: Bordulac, ND (Testimony attached)

Gary Geske: opposed to bill representing self. owns 3 Couagers. Two questions should be asked when when new laws are proposed, where are we now and where do we want to go? Many times rules and laws can be interpreted differtently by other people or agencies. Regulations concerning livestock and alternative livestock should be kept in the Board of Animal Health and not over in the State Dept of Health.

Amy Becker: Minot, Opposed to bill has 3 wolf hybrids.

Jesse Walker: Captain Mandan Police, Testmony attached. Wants word shall changed to may.

Page 5

House Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB 1148-3

Hearing Date 1/15/99

Chairman Nicholas: wants to appoint a sub-committee and would like to have Captain Walker

and Dick Heck, Police Officers assoc, meet and work out the details of the bill.

Sub committe reported back for a DO NOT PASS

1-21-99.. Motion for DO NOT PASS by Rep Koppang Second by Rep Renner

Carried: For 13 opposed 2 none absent

Carried: Rep Koppang

# FISCAL NOTE

(Return original and 10 copies)

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1148 Amendment to: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by Legislative Council Date of Request: 1-4-99

- Please estimate the fiscal impact (in dollar amounts) of the above measure for state general or special funds, counties, cities, and school districts. Please provide breakdowns, if appropriate, showing salaries and wages, operating expenses, equipment, or other details to assist in the budget process. In a word processing format, add lines or space as needed or attach a supplemental sheet to adequately address the fiscal impact of the measure.

**Narrative:**

Shifting the responsibility of zoonotic diseases to the State Board of Animal Health will require additional staff to adequately protect the health of the human inhabitants of this state from zoonotic disease and injury. Increased staff needs would be a public health veterinarian (annual cost: \$67,400), 1 clerical FTE (annual cost: \$21,000) and additional operating costs (annual cost: \$25,000). Cost per biennium would be approximately \$226,400. Working in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Health and sharing of staff would be required in addition to the added staff.

- State** fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

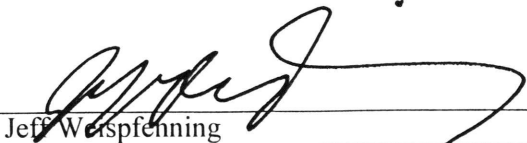
|                     | 1997-99<br>Biennium |             | 1999-2001<br>Biennium |             | 2001-03<br>Biennium |             |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                     | General Fund        | Other Funds | General Fund          | Other Funds | General Fund        | Other Funds |
| <b>Revenues</b>     | 0                   | 0           | 0                     | 0           | 0                   | 0           |
| <b>Expenditures</b> | 0                   | 0           | \$226,400             | 0           | \$226,400           | 0           |

What, if any, is the effect of this measure on the budget for your agency or department:

- For rest of 1997-99 biennium: 0  
(Indicate the portion of this amount included in the 1999-2001 executive budget:)
- For the 1999-2001 biennium: Addition of general funds \$226,400  
(Indicate the portion of this amount included in the 1999-2001 executive budget: 0)
- For the 2001-03 biennium: Addition of general funds \$226,400

- County, city, and school district** fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

| 1997-99<br>Biennium |        |                  | 1999-2001<br>Biennium |        |                  | 2001-03<br>Biennium |        |                  |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------|
| Counties            | Cities | School Districts | Counties              | Cities | School Districts | Counties            | Cities | School Districts |
| 0                   | 0      | 0                | 0                     | 0      | 0                | 0                   | 0      | 0                |

Signed:   
 Typed Name: Jeff Werspfenning  
 Department: Department of Agriculture – State Board of Animal Health  
 Phone Number: 701-328-2655  
 Date Prepared: 1/6/99

Date: 1-21-99  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1148

House Agriculture Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Rep Koppang Seconded By Rep Renner

| Representatives             | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|-----------------|-----|----|
| Eugene Nicholas, Chaiman    | ✓   |    | Bob Stefonowicz |     | ✓  |
| Dennis E. Johnson, Vice Chm | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Thomas T. Brusegaard        | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Earl Rennerfeldt            | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Chet Pollert                | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Dennis J. Renner            | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Michael D. Brandenburg      | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Gil Herbel                  | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Rick Berg                   | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Myron Koppang               | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| John M. Warner              | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Rod Forlich                 | ✓   | ✓  |                 |     |    |
| Robert E. Nowatzki          | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Phillip Mueller             | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |

Total (Yes) 13 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep Koppang

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:



REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
January 29, 1999 9:12 a.m.

Module No: HR-19-1441  
Carrier: Koppang  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1148: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Nicholas, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS**  
(15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1148 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

HB 1148

Mr. Chairman, Representative Johnson, members of the Ag committy:

I am Peter Lies of Lies Game Farm, New Rockford, N.D. I have raised bear and cougar for about 20 plus years. I am the president of the N.D. exotic association and the representative for dangerous type animals, on the non traditional livestock advisory board.

I'm here today to ask for a do not pass vote on bill # 1148

North Dakota government talks about wanting to keep our youth in North Dakota and to get those that are gone to other states to return to North Dakota. December 31, 1998 the Fargo Forum, front page, "North Dakota posts biggest loss in population" North Dakota dropped 0.4% to 638,244. Lets give them a reason to live in North Dakota. There are a few people left in this country that like to have control of their lives. We dont wish to live on welfare or have a government job with a guarantee income.

As the Heritage Foundation states it

1. Americans should be free to enjoy the fruits of their labor.
2. Limited government.
3. As governmet gains- individual freedoms recends.
4. A strong national defense -the american way of life- Democratic-free- prosperous

The non-traditional council was established to give Producers a voice (If their voice is the same as the Board of animal Health). In our discussions when Dr. Hare was on the council, Dr. Hare said, "Lets make the rules so tough that no one can comply then we wont have to deal with them." A few years ago they tried to outlaw some of these animals and now here in 1999 we are back again.

This was not put out by the Non-Traditional livestock counsel, wich has agreed, they do not wish to ban any animals. I don't remember any one discussing it with us. I know that no one called me as the representative of these animals. I have been asked by people that raise these animals. How can we wotk with the govt. and get something that is agreeable to all.

I ask ,how can we? When they come to us only when we will rubber stamp their rules. Other wise we don't exist.

Again I ask for a do not pass.

Thank You

Pete Lies

1-15-99

Gentlemen,

We Oppose House Bill 1148 for the following reasons:

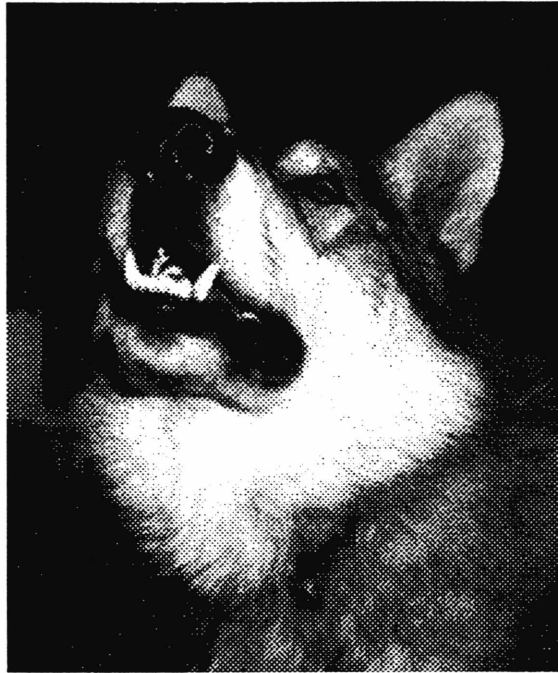
① Most of this bill should have been handled by the Advisory Council to the board of Animal health which it was set up for.

② Section 3 Amendment under Ownership, it seems to imply that most Carnivorous animals cannot be owned. Reading on it seems that a licensed animal breeder or fur grower could own for profit but what about just a private citizen wanting one.

③ We also had a few people read this bill and most of them were confused about what it meant. Going back to what we said in the beginning - maybe we should just scrap this bill and turn these issues back over to the Advisory Council where it belonged in the first place.

Thank you,

Mitchell Charles  
Rhonda Charles



## RESOURCE LIST

International Wolf Center  
1396 Hwy 169  
Ely, MN 55731  
(218)365-4695

Non-profit, educational organization. Offers membership and quarterly newsletter.

Wolf Park  
Battle Ground, IN 47920  
(317)567-2265

Non-profit organization dedicated to research and public education on behalf of the wolf. Offers Howl Nights, wolf-bison demonstrations, educational programs, gift shop and quarterly newsletter.

**The Management and Socialization of Captive Wolves** by E. Klinghammer and P. Goodman, discusses the aspects involved with raising pure wolves in captivity. (\$20).

Guardians of Wildlife  
15012 Cordell Avenue  
Dale City, Virginia 22193

Non-profit organization that works for the betterment of wolves and related canids, GOW's agenda includes 1) ensuring that wolves and wolfdogs have a USDA approved vaccine, 2) establishment of sanctuaries for abused and unwanted wolves and hybrids, 3) work with

other countries and organizations for the betterment of wildlife and 4) educating the public. Two groups have been formed, The Sentinels (legal group) and The Guardians (state 'watchdogs'). Offers bi-monthly 'Journal' (\$25/yr).

RAFT, Inc. (**Rabies vaccine Approval Finding Team**)  
760 Clare Drive  
Washington, PA 15301

A non-profit organization established in 1991 whose sole objective is to have wolves and all other canines of wolf descent officially approved to receive the current canine rabies vaccine.

Wolf People  
P.O. Box 246  
Cocolalla, ID 83813  
(208) 263-1101 or (800) 404-WOLF (9653)

Located on Hwy 95 just north of mile marker 461, this rustic store offers a large selection of special gifts, Idaho souvenirs and personal items. Come meet the wolves that inspired the wolf designs of their products.

Wolf Dog Coalition  
20025 Broad Run Drive  
Sterling, Virginia 20165

Their goal is to bring all wolf dog organizations and owners together for the single purpose of rabies vaccine approval.

Rudelhaus Enterprises  
P.O. Box 1423  
Gallup, NM 87305

Publishes:

**"The Wolf Hybrid Times"** a bi-monthly magazine that deals with privately owned wolves and hybrids. Features articles about feeding, training vet care etc. (\$30/yr)

**The Wolf Hybrid** by D. Predergast. A 140 page basic guide to wolf hybrid ownership. (\$15 plus \$2 s/h).

**Above Reproach: A Guide for Wolf Hybrid Owners** ed. by D. Predergast. A 200 page additional guide for hybrid owners. (\$23 plus \$2 s/h).

## REGISTRIES

Iowolfers Association, Inc.

RR #4 Box 215-A

Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Wolf Dog registry and quarterly news letter. Membership \$25/yr

Unites States American Wolfdog Association, Inc (USAWA)

P.O. Box 663

Williamstown, NJ 08094

(412) 229-PACK

Wolf dog registry and news letter (4 times annually). Membership \$25/yr

National Wolf Hybrid Association (NWHHA)

1059 Porter Morris Rd

Chapmansboro TN 37035

(615)746-3442

Wolf dog registry and bi-monthly newsletter relating to wolf dogs. Subscription \$25, membership and subscp \$30/yr.

## BOOKS

**The Wolf: Ecology and Behavior of an Endangered Species** by L. David Mech. The Natural History Press, New York. 384p.

**Of Wolves and Men** by Barry Lopez. New York: Charles Schribner's Sons, 1979. 309 p.

**Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook** by Delbert G. Carlson, D.V.M., and James M. Giffon, MD. Howell Book House, Macmillan General Reference, 15 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10023. 1992. 423 p. (excellent resource)

**The Wolf Hybrid and Beyond Reproach.** See previous.

### **Tundra Song**

Chris and Kira Frye

P.O. Box 431

Fulton CA 95439

The hybrid's Realm. A 150 page information packet. Focuses on the requirements of responsible hybrid ownership.

**Owning A Wolf Hybrid?** by Pamela Usry, 1993, Adams Press, Chicago Illinois, 98pgs. Basic information on wolf dog ownership, not very in depth. Pamela is the president of the Wolf Hybrid Association, P.O. Box 965, Spring Lake, NC 38390.

## VIDEO

**In Praise of Wolves.** 1990. 50 minutes, Northword Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1360, Minocqua, WI 54548. Complete catalog of nature products: 1(800)336-5666. Naturalist R.D. Lawrence's interaction with a captive, unsocialized pack of wolves. Also a book by the same name.

**Bill Mason's, Cry of the Wild.** 1972. 80 minutes, Northwood Press., P.O. Box 1360 Minocqua, WI 54548. Mason shares 3 years worth of filming in the North West Territories. Features section of film of his captive wolf pack.

## INTERNET WOLF DOG MAIL LISTS

**Wolf Dog List:** A place for wolf dog lovers to share info, stories, current legislation, vet tips. Contact Gudrun Dunn at [wolfdoglist@lists.best.com](mailto:wolfdoglist@lists.best.com) for more info.

**Dances With Wolves III (DWW III):** Similar to the above. Contact Cathy Potter at [cpotter@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:cpotter@mail.utexas.edu) for more info.

**Sirius Puppy Training List:** Private list for those interested in training their wolf dogs in Ian Dunbar's method. Video purchase required for membership. The video is a good puppy training resource especially if you can't go to a public class. Contact [pargs@aztec.asu.edu](mailto:pargs@aztec.asu.edu) for more info.

**Wolf Dog Rescue List:** A list for people dedicated to placing rescued wolf dogs in new, loving homes. This list helps connect people across the US to facilitate quick placement. They need people to house animals, relay animals to pick up points, donate time, money, fencing etc... Contact [WOLFLVR3@aol.com](mailto:WOLFLVR3@aol.com) for more info.

## RESCUE FACILITIES

### **Candy Kitchen Rescue Ranch**

Star Rt. 2, Box 28  
Ramah, NM 87321  
(505)775-3304

### **Villalobos**

P.O Box 6039  
Aqua Dulce, CA 91350  
(818) 382-4777

*There are other rescue facilities across the U.S. but be cautious as some are not reputable.  
Animals are kept in poor conditions or on chains.  
Be aware also, that most rescue facilities are already full and not accepting more wolf dogs.*



if you want more info about these folks let me know.



## The Wolf Dog Coalition


Working Toward Rabies Vaccine Approval for Wolves and Wolf-Dog Crosses

### Rabies Vaccine Approval For Wolves and Wolf - Dog Crosses



If you are able to submit vaccination records for wolves or wolf dogs of 50% or greater wolf content, please **contact us**. We will provide you with the required forms and a synopsis to take to your veterinarian.



 Why is rabies vaccine


**The Wolf Dog Coalition** has focused specifically on working via political means to resolve the vaccine approval issue with USDA. The Coalition is, as the name implies, a vehicle for cooperation between the many organizations that are working towards rabies vaccine approval for wolves and wolf dog crosses. We would like to thank both our individual members and the organizations that are working together to make vaccine approval a reality for wolves and wolf dogs. These organizations include:


- Alabama Wolf Hybrid and Exotic Animal Association
- Aniwaya Wolf Club
- ATSS (American Tundra Shepherd Society)
- Iowolfer Association, Inc.
- NADA (Native Amerindian Dog Association)
- NAIA (National Animal Interest Alliance)
- PAWW (Protective Association for the Wolf-Wolfdog)
- RAFT (Rabies-Vaccine Approval Finding Team)
- The Wolf Dunn
- United States American Wolfdog Association
- Virginia Citizens for Common Sense Animal Laws.

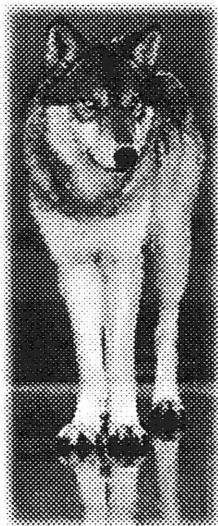
We are happy to tell you that there is light at the end of the tunnel. USDA has agreed that the rabies vaccine is safe and effective in wolves. However, USDA has expressed concern that modified live vaccines may not be safe in wolves. Therefore, they have requested a safety study on wolves and wolf dogs in order to show that they respond similarly to modified live vaccines (other than rabies), such as those for distemper, parvovirus, etc. The USDA reasons that they can not approve a rabies vaccine without approving all vaccines for wolves. In other words, they must designate wolves and dogs as the same species for the purposes of vaccine approval. Once this is done, ALL vaccines for dogs will be approved for wolves.


The Wolf Dog Coalition, through Congressman Wolf's office has reached an agreement with USDA / APHIS to conduct a MLV safety study in wolves and wolf dogs. The purpose of the study is to provide data that will allow the USDA to designate wolves

approval so important ? Read [Tucker's Story](#) to find out what happened to this [dog](#).

Learn more  about [Rabies Vaccine, the Wolf and Wolf Dog](#).

 "[Where We've Been, and How We Got Here](#)" a collection of letters and historical / background information on the rabies vaccine issue.



Questions ?  Read our [Vaccine Approval FAQ](#). Frequently Asked Questions on the MLV data

and dogs as the same species for the purposes of vaccine approval. We are currently collecting data for this study and welcome help from both wolf and dog lovers everywhere. **If you are able to submit vaccination records for wolves or wolf dogs of 50% or greater wolf content, please contact us.** We will be glad to provide you with the required forms and a synopsis to take to your veterinarian. Because it is important for consistency, the forms cannot be altered in any way. We will be happy to send the documents to any interested parties via snail-mail or via e-mail.

It's been a long time since the Coalition first put up this site and we haven't updated it since late in 1996, we have a bit of ground to cover to bring you up to date. In April of 1997 (after much correspondence), our congressman's office arranged a meeting for The Wolf Dog Coalition with USDA / APHIS. We did not, obviously, come away from the meeting with an approved vaccine; however, we did come away with a rough agreement with USDA and a promise of a letter to clarify the specifics of the agreement. We've dug out a summary written the day after the meeting to inform our member organizations of the outcome; [you can read the summary here](#).

The Wolf Dog Coalition received the promised [letter on April 30, 1997](#). The letter gave us the parameters for a safety study and confirmation of our agreement with the paragraph: "At our meeting earlier this month with Mr. Cartwright and interested parties we agreed that the latter requirement would be fulfilled through the submission of the reports of studies that indicate that modified live canine vaccines are safe in wolves." We were on our way...

Since April 1997 we have been involved in negotiations with the USDA as to the exact details of the study requirements because at least one of the requirements made the study impossible: The request for Corona MLV (modified live vaccine), could not be fulfilled because most wolves are not vaccinated against Corona at all and veterinarians who do vaccinate against Corona use a killed vaccine. Also Bortedella is not commonly given to wolves or dogs unless they are boarded or are show dogs, how could we collect records for either of these vaccines? A third issue was the number of animals requested; at our meeting we talked about 400 - 800 animals and the request for 1500 animals came as a shock to us.

The [USDA's response](#) to Congressman Wolf in June of 1997 dashed our hopes of reducing the number of animals required for the study, however our membership refused to give up. We realized it might take longer to collect the data required but we

collection effort.

Also visit our page of Links to Other Web Sites which give more info about the need for rabies vaccine approval and a more detailed view of wolves and wolfdogs.

could accomplish it. Unfortunately we still had no clarification of the Corona and Bortedella issue... and without it we could not go forward. A phone call to USDA's Dr. Miller was in order, we believed he had not realized what our true difficulty with the request was. Our discussion with Dr. Miller indicated he understood our problems and would get back to us, he was as good as his word. Our Congressman received another letter from USDA in September of 1997 and it answered our concerns, allowing us to go forward with the study at last. The key information in the letter was: "we will review data on as many wolves as are available, provided they also submit a detailed description of their efforts to locate pure wolves." and more importantly: "if Bordetella and coronavirus vaccines are not being used in wolves and wolf hybrids, documentation to this effect -- in the form of letters from accredited veterinarians or others responsible for vaccine administration should be submitted to our officials."

The Wolf Dog Coalition is asking your help in data collection for the field study we agreed to conduct. Published articles, as well as letters received by facilities and individuals have led to some confusion about the point of contact for the study. Because this was impacting our ability to collect data, we contacted USDA / APHIS for clarification of our agreement, the Agency has confirmed their commitment to work with us in this letter dated February 13, 1998.

We honestly believe that the completion of the MLV safety study on wolves and wolf dogs will be the last hurdle we face in the fight for rabies vaccine approval. How high a hurdle depends on everyone involved working together and not pulling in different directions. We have seen many people put aside their differences to see this fight through and have the greatest confidence that through a concerted effort we will be successful in obtaining vaccine approval for wolves and wolf dogs alike.

Sincerely,  
  
Gene Sydnor  
Diana Bendit  
The Wolf Dog Coalition



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Wolf Dog Coalition  
20025 Broad Run Drive  
Sterling, VA 20165

X

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## Every breed has good, bad dogs

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I was dismayed to see your June 28 letter to the editor describing Gail Mackey's attempt to legislate against wolf hybrids in Spokane. I believe Ms. Mackey testified at a Millwood hearing as recently as June 14 that she found no significant difference in percentages of "problem dogs", among breeds of dogs turned into SpokAnimal Care.

In every type of purebred and "hybrid" dogs there are good ones and bad ones. In Orangevale, Calif., a German shepherd/wolf hybrid named "Zorro" pulled his owner out of a whirlpool at the base of an 85-foot ravine where the man had fallen. The dog then huddled on top of his unconscious master during the cold night that followed. In the morning, rescuers were forced to leave the dog behind, yet when other searchers later found the dog, "Zorro" was still guarding his master's backpack.

Individual dogs are as different in personality as people and should be judged on their own merits. If the "breed-specific" people had their way, I suppose the wolf hybrid "Zorro" would have been promptly destroyed, rather than being awarded the title "Dog hero of the year" for saving his master's life!

IRENE B. ANRODE  
Spokane

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW - PAGE A11 - MONDAY, JULY 2, 1990`

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[Back to Main Page](#)

## HOUSE BILL 1148

Mr. Chairman and committee members, My name is Jack Sund. I am president of the North Dakota Independent Pet Retailer's Association, and I own the House of Sund Pet Center at Gateway Mall in Bismarck. I am here to testify against House Bill 1148. Please feel free to interrupt me whenever you have a question.

Why do we need this bill? Currently, anyone who wants to own one of these animals has to jump through these hoops:

- A. Become USDA Licensed
- B. Must meet and maintain rigid USDA housing requirements
- C. Must keep and maintain health records
- D. Must be subject to periodic USDA inspections
- E. Must get approval and state license from the Board of Animal Health

How much more government do we need?

I was invited to attend a meeting at the State Health Department when this bill was being drafted. I asked the bill's author, Mike Mullen, if there was a problem. Mr. Mullen indicated that he was modeling this bill after California's. I asked Mr. Mullen if there was a problem in North Dakota. Mr. Mullen stated he wanted a bill in place before there is. Who is the State Health Department trying to protect, ourselves from ourselves? Regulation for the sake of regulation? Our State Health Department is out of control.

Several states have repealed their "blacklist" laws because the

sellers and owners just went underground. Then there is no control. Montana killed a "blacklist" bill last legislative session.

Additionally, the State Health Department are "fear mongers" who want to make criminals out of pet owners. Anyone found in violation of this law would be guilty of a class "B" misdemeanor.

We must understand the passion people have for their pets. Are we willing to risk another "Waco Texas" because our State Health Department has a new law to seize our pets. When is enough, enough?

Current state and federal laws already regulate the importation, confinement, transportation, sale and disposition of these animals.

Bill #1148 is very heavy handed and discriminatory. I strongly urge this committee to kill this bill.

All of us are keenly aware that government regulations invariably restrict private freedoms and can be justified only when they provide effective and equitable resolutions of real problems.

I will be happy to make myself available for any questions you may have after this meeting, or in the future.

Jack Sund

Business 223-0112  
Home 734-8121

## **Dr. Porters rebuttal to Wisconsin Wolf Plan's section on wolfdogs.**

by Dr. Stephanie Porter

---

Dear Dr. Wydeven

I was dismayed when I read the sections about wolf hybrids in your Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan Draft. I realize that it can be virtually impossible to get accurate information about wolf hybrids, so I hope that I can be of help in increasing the scientific integrity of your draft proposal. I have a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and have been following the wolf hybrid controversy for many years, gathering much scientific data on wolves, dogs and wolf hybrids. I hope you will take the time to read my comments regarding specific statements in the proposal Draft. In addition, I recently spent half a year on the State of Colorado Canine and Feline Hybrid Advisory Committee. The committee was charged with obtaining factual information on wolf hybrids through research and interviews with wolf and dog experts. I am sending a copy of this report which represents a consensus opinion of about 14 people with wildly divergent views on the subject of wolf hybrids. Because to the lay public the word "hybrid" connotes the sterile progeny of different species, I will refer to wolf hybrids as wolfdogs for the remainder of this letter.

"A wolf-dog hybrid is the offspring of the mating of a wolf (*Canis lupus*) with a domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*)"

This statement does not represent the most recent view on the relationship between wolves and dogs. The American Society of Mammalogists have reclassified dogs as a subspecies of *Canis lupus* (*Canis lupus familiaris*). Although this does not represent a consensus world view yet, it is the view of the majority of taxonomists in the United States (Wilson and Reeder 1993). In addition, molecular genetic evidence shows that wolves and dogs are the same species, in fact there is no way to distinguish a wolfXdog cross from a dog, even using DNA testing. Vila et. al. (1997) found that some dogs group in a separate evolutionary clade from wolves, however some dogs group along with wolves. A molecular genetics group in Japan has found contrary evidence that wolves and dogs do not even group into separate clades (Tsuda et. al. 1997). The summary of all of this information is that "Dogs are grey wolves, despite their diversity in size and proportion; the wide variation in their adult morphology probably results in simple changes in developmental rate and timing. (Wayne 1993). This also has important implications for your proposed regulation of wolfdog ownership. There is no way to legally distinguish a wolfdog from any other dog. Every court case against a wolfdog owner that has been based on establishing identity of the dog as a wolfdog mix has been won by the wolfdog owner (I can provide some of these references if you are interested). In addition, there are a number of dog breeds that have been fairly recently derived from the wolf (German Shepherd, Malamute, Tundra Shepherd, Czech Wolfdog, Sarloos Wolfhound, other rare breeds). How will you distinguish these and similar breeds from "wolf hybrids"?

"Normally these are bred in captivity because wild wolves rarely breed with dogs"

Although there is only a little evidence that wild wolves have bred with dogs in the United States, this statement is inaccurate. Wild wolves have bred with dogs in this country (Allen 1979, Hoagland 1993, Mech 1970, Murie 1944) and it is possible that the paucity of observed crossbreeding is due to the long-standing diminished wolf population here. In Italy there is a huge problem with free ranging dogs cross breeding with wild wolves (Boitani 1982). In fact there is so much crossbreeding that it is possible most wolves in Italy are in fact wolfXdog mixes (Boitani 1982). In other countries there is firm documentation of wolfXdog crosses occurring in the wild (Bibikov 1982, Mendelssohn 1982)

"The macho characteristics of the wolf/dog hybrids make them highly desirable to some people but also highly unpredictable"

This accusation of "unpredictability" is a scare tactic used by the media. I am surprised to see it here, in an official document from a biology department. Dogs, wolfdogs, or wolves are not unpredictable in behavior. Although I do not have references for this, I have spoken with a number of professional dog behaviorists that work with wolfdogs. They have seen no clear differences in behavior of wolfdogs from that of other dogs, and I have never heard a behaviorist suggest that a wolfdog is unpredictable. I know hundreds of wolfdog owners and have never once heard one call their animal "unpredictable". Many dog owners would call their animals unpredictable out of ignorance of dog behavior, this doesn't mean that they actually are unpredictable. The same holds true for wolfdogs, ignorance by owners should not be translated into known "facts".

You cite a reference Hope 1994. I could not find this reference in the Reference section. There are two very important statements that are based on this reference and I would like to look it up.

"The "predatory behaviors" of wild predators like the grey wolf have been lost in domestic dogs"

It is debatable whether the predatory behaviors of wolves have been exceedingly diminished in dogs. I have heard numerous opinions about this on both sides of the argument from wolf and dog behaviorists, but have not seen a scientific study published on this subject. A recent paper suggests that dogs that are more wolf-like in phenotype are also more wolf-like in behavior, to the extent that Siberian Huskies have every "wolf" behavior the researchers measured (Goodwin et. al. 1997).

It is absolutely NOT TRUE that dogs have lost predatory behaviors. There are a number medical articles describing the hunting and consumption of human beings by dogs (Borchelt et. al. 1983, Kneafsey and Condon 1995). Dogs are especially dangerous when they form packs, even a friendly family animal will become a predator when in a pack (Borchelt et. al. 1983). In addition feral and stray dogs revert to "wild" behaviors easily, including hunting behaviors (Boitani and Ciucci



1995). Finally there is no clear evidence that most dog (or wolfdog) attacks on people are motivated by predation. Most behaviorists believe these attacks are due to social miscues between humans (mostly children) and canines. Furthermore I have collected a large number of newspaper articles describing predation by dogs on domestic and wild animals. Dogs are clearly predators, some breeds more than others, and they are not different from wolfdogs in this regard.

"Attacks, maulings, dismemberments and deaths caused by wolf/dog hybrids have received national media attention. Four children are known to have been killed by hybrids between 1981 and 1988."

Although I agree with the fact that these attacks receive national attention, this statement is misleading. It implies that wolfdog attacks on children are unusual. There are over 4.5 million dog bites per year alone in this country. Well over half a million of these are considered severe attacks (Voelker 1997)! Here are the only fatal attack statistics that have been published in peer-reviewed medical journals, and are therefore absolutely accurate (Sacks et. al. 1996, Sacks et. al. 1989, MMWR 1997). You will see that there are an average of 20 deaths due to dog attacks per year in the U.S. and that many other breeds are above wolfdogs on this list. Attacks, even fatalities, are certainly not unique to wolfdogs:

Breeds involved in dog bite-related fatalities 1979-1996:

| Breed                | Total fatalities recorded | Pit Bull |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| and crosses          | 70                        | 32       |
| Shepherd and crosses | 30                        |          |
| crosses              | 20                        | 15       |
| Wolf hybrid          | 14                        |          |
| crosses              | 11                        | 8        |
| Great Dane           | 6                         |          |
| Bernard              | 4                         | 4        |

"Unfortunately for the animals and the reputation of wild wolves, many overwhelmed hybrid owners resort to "setting their wolf free" when they cannot find a suitable home for them."

Do you have any information proving that wolfdog owners are especially prone to this irresponsible behavior? In other words, do a higher percentage of wolfdog owners set their animals "free", than do dog owners? I have never seen any evidence to suggest this.

"There have been eleven cases of free-roaming wolf/dog hybrids in Wisconsin between 1989 and 1996"

This statement is only meaningful if you compare it with the number of cases of other types of dogs free-roaming in Wisconsin. If your state is anything like Colorado, the number of wolfdogs running at large is dwarfed by the number of other dog breeds running at large. Since there is no evidence that wolfdogs cause more of any types of damage than other dogs, how significant is this number of wolfdogs? In fact it seems that with over 400,000 wolfdogs in this country, 11

wolfdogs running free in Wisconsin over the course of 7 years is amazingly small.

"Wildlife biologists also worry about escaped or released wolf/dog hybrids interbreeding with wild wolves--diluting their gene pool"

First, since wolves and dogs are the same species and are identical in over 99.8% of their DNA sequences (Wayne 1993), the idea of genome pollution needs to be critically examined. Is this a real danger? The vast majority of the DNA is identical between wolves and dogs. Also, two wolf biologists that testified at the State of Colorado Canine and Feline Hybrid Advisory Committee meetings did not think that even if wild wolves bred with dogs or wolfdogs there would be noticeable damage to the wolf gene pool (Dr. Ray Pierotti, University of Kansas and Dr. Erich Klinghammer, Wolf Park). Their reasoning is that even in the few cases where crossbreeding might occur, any traits that are detrimental to survival will be selected against.

In addition there is the question of whether wolfdogs have a greater chance of breeding with wild wolves than free ranging dogs. There is field observation data that suggests even a strange pure wolf will not be tolerated in the territory of a pack (Mech 1970), much less a dog or wolfdog. I have seen no evidence that even hints that wolfdogs have a higher chance of crossbreeding with wild wolves than dogs, particularly northern breed dogs or other large dogs. If you have such evidence please include it in this section of your recommendations since it is highly relevant.

"Twenty-five other states presently regulate the possession of these animals..."

The Colorado assistant state veterinarian (Dr. Keith Roehr) did an informal phone survey of several states that regulate wolfdogs during the progression of the advisory committee meetings. He spoke with the actual administering department in each case. In virtually every state, the administration of these regulations was problematic. Essentially the regulations are impossible to administer due to identification problems and many states are considering retracting their regulations. In fact, in 1991 Tennessee overturned their law prohibiting wolfdog ownership and recently Oregon has de-regulated the wolfdog, both due to the problems in administering the regulations fairly. When breed-specific regulations are challenged in court, they are often found to be unconstitutional (Burt 1997, Marmer 1984)

"Possession of wolf/dog hybrids also needs to be regulated due to their potential impact on wild, free-ranging wolves"

Again, I believe the critical issue in regulating something, is being able to unambiguously identify it. Since there is no genetic test for "wolfdog" and since every identification case brought against wolfdog owners has been won by the owner, one is left with the question of how to practically regulate these animals. The reality is that if regulations are imposed on the public, the wolfdog owners will

go underground. Since identification is problematic prosecution of owners will result in expensive court cases for the state. Additionally, forcing wolfdog owners underground will exacerbate potential problems as owners will have less access to veterinary care and training advice. Also, who will be administering the regulations? What will happen when an animal gets misidentified? A recent misidentification of a husky as a wolfdog in Virginia resulted in an expensive settlement in favor of the dog's owners.

In every one of the issues discussed above the central question is, is a wolfdog more likely to commit the inappropriate behavior than a dog. Since there has never been any scientific evidence published or presented that suggests wolfdogs are more problematic in any of the areas above, one wonders why they are being singled out in this draft report. Dogs are dangerous, they kill people, they kill livestock, they kill wild animals, they cross breed with wild wolves, and they ARE wolves genetically. They are not so far from their wild ancestors as your report suggests and I hope you will reconsider your recommendation to treat wolfdogs as separate from other dogs in your final report. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or require more documentation on any of these subjects.

Thank you,  
Dr. Stephanie Porter

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Proposed Amendments to HB 1148

Page 1, line 8, after “state,” strike out “with the assistance of” and replace with “assist”

Page 1, line 9, after “injury” overstrike the comma and replace with “or”

Page 1, line 12 and 13, after “state,” strike out “with respect to zoonotic disease or injury, the human inhabitants of this state,”

**From:** Missy Kesterke <wolflady@montana.com>  
**To:** missy <wolflady@montana.com>  
**Date:** Friday, January 08, 1999 1:37 PM  
**Subject:** Re: wolf dog ban

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>1/2/98

>

>REPORT TO THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

>CANINE AND FELINE HYBRID ADVISORY GROUP

>

>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

>

>The Canine and Feline Hybrid Advisory Group met six times in day-long  
>meetings beginning in June, 1997. The Advisory Group limited its focus to  
>the directives contained in S.B. 97-167. The recommendations contained in  
>this report were achieved by consensus; the entire group agreed upon all  
>the recommendations found in this report. Those issues the group could  
>not agree upon are not presented here. There are other peripheral issues  
>outside the context of our study that were discussed, but not agreed upon.

>

>The canine and feline hybrid advisory group has determined that  
>identification of the wolf hybrid is the principal difficulty associated  
>with this issue. There are no scientifically proven methods that will  
>withstand legal challenge to differentiate wolf hybrids (also called  
>wolf-dogs) from other canines. The inability to scientifically isolate  
>wolf hybrids makes breed specific regulations difficult, if not  
>impossible, to administer effectively and equitably. Therefore, the study  
>group recommends changes in the present Dangerous Dog Law ( found at  
>C.R.S.18-9-204.5) to address the threat that wolf hybrids may pose. The  
>Dangerous Dog Law applies to all canines, that is any animal related to  
>the fox, wolf, coyote, or jackal. Unquestionably, this definition  
>applies to wolf hybrids, as well. The group recommends specific changes  
>to the Dangerous Dog Law to provide greater protection to the public,  
>livestock, and other animal life within the state.

>

>To address the need for providing the public with adequate information,  
>the advisory group also recommends the formation of a Colorado Wolf-dog

>Association. This association would provide a forum for ongoing  
 >educational efforts aimed toward potential buyers of wolf hybrids as well  
 >as a registry service for qualified breeders. The group strongly believes  
 >the association should inform potential owners of the type of  
 >environmental, training, and husbandry needs that are necessary to  
 >minimize the hazards that may be associated with wolf hybrids. These  
 >educational efforts should result in expanded consumer awareness as well  
 >as improved welfare for the animals.

>

>The advisory group does not recommend any additional regulation of feline  
 >hybrids due to the lack of reported incidents of human or animal attacks.

>

>

>

#### >PURPOSE

>

>Senate Bill 97-167 declared that:

>

>a) Hybrid canines and felines may pose a significant threat to other  
 >animals and humans because of their unpredictable nature;

>

>b) Wolf hybrids in particular may pose a threat to humans and have been  
 >declared responsible for killing two children each year in the United  
 >States;

>

>c) Ten states prohibit the breeding and maintenance of wolf hybrids; and

>

>d) Most hybrid canines and felines are abandoned or killed when they  
 >reach two to three years of age and exhibit their wild nature. Some are  
 >ultimately contained in hybrid-animal refuges.

>

>The General Assembly directed the establishment of the Canine and Feline  
 >Hybrid Advisory Group to study and report its findings on the following  
 >issues:

>

>1. The behavior of hybrid wolves and hybrid felines;

>

>2. The extent of the expected and existing problems resulting from or  
 >projected to result from hybrid canines, and hybrid felines in Colorado;  
 >and

- >
- >3. If regulation is necessary for the regulation of breeding, care and maintenance of hybrids to protect the health, welfare and safety of the residents, livestock, and other animal life of the state.
- >
- >The Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture appointed and convened an advisory group to study these. The advisory group consisted of:
- >
- > Thomas A. Kourlis, Commissioner of Agriculture - facilitator
- > Dr. Kris Fattor, private practicing veterinarian
- > Katie Kinney, Colorado Division of Wildlife
- > Patricia Wendland, and Liz Carman, owners, Wolf-Dog Rescue
- > Cathy Schurr, Mark Johnson, Dr. Stephanie Porter, Jim Redmond, and
- > Jim Wilcox, canine wolf-dog breeders and feline hybrid breeders
- > Ilene Wical and Mark Milford, animal welfare agencies
- > Carl Hanson and John Bartman, agricultural community
- > Suzanne Core and Rob Edward, environmental community
- >
- >Several individuals served as the resource committee. They were:
- >
- > John Pape, Colorado Department of Health and Environment
- > Senator Rob Hernandez, S.B. 97-167 sponsor
- > Robert Slagle, Eagle County animal control agent
- > Linda Hart, hobby dog breeder
- > Jean Nelson, President, Professional Licensed Dog Breeders
- > Jackie Sainsbury, canine trainer
- > Dr. Keith Roehr, Division of Animal Industry, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture
- >Dr. John Maulsby, Division of Animal Industry, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture
- >
- >The advisory group invited comments from experts in behavior, identification and husbandry and care of wolf-dog crosses. The group requested information from the following participants:
- >
- > Dr. Nick Federoff, wildlife biologist
- > Dr. Ray Pierotti, geneticist, University of Kansas
- > Dr. Erick Klinghammer, ethologist, Wolf Park, Indiana
- > Monty Sloan, wildlife photographer
- > Lynne Dishong, Colorado feline hybrid breeder



> Mace Loftus, breeder and owner, Wolf-Dog Cross

> Kent Weber, Mission Wolf

>

> All meetings were open to the public, and time was allotted in each

> meeting for public comment. Information was received from canine breeders,

> trainers, behaviorists, and victims of canine attacks.

>

> ISSUES

>

> The following is a summary of comments from Dr. Pierotti, Dr. Federoff,

> and Dr. Klinghammer.

>

> IDENTIFICATION OF WOLF-DOGS

> We learned from Dr. Federoff that the wolf-dog cross is not a true hybrid,

> as both animals are from the same species. He went on to say that the

> domestic dog originated from the wolf, and he believes that a domestic dog

> is a wolf in an arrested stage of development. The only way to identify a

> wolf-dog cross is from an accurately documented pedigree. This involves

> taking two known content parents and breeding them to produce a known

> offspring. All forms of wolf-dog identification are problematic. There

> is no genotype (the genetic constitution of an animal) or phenotype (the

> observable appearance of an animal) to distinguish between a dog, a

> wolf-dog cross and a wolf. All DNA tests to differentiate wolf-hybrids

> from domestic dogs are subject to challenge. There are no known DNA

> markers uniquely distinguishable in the wolf that are not present in the

> dog. Blood tests, skull measurements, and skeletal measurements all have

> some merit but have not withstood legal challenge.

>

> Dr. Ray Pierotti said the key point is that dogs and wolves are from the

> same species. The American Society of Mammalogists have reclassified the

> domestic dog as *Canis lupus familiaris* (the wolf is classified as *Canis*

> *lupus*), although this taxonomic change has not been recognized by the

> International Taxonomy Classification. The German shepherd is thought to

> be a descendent of the European wolf, and the Alaskan malamute possibly

> from the Alaskan wolf.

>

> Existing methods of identification that are currently available cannot

> distinguish wolf-dogs from other canines with a high degree of confidence.

> Combinations of criteria have been used to increase the probability to

> accurately identify an animal as either a wolf or a dog. Physical

>characteristics that are currently being used to identify wolves are  
>straight hind legs, no slope of back, prominent sagittal crest, no slope  
>over face and nose, and skull measurements. Skeletal measurements,  
>phenotypical studies, as well as other blood protein, microsatellite,  
>nuclear and mitochondria DNA tests can be of value in wolf dog  
>identification. Dr. Pierotti indicated that even a combination of all  
>these studies have not sustained legal scrutiny in courts of law.

>  
>Attached to this report are 18 reproduced photographs of dogs, wolf-dogs,  
>and wolves. Each photograph is unlabeled. This test may help to  
>illustrate the difficulty in using phenotypic appearance in determining  
>the genotype of a canine.

>  
>BEHAVIOR OF WOLF-DOGS

>A wolf's behavior is typically more socially shy and timid toward humans  
>than that of a dog. Whether a wolf-dog cross should be considered more  
>dangerous than a dog depends on behavior specific to the individual.  
>Implanted behavior can effect innate behavior. The socialization of each  
>individual is affected by training methods. The risk to public safety is  
>affected by the socialization of each individual wolf-dog cross.

>  
>There is no conclusive evidence to show that wolf-dogs are more aggressive  
>toward humans than other big dogs (e.g., rottweilers, German shepherds,  
>chows and pit bulls). The behavior of a wolf-dog is not directly  
>proportional to its percentage of wolf content, in that a high percentage  
>wolf-dog cross may have behavior more typical of a dog. Conversely, a low  
>percentage wolf-dog cross could behave more like a wolf. The behavior of  
>a wolf-dog is not totally determined by its genotype or phenotype. The  
>innate behavior of a specific animal can be anywhere within the broad  
>spectrum of its genetic background.

>  
>The behavior of a wolf-dog is typically different from that of a dog, and  
>therefore,  
>effective training techniques should also be different. Wolf-dog crosses  
>do not respond well to negative reinforcement. The wolf-dog cross may be  
>more able to make up its mind and is therefore less influenced by human  
>direction. A wolf-dog is typically more independent than other domestic  
>breeds. They do not usually fawn over humans, as might be expected, for  
>instance, from a Labrador retriever.

>Domestic dogs and wolf-dog crosses have shown aggression toward humans.  
>The wolf-dog ranks sixth in fatal canine attacks according to the  
>information gathered by the Centers for Disease Control and the Humane  
>Society of the United States. This information was extracted from various  
>reports that were used to ascertain which breeds caused human fatalities.  
>Although surveillance and reporting methods can affect this data, no  
>information to the contrary was presented to the committee. We were  
>unable to find any scientific, peer reviewed statistical evidence that  
>suggests wolf-dogs pose any greater threat to humans, animals, and  
>property than other domestic breeds of the canine family. We were unable  
>to ascertain the percentages within a breed because it is uncertain how  
>many animals of each breed exist in the United States.

>

>Aggressive wolf-dog behavior may stem from hunting instinct as well as  
>social aggression. Hunting instinct and the presence of an injured animal  
>or human could trigger aggressive behavior. This type of behavior however  
>is not necessarily unique to wolf-dogs. The varying degree of this social  
>or dominance behavior is dependent upon the individual animal. The wolf is  
>typically less territorial than domestic dogs and is recognized as being  
>more timid, aloof, and less involved with humans.

>

>There was consensus among the experts that a wolf-dog cross would have the  
>same chance to survive hunting in the wild as a large breed feral dog.  
>Some members of the advisory committee believe the wolf-dog cross would  
>have a greater chance for survival in the wild than many breeds of  
>domestic dogs, due to better hunting skills and a hair coat able to  
>protect against cold temperatures. Both wolves and dogs have a tendency  
>to form packs and thereby hunt more effectively. Therefore, a single  
>canine in the wild would have a limited ability to survive.

>

>Most incidents of canine attacks involve irresponsible ownership, such as  
>the lack of proper containment or the inability of a person to recognize  
>potential signs of aggressive behavior. Every canine owner should be  
>aware of the need to properly house, restrain, exercise, socialize, and  
>obedience train their canine companions.

>

>When canines are surrendered to animal shelters and are identified by  
>their owners as wolf-dog crosses, many shelters will not place them in new  
>homes. The decision not to allow for the adoption of a wolf-dog cross is  
>usually based upon liability issues, irrespective of the canine's

>behavior. Any animal which is received in a shelter with the wolf-dog  
>label is destined to be euthanized, as many of the current rescue groups  
>have no room to take these animals. The financial impact of euthanizing  
>animals on animal shelters must be considered. Certain members of the  
>advisory group question the breeding of domestic dogs to wolves when the  
>offspring seem to have a limited success as traditional pet animals, which  
>ultimately results in more of them being euthanized.

>

>Although little information has been reported regarding coyote-dog  
>crosses, there was consensus among the experts advising the group that  
>they make bad companions and do not possess the ability to socialize.

>

>

#### >EXTENT OF PROBLEM OF WOLF-DOGS

>The General Assembly directed the Colorado Department of Agriculture to  
>initiate a canine and feline hybrid study to determine the extent of  
>problems caused by the wolf-dog cross and feline hybrid in this state. A  
>questionnaire was distributed to sheriffs' offices and animal control  
>agencies across the state to assess the type and frequency of incidents  
>involving hybrid canines and felines. For the purposes of this study, a  
>hybrid was defined as the animal produced by breeding a wild canine or  
>feline with a domestic canine or feline, and that animal's progeny as  
>well. An incident would be any personal injury, property damage, or  
>livestock damage, known to be caused by a canine or feline hybrid. There  
>were 58 respondents to the survey. The findings do not constitute a  
>thorough statistical analysis by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

>

>The results of the state wide survey were:

>

>1. Does your county or local municipality have any laws or  
>regulations concerning canine or feline hybrids? State-wide Totals: 50=  
>No; 8= Yes.

> Conclusion: There are eight areas/municipalities in Colorado with  
>some form of restrictions concerning hybrid animals.

>

>2. Do you feel the Dangerous Dog Law is adequate in dealing with the  
>hybrid animal situation in your area? State wide Totals: 16= No; 33=  
>Yes; 9= Unsure.

> Conclusion: The respondents (2:1) felt the Dangerous Dog Law was  
>adequate in dealing with hybrid animal situations.

>

>3. Estimate the number of wolf hybrids living in your area or county.

>State-wide average: 110 per reply/area/county.

> State-wide Total: 6,380.

> Conclusion: The total number of wolf-dog crosses is based on

>responses to the questionnaire and is not the result of rigid statistical

>methods. This number is much lower than other sources estimated.

>

>4. Estimate the number of feline hybrids living in your area or

>county? State-wide Total: 5 confirmed.

> Conclusion: This low number is possibly due to zero reported

>incidents. The feline hybrid seems to be a low profile animal.

>

>5. Number of incidents of injury or damage involving wolf hybrids in

>your area or county. State-wide Total: 4 per report. (average number of

>incidents per report)

> Conclusion: The total reflects a historic number (total for all

>years records were kept) compiled from each county/area. This number of 4

>per area is very low compared to the number of incidents of canine reports

>as a whole.

>

>6. Number of incidents of injury or damage involving hybrid felines

>in your area or county? None was reported.

> Conclusion: There is no reported impact of feline hybrids upon

>health, welfare and safety of residents of this state.

>

>The survey reported incidents involving hybrid animals. However, the

>extent of these incidents seems to be less than or equal to those caused

>by other domestic canines or felines. The survey did not disclose a

>disproportionate number of incidents involving hybrid animals. The

>identification problem inherent to canine hybrids could affect the

>accuracy of this study because the actual breed of a canine involved in an

>incident was difficult to accurately determine.

>

>A consumer protection issue surfaced in the discussions of the Advisory

>Group. Since the average cost of a wolf-dog is higher than most purebred

>dogs, a situation could arise where some owners believe they own a

>wolf-dog when they actually own a purebred or crossbred dog. There were a

>few reports of wolf-dogs involved in an incident where the authorities

>questioned whether the canine was in reality a domestic dog. The Advisory

>Group believes it would be helpful to provide some protection to  
>consumers, so they would not be misled when purchasing a wolf-dog cross.

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>The following two tables give some perspective as to where frequency of  
>wolf-dog incidents rank in Colorado and in the U.S.

- >
- >
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- >

>BREEDS INVOLVED IN DOG BITES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY 1989-1996

>

| >Breed    | Total Bites |
|-----------|-------------|
| >Reported |             |

>

- >German Shepherd 299
- >Labrador Retriever 282
- >Chow 218
- >Cocker Spaniel 98
- >Australian Shepherd 87
- >Golden Retriever 78
- >Rottweiler 77
- >Husky 60
- >Akita 46
- >Dalmation 40
- >Malamute 40
- >Cockapoo 40
- >Sheltie 35

- >Springer Spaniel 32
- >Collie 28
- >Pitbull 24
- >Beagle 21
- >Chesapeake Bay Retriever 21
- >Pekinese 19
- >Border Collie 18
- >Samoyed 16
- >Schnauzer 15
- >Spitz 14
- >Saint Bernard 13
- >Bull Terrier 11
- >Scottish Terrier 11
- >Wolf Hybrid 10

>

>

#### >BREEDS INVOLVED IN DOG BITE FATALITIES IN THE U.S.A., 1979-1996

>The following information was compiled by the Humane Society of the  
>United States (H.S.U.S.) and the Centers for Disease Control (C.D.C.)

>

| >Breed | Total Fatalities Reported |
|--------|---------------------------|
|--------|---------------------------|

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| >Pit Bull and crosses | 70 |
|-----------------------|----|

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| >Rottweiler and crosses | 32 |
|-------------------------|----|

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| >Shepherd and crosses | 30 |
|-----------------------|----|

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| >Husky and crosses | 20 |
|--------------------|----|

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| >Malamute and crosses | 18 |
|-----------------------|----|

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| >Wolf Hybrids | 14 |
|---------------|----|

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| >Chows and crosses | 11 |
|--------------------|----|

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| >Doberman and crosses | 8 |
|-----------------------|---|

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| >Great Dane and crosses | 6 |
|-------------------------|---|

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| >Saint Bernard and crosses | 4 |
|----------------------------|---|

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| >Akita and crosses | 4 |
|--------------------|---|

>

>

#### >REGULATION OF WOLF-DOGS IN OTHER STATES

>It was stated in the Legislative Declaration that 10 states prohibit the  
>breeding and maintenance of wolf-dogs, and the committee requested that we  
>review the statesU legislation.

>

>In contacting officials who administer and enforce the statutes in other

>states concerning regulation of the wolf-dog cross, we found: 1.) The  
 >states which have attempted to identify the wolf-dog cross have had  
 >difficulty in proving that identification in court. 2.) Several states  
 >with statutes effecting the wolf-dog cross have found their programs  
 >unenforceable and ineffective due to the identification problem of the  
 >wolf-dog cross. 3.) Programs that use voluntary licensing or relied upon  
 >owner identification have realized varying degrees of success.

>

>It should also be noted that the American Veterinary Medical Association  
 >(AVMA) has also adopted a position statement opposing breed specific  
 >regulations pertaining to canines.

>

#### >COLORADOUS DANGEROUS DOG LAW

>There was consensus among the advisory group and supported by expert  
 >testimony, that "dangerous dog laws" are best able to address the public  
 >safety issue associated with wolf-dogs.

>

> Colorado's current dangerous dog law (Section 18-9-204.5(III)(c), C.R.S.)  
 >defines "dog" as any domesticated animal related to the fox, wolf, coyote,  
 >or jackal. This definition includes the wolf-dog cross. A "dangerous  
 >dog" is defined in the statute as Rany dog that has demonstrated  
 >tendencies that would cause a reasonable person to believe that the dog  
 >may inflict injury upon or cause the death of any person or domestic  
 >animal; or has inflicted bodily or serious bodily injury upon or has  
 >caused the death of a person or domestic animal.S These definitions  
 >clearly suggest that we should address the wolf-dog concerns in this  
 >statute.

>

>John Maulsby, DVM, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Protection, Colorado  
 >Department of Agriculture provided the study group with an overview of the  
 >ColoradoUs Dangerous Dog Law:

>

>If a dog or wolf-dog, in the current statute, should attack and/or bite a  
 >person or domestic animal and inflict Rbodily injury," the owner(s) could  
 >be charged with a class three misdemeanor. Any owner involved in a second  
 >or subsequent violation would be subject to a class two misdemeanor  
 >charge.

>

>Any owner, under the current statute, whose dog or wolf-dog inflicts  
 >Rserious bodily injuryS to a person could be charged with a class one



- > misdemeanor. Any owner involved in a second or subsequent violation of
- > Rserious bodily injuryS violation is subject to a class six felony charge.
- > Any owner whose dog or wolf-dog cross causes the death of a person could
- > be charged with a class five felony.

>

>

#### >COLORADO PRESUMPTIVE SENTENCING RANGES

>

#### >CLASS MINIMUM MAXIMUM

>

#### >Misdemeanors

- > 1 6 mos./\$500/both 24 mos./\$5,000/both
- > 2 3 mos./\$250/both 12 mos./\$1,000/both
- > 3 \$50.00 6 mos./\$750/both

>

#### >Felonies

- > 5 1 yr/\$1,000/both 4
- > yrs./\$100,000/both
- > 6 Fines same as Class 5 but no prison sentence

>

>

#### >CONCLUSIONS

>

>In our contacts with officials from other states which enforce breed  
>specific statutes involving wolf-dogs, we learned there has been a great  
>deal of difficulty in enforcement due to the inability to effectively  
>identify these canines. Since it is impossible to scientifically identify  
>the wolf-dog cross to withstand legal scrutiny, there was consensus that  
>breed-specific regulations are not feasible.

>

>

>The advisory group was unable to reveal any incidents of public safety  
>involving feline hybrids. The advisory group has determined that further  
>regulation of feline hybrids unnecessary.

>

>Due to the fact that wolf-dog identification is problematic, the Advisory  
>Group decided that breed specific regulations could not be effectively  
>administered or enforced. The American Veterinary Medical Association  
>(AVMA) has also adopted a position statement opposing breed specific  
>regulations pertaining to canines. The Advisory Group has recognized there

>is potential harm to the public from wolf-dog crosses as well as many  
 >other breeds of domestic dogs. Therefore the Advisory Group strongly  
 >believes there will be benefit in modifying the present Dangerous Dog Law  
 >to improve public health, welfare, and safety of the residents, livestock,  
 >and other animal life of this state.

>

>

#### >RECOMMENDATIONS

>

>The advisory group recommends the following modifications to the Dangerous  
 >Dog Law, C.R.S 18-9-204.5:

>

#### >RECOMMENDATION ONE:

>

>All owners of canines convicted of owning a dangerous dog be required to:

>

>1. Provide for confinement for any convicted dangerous dog not destroyed  
 >pursuant to paragraph (g) of this subsection (3) of C.R.S.18-9-204.5 . The  
 >owner shall be required to confine the dangerous dog in an escape proof  
 >building or enclosure. The owner shall be further required to keep the dog  
 >under the ownerUs control by a leash if the dog is outside of the building  
 >or enclosure.

>

>In the event of a second conviction, the dangerous dog shall be destroyed  
 >by lethal injection administered by a licensed veterinarian or confined in  
 >a six-sided, escape-proof enclosure or building. The owner shall be  
 >further required to keep the dog muzzled and under the ownerUs control by  
 >a leash if the dog is outside of the building or enclosure.

>

>2. Restitution payments for destroyed livestock, domestic animals, or  
 >property shall be equal to the fair market value or replacement value  
 >whichever is greater, plus the costs incurred in replacing or attempting  
 >to replace said animals or property. In addition, any owner committing a  
 >second or subsequent violation of this section shall also be punished by a  
 >mandatory fine, equal to the minimum fine as specified in 18-1-106 for a  
 >class 2 misdemeanor.

>

>3. The owner shall not transfer ownership of a dog found to be dangerous  
 >without the prior approval from the Bureau of Animal Protection  
 >except for the purpose of euthanasia. Any change in the future

>disposition, (i.e., change of address, escape, death) shall be reported  
>immediately to the Bureau of Animal Protection. Any change not reported  
>shall result in a \$50 fine.

>

>4. The owner shall be required to permanently identify the dog found to  
>be dangerous by means of a tattoo or micro-chip and shall report to the  
>Bureau of Animal Protection and local animal control agencies, within 30  
>days of the means by which the dog has been identified and the location of  
>the animal.

>

>5. The owner shall be required to post a sign, for the public, in clear  
>view, that states, "Beware: Dangerous Dog on Premise" within 7 days.

>

>If the owner of a dangerous dog violates the aforementioned  
>recommendations, that person would be held in contempt of the court's  
>order or if ownership has been transferred for a purpose other than  
>euthanasia, the violation shall constitute a class 3 misdemeanor.

>

>The Advisory Committee further recommends that the judge be given guidance  
>and be provided with the following options to consider for use for  
>Dangerous Dog Law convictions.

>

>1. The owner be required to attend dangerous dog education classes and  
>the dog and owner attend rehabilitation training classes.

>

>- The owners would be responsible for paying the costs incurred in  
>this education.

>

> - The education would be provided by a certified animal  
>behaviorist.

>

>2. The owner of a dangerous dog would be required to obtain and show  
>proof of liability insurance, in the amount of \$100,000 to cover the  
>victim's expenses incurred in the event of future bites.

>

>3. The owner performs community service.

>

>

>

>RECOMMENDATION TWO:

>

>The advisory group made the following determinations concerning the  
>present Dangerous Dog Law:

>

>A. The current fines and penalties are adequate.

>

>B. Wolf-dog crosses are presently included under the dangerous dog law.

>

>C. The statute addresses the behavior of canines regardless of their  
>breed.

>

>D. The canine in question does not have to bite, but Rhas only to  
>demonstrate tendencies that would cause a reasonable person  
>to believe that the dog may inflict injury upon or cause the death of any  
>person or domestic animal.S

>

>E. The victims of attacks from a dangerous dog already have the  
>ability to recover losses by means of civil action.

>

>

>RECOMMENDATION THREE :

>

>The advisory group recommends creation of the Colorado Wolf-dog  
>Association.

>

>Due to the fact that wolf-dog identification is problematic, the Advisory  
>Group decided that breed specific regulations were not feasible. Other  
>states have had success in regulating the wolf-dog cross through voluntary  
>programs. The Advisory Group recommends the formation of the Colorado  
>Wolf-dog Association. This is not an endorsement of wolf-dog breeding;  
>rather the recommendation is intended to create a vehicle by which  
>education and consumer protection can be made available. The association  
>would not be a statutory requirement, but is an important part of our  
>recommendation. We went to the private sector to encourage participation  
>of wolf-dog breeders to promote voluntary self-regulation as opposed to  
>government regulation.

>

>The advisory group recognized that a wolf-dog registry program would  
>provide the platform for the following benefits:

>

>1) Prospective buyers of wolf-dogs could be provided with an agreed upon educational program, when purchasing from Colorado Wolf-dog association breeders. New buyers would be better informed as to the specific facility needed and unique training requirements of wolf-dogs, thereby improving the social and environmental well-being of the animals.

>  
>2) Licensed wolf-dog breeders, through involvement in a registry, would be better able to provide the public with proven progeny, thereby addressing the consumer protection issue. The consumer protection issue alleges that a number of crossbred or purebred dogs are being sold to the public under the pretence of being a wolf-dog cross. Since the average cost of a wolf-dog cross is higher than most purebred dogs, a situation could arise where some owners who believe they own a wolf-dog cross have actually purchased a purebred or crossbred dog. The registration program is envisioned to be a voluntary licensing program operated by the association and incorporating the use of one or more wolf-dog registries. Two registries identified were Iowolfer and the National Wolf Hybrid Association.

>  
>  
>3) Members of the Colorado Wolfdog Association would be able to self-regulate their membership, especially concerning matters involving disreputable breeders within their own group. It is anticipated that the association would establish a code of ethics to which their members would subscribe. This would promote the reputable breeding of the wolf-dog cross and provide a vehicle to discipline disreputable breeders.

>  
>The Advisory Group respectfully recommends the General Assembly fund a one-time, General Fund appropriation of up to \$10,000 to develop a video informing prospective buyers of facility requirements, training, and proper husbandry of wolf-dogs.

>  
>RECOMMENDATION FOUR:

>  
>The advisory group does not recommend any further regulation of feline hybrids due to the lack of reported incidents of human or animal attacks.

>  
>  
>



Back to  
**WOLF!**  
Magazine

## Ontario Wolf Attack Information

### CAPTIVE NON-HUMAN SOCIALIZED WOLVES KILL CARETAKER IN A CANADIAN FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESERVE.

*Based on an investigation by  
Erich Klinghammer, Ph.D. Director  
Institute of Ethology, NAWPF-WOLF PARK  
Battle Ground, IN 47920-4997. USA  
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FAX: 765 - 567-2084  
May 3, 1996*

On Thursday 18. April 1996 Ms. Patricia Wyman, 24 years old, was attacked and killed by five adult North American grey wolves (*Canis lupus ssp.*) at the HALIBURTON FOREST and WILDLIFE RESERVE, Ltd. near Haliburton, Ontario. These wolves had lived in captivity all their lives, and were not socialized to humans. Prior to the attack the wolves had always kept their distance when caretakers and others entered the wooded 15-acre enclosure. The wolves were part of a new WOLF CENTER exhibit that was established as an educational facility to foster a better appreciation of the role of wolves in the wild.

Ms. Wyman had been hired as a new caretaker of the wolves, and to run the education program. A wolf lover, she had participated in education programs at the reserve during the previous year and visited several times before being hired. She had a degree in wildlife biology from the University of Guelph, Ontario, and had assumed her new position on Monday, four days prior to April 18th. She had been in the wolf enclosure twice before, the first time with her supervisor, and once the day before when she had fed the wolves. Since these wolves had always kept their distance from people, no one expected any problems. On Wednesday Tricia told her fiancée that she felt somewhat apprehensive about the alpha male, but she did not share this concern with her supervisor or any other staff member. No one knows why she entered the enclosure by herself on Thursday.

Tricia's body was found in the late afternoon by two employees who immediately called the Ontario Provincial Police. Three officers responded to the call, and two entered the enclosure. As they approached Tricia's body, one of the wolves growled at them. This behavior is consistent with food defense. The wolves, curious, approached and circled the officers, who fired some shots in their direction. This is understandable since these men had no prior experience with wolves, and knew that these wolves had just killed a woman. Eventually six officers entered the enclosure to remove the body. The wolves had torn off all her clothing, she had multiple bite wounds, and some flesh had

<http://www.wolfpark.org/Articles/Wyman.html>

been torn from her extremities, although on the whole her body was intact. The coroner ordered that the wolves be killed the next day, and tests for rabies were to be made. (I expect the results to be negative.)

Upon hearing about this attack from a Canadian Wolf Park member via a faxed newspaper account, I called Dr. Peter Schleifenbaum, the director of the reserve, and offered my help with the investigation and analysis. My assistant, N. Osypka, and I drove to Haliburton and met with the director, other staff members, and some officials, including the detective who with his two colleagues had been the first on the scene of the attack. Based on the information we obtained, and a visit to the wolf enclosure, I came to the following conclusions as to what might have precipitated the attack:

Being new to the wolves, Ms. Wyman probably entered the enclosure to familiarize herself further with her new charges. Convinced that the wolves would keep their distance, as had been the experience of handlers since the wolves had been there, she apparently overcame her concern about the alpha wolf from the day before. The ground in the enclosure is covered with fallen trees and broken branches. I think that as the curious wolves approached, and most likely circled her, she probably tripped and fell. That is all the opportunity wolves need to attack, which they did. That she was attacked by several, and perhaps all the wolves, is attested by the fact that her clothing was strewn all over, and that she had multiple bite wounds all over her body and extremities. Tasting flesh probably triggered some feeding behavior, although generally speaking wolves avoid unfamiliar food. The scenario is based on my twenty-four year experience with captive wolves at WOLF PARK; the analysis of several other attacks, including kills of humans by captive wolves, wolf-dog hybrids, dogs; and on a review of the literature of a few, rare attacks on humans by wolves in the wild.

Tricia Wyman was an enthusiastic, young woman who considered this the ideal job she had always wanted. Her love of wolves perhaps made her a little more bold than she should have been, but she was very brave indeed. It is my hope that WOLF CENTRE will be permitted to remain open. In spite of this tragedy, wolf education in North America must go on.

I want to express my deepest sympathy to the Tricia's family, and her colleagues at the HALIBURTON FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESERVE on behalf of myself and all of us at WOLF PARK.

Acknowledgment: I wish to thank Dr. Peter Schleifenbaum, his staff and Detective Constable D.W.Smith of the OPP, and Ms. N. Osypka for their assistance in this investigation.. A more extensive report will eventually become available.

-- E.K.

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## Wolves Killing Children In India

According to a front page article by John F. Burns entitled "In India, Attacks by Wolves Spark Old Fears and Hatred" (in the Sunday, September 1, 1996 issue of *the New York Times*) wolves near Banbirpur, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India are killing children. The killings began five months ago. To date, 33 children have been carried off and 20 others have been seriously mauled. In one case a four-year-old boy was carried away by a wolf with only his head being found three days later by authorities. Thus far 10 wolves have been killed as thousands hunt for them. A bounty equivalent to \$265US will be offered for each dead wolf. Ram Lakhan Singh, a conservationist chosen to lead the effort to destroy wolves suspected of killing humans, believes that it is a single pack of wolves doing the killing and that it is due to hunger. The impact of human numbers simply has stripped the habitat of food for wolves and they have turned to human flesh in order to survive. Mr. Singh feels the wolves should be punished for their crimes. He is quoted as saying "The wolves have to learn that they cannot live next to human beings and misbehave. If they do, they must be killed." He also feels that the only way the wolf will survive in India is in sanctuaries.

The article notes that isolated incidents of wolves killing children have occurred elsewhere in India. And this worries some conservationists, because if a hysterical killing off of wolves occurs in Uttar Pradesh, it could be repeated elsewhere in India eventually resulting in the extinction of wolves there.



Wolf Kills Boy in Iran

Page 1 of 1

## Wolf Kills Boy in Iran

An AFP report dated Tehran, Dec. 29: "A starving wolf seized a four-year-old boy in a village in central Iran, dragged him to the wilderness, and devoured parts of his body, a newspaper reported Monday.

Hamed Hosseini was snatched at the courtyard of his house in Dushab village late last Tuesday as his parents helplessly watched, Kayhan daily said.

Two days later, searchers found his left leg along with pieces of his clothing outside the village, near the city of Qazvin, west of the capital. On Friday, police found the rest of his remains.

The boy's relatives complained that a growing number of wolves were seen prowling the village days and nights, but that the authorities failed to take action.

Villagers who acted on their own to kill the wolves were sentenced to heavy fines under environmental laws, they said."



### Wolf Attacks Boy in Canada

Summary of an article by Cindi Lash that appeared in the August, 28, 1996 issue of the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*.

On August 18, the Devanthal family was camping near a remote lake in Algonquin Provincial Park. At 2 am, Zach, 12, awoke the rest of the family screaming. Jagged gashes bisected his cheeks under both eyes, while other wounds gushed blood into his sleeping bag. While Zach slept, a wolf had attacked and dragged him, clamping its jaws around the Zach's face so tightly that its canine teeth penetrated his cheekbone and broke his nose in five places. There were other wounds: to his cheek and chin, a tear duct was crushed, and tissue was torn from his gums and one ear. The family then canoed for two hours in the darkness to get Zach help. He is OK now. Park officials claim no other human before Zach had been attacked by a wolf. In the week after the attack a camper's dog was killed by a wolf and two campers were forced from their campsites by a ravaging wolf. Park officials located and killed a wolf but can't be sure it is the one that attacked Zach.



### Circus Wolf Attacks Two Belgians

Page 1 of 1

### Circus Wolf Attacks Two Belgians

A news item from Reuters, BRUSSELS, Jan. 2, 1997 reports that an escaped circus wolf attacked and injured two men Dec. 30 in Vivegnis, Belgium. One man was bitten at the legs and the other suffered bites to the arms and chest. The victims required hospital treatment.

The animal was captured and taken to a zoo. Apparently, the wolf had been released on purpose.



### "Fearless" Gray Wolf Attacks Toddler in Algonquin Park

Page 1 of 1

### "Fearless" Gray Wolf Attacks Toddler in Algonquin Park

Kate Harries of The Toronto Star reported on Sept. 29, 1998 that a wolf attacked a 19 month-old boy in Algonquin Park. The wolf grabbed the boy about the rib cage and tossed him about three feet. The boy had no deep wounds, but needed stitches and was started on a series of rabies shots.

The wolf had been seen often in the campgrounds during the summer and had bitten three dogs. The animal was hunted down and killed. There have been four other wolf biting attacks on humans in the park during the past twelve years.



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# Boy Killed by Jaguar at Zoo

Sunday, December 6, 1998; 9:17 a.m. EST

PARIS (AP) -- One of two jaguars that escaped from their cage in a zoo in western France fatally bit and mauled a small boy, then attacked his father as he desperately tried to fight off the animal, officials said Sunday.

Authorities were investigating how 3-year-old Gregoire was attacked Saturday afternoon at the zoo in Doue-la-Fontaine, 150 miles southwest of Paris.

Police in the small town near Saumur killed one of the two 200-pound female jaguars and captured the other, authorities said. The Zoo Doue was immediately shut down pending the investigation.

"The child didn't pass through any security zone," said state prosecutor Yves Gambert told France Info radio. The jaguar went after the boy "the moment it came out of a small tunnel."

Repeatedly bitten in the head, the boy died of his wounds and his father was hospitalized in serious condition with mostly head wounds he suffered while battling the jaguar.

The father "acted courageously, because there wasn't much he could do, and two other children were nearby," nurse Noura Oumaziz told French television LCI.

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[Back to the top](#)

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*Oregon Dept. of Agriculture works to remove wolf hybrids from exotic animal law*

## **ODA takes steps to deregulate wolf-dog hybrids**

**March 4, 1998.** . . Over the course of the next few months, the Oregon Department of Agriculture will eliminate one problem that has "dogged" the agency in recent years: What to do about wolf hybrids.

Since 1992, ODA has considered wolf hybrids-- domestic dogs cross bred with wolves-- as exotic animals covered by state law and requiring a special permit. That definition has brought with it confusion, unresponsiveness, and ambiguity along with a host of questions that are tough to answer.

Is the animal really part wolf? If so, is it more wolf than dog? How can you tell? Is it likely to pose a threat to people? Can it be effectively vaccinated against rabies?

"Treating wolf hybrids as exotics has been impractical and unnecessary, so we are eliminating a layer of regulation," says Chuck Craig, assistant director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. "We are proposing to no longer consider wolf hybrids as an exotic animal."

ODA's plan to interpret the exotic animal law differently will allow local animal control officials to handle wolf hybrids as they see fit. The proposal is backed by the the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association and Oregon Animal Control Council.

"I think it's a very responsible way to deal with the issue because it puts the situation under local control and under behavior based management," says State Veterinarian Dr. Andrew Clark, who adds that breed specific regulation has been chock-full of problems.

Currently, ODA has issued 63 exotic animal permits statewide for wolf hybrids covering 131 animals. (Some permit owners have more than one wolf hybrid.) No doubt hundreds if not thousands more wolf hybrids are owned in Oregon but not properly permitted. There is no way to tell as designation of an animal as a wolf-dog hybrid is by owner declaration only. Clark says there is no discernible genetic difference between the hybrids and domestic dogs.

However, there are some major differences in how each is treated under the current regulations. Domestic dogs can and are required to be officially vaccinated for rabies. At this time, there is no rabies vaccine licensed for use in wolf hybrids even though they may be predominately dog rather than wolf. Another problem encountered under the current system is in responding to an escaped wolf hybrid.

"Under an ODA permit, an escape or problem with an animal requires us to deal with it," says Clark. "We do not have an enforcement capability. We do not have an impounding capability. We do not have transportation vehicles for handling such animals. To do anything, we must contact the local animal control agency. If the animal was locally regulated, it could be dealt with immediately without going through us. It can be responded to in a matter of minutes as opposed to something that has to be negotiated between agencies which can take days."

There were at least two instances last year when responding to wolf hybrids on the loose or facing

neglect had to wait while ODA and local animal control agencies wrestled with the issue of who can and should respond. Turning control of wolf hybrids to local authorities will eliminate such tangles in the future.

There is also the issue of caging the animals. Exotics as permitted by ODA are required to be kept in a special holding facility and not allowed to be out of the cage except to be transported to a veterinarian. By deregulating wolf hybrids, counties will be allowed to treat them as dogs, thus eliminating the caging requirements.

"Breed specific regulations are fraught with problems as opposed to behavior based regulation, which normal, local dog control ordinances are," says Clark. "If the animal is nice and well behaved, fine. If it is a nasty, mean and vicious animal-- be it a pit bull, rottweiler, German shepherd, cocker spaniel or wolf hybrid-- then it is a nasty, mean animal that should be treated as such."

Dangerous dog ordinances already exist in counties and can be applied to cover wolf hybrids that may be a problem.

Clark and others don't believe wolf hybrids will be any more of a public safety threat if no longer considered an exotic animal in Oregon.

"There have been wolf hybrid attacks on humans, but that has been the case with most other dog breeds as well," he says. "There is no place in dog control ordinances that allows any dog to run free and be a nuisance. If wolf hybrids fall under dog control ordinances, they are not allowed to run free any more than other dogs are allowed to run free. There is responsibility on the part of the owner of any canine--dog or wolf hybrid-- to control the animal and not let it be a nuisance."

Behavior based management of all canines makes the most sense to Clark, local animal control agencies, most veterinarians, and probably a majority of dog owners.

"There is documentation of a chihuahua that killed a person," says Clark. "I don't know the details. But does that mean we should have a large chain link fence for all chihuahuas? If wolf hybrids are under local regulation, the local community can either accept them as dogs under dog control ordinances or create any other ordinance they wish. If they want tighter control-- including special caging requirements or other controls-- they can do so already. That's in statute right now."

Although the debate still rages as to the inherent qualities of wolf hybrids-- are they really more predatory or are they actually more shy and retiring?-- ODA's intent is to allow Oregonians to own wolf hybrids but in a manner in which they can be properly controlled. By treating them as exotics, the only control of the animal is to require its confinement to a cage. Clark and others feel there are better ways.

For more information, contact Dr. Andrew Clark at (503) 986-4680.

Testimony  
*on*  
HB 1148, regarding Wild Animals

*before the*  
House Agriculture Committee

*by*  
Michael J. Mullen, Department of Health

January 15, 1999

Good morning Mr. Chairman. I am Michael J. Mullen, Senior Advisor for Health Policy, Department of Health. Thank you for the opportunity to outline the Department's position in support of House Bill No. 1148, regarding the authority of the Board of Animal Health over *zoonotic* disease and the limitations on ownership of certain vicious and large carnivorous mammals. Let me highlight some of the key features of this legislation.

**The Authority of the Board of Animal Health Regarding Zoonotic Disease**

HB 1148 relates to the Board's authority to consider *zoonotic* diseases when granting a license or permit to import or keep animals in North Dakota. This aspect of the bill is primarily intended to clarify the Board's authority to consider the health risks posed by certain exotic animals. Under current law, the Board is given explicit statutory authority to protect the health of livestock and wildlife in North Dakota, but has no explicit authority to consider the risk to *human health* posed by any species of animal, or any particular animal or group of animals, if an application for a permit or license to import or keep those animals is presented to the Board.

It is important to note that the purpose of the Board's rules regarding nontraditional livestock is "to prevent the introduction and spread of disease or parasite harmful to *humans* and animals." N.D. Admin. Code § 48-12-01-01(1). The bill simply places this purpose clearly and firmly in the Board's statutory charter.

Section 1 of the bill gives the Board this authority and also provides that the Department of Health shall provide *assistance and staff support* to the Board with regard to this responsibility. The Department of Health is very aware of the Board's concern about being required to undertake new responsibilities when the State Veterinarian and Deputy State Veterinarian are already stretched quite thin. That is why the Department was and is willing to commit a portion of a staff member's time to assist the Board in its consideration of these issues. I have an amendment to this section, which we have reviewed with the State Veterinarian, that clarifies it is the Department of Health's responsibility to evaluate the risk of *zoonotic* disease, and the Board of Animal Health's duty to assist the Department in this endeavor. This shifts the primary workload to the Department of Health. We would urge the Committee to adopt this amendment.

### **Keeping Certain Wild Animals Prohibited**

The second provision of HB 1148 that I will discuss would prohibit the ownership of certain large or vicious carnivorous animals. Section 3 of the bill amends section 36-01-08.4, which currently prohibits a person from keeping a skunk or raccoon. Those limitations were enacted in 1997 as part of House Bill 1182.

As introduced, HB 1182 also prohibited the ownership of a wolf or wolf hybrid, and non-human primates. But, the latter categories were deleted from the bill during the course of its consideration by the Legislative Assembly. Most of the discussions surrounding the four species of carnivores prohibited under the 1997 measure related to the risk of rabies.

In contrast to that bill, the rationale for the current proposed legislation is the physical danger posed by large or vicious carnivorous animals. Thus, under this bill, HB 1148, a person is prohibited from keeping a wolf, wolf hybrid, mountain lion, tiger, bear, wolverine, or any other carnivorous animal of a species (other than a dog) in which the average weight of the adult male is more than 80 pounds (36.3 kg). Also, in contrast to the prior bill, however, this limitation on the ownership or keeping of large carnivorous animals does *not apply* to a “licensed animal breeder or fur grower.” In other words, the primary thrust of this legislation is to prohibit the ownership of a large carnivorous animal as a pet. And, the Board would, under its rulemaking authority, be authorized to issue guidelines defining what constitutes an “animal breeder or fur grower” in a manner that would allow legitimate, *bona fide* animal breeders and fur growers to continue their operations.

The basis for the limitation on owning wild carnivorous animals [except by a zoo, or by an animal breeder or fur grower] is that these large carnivorous animals present a physical threat to public safety and are not “domesticated animals” suitable for living in close proximity to human populations. In Minot last summer, a Bengal Tiger attacked a child following a “picture session” at the State Fair.

The next day a woman in California was attacked and mauled in a similar manner by a tiger. The exhibit attached to my testimony gives examples of attacks by wolves and other animals on humans.

Section 3 would also prohibit the ownership of non-human primates, such as a monkey or ape. The National Association of *Primatologists* recommends the enactment of laws that prohibit the ownership of non-human primates because these animals require special care and feeding and because there is a risk of zoonotic disease, such as tuberculosis, that can be transferred from non-human primates to humans. Recently, a primate researcher died when fluid from primate was splashed in her eye, resulting in an illness whose cause remained unknown until it was too late to save her life. (It is important to note, however, that the legislation does not affect the right of a zoo or an animal breeder [who keeps such animals to help preserve a rare species] from continuing to possess a non-human primate. )

Finally, the last sentence of section 2 of the bill provides that the limitation on owning or keeping a carnivorous animal or non-human primate does not apply to any wolf hybrid or non-human primate that is lawfully licensed and kept in North Dakota before January 1, 1999, if that animal is spayed or neutered before January 1, 2000.

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Mr. Chairman, this completes my formal testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you have regarding the proposed legislation.