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While I am opposed to using dogs in any way to hunt wolves, I will restrict my comments here to the proposed regulations regarding the use of dogs when hunting wolves, as described in Act 169.

I am a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and Adjunct Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, teaching Zoology 335, "The Biology and Philosophy of Human/Animal Relationships." I have worked for 24 years as an expert in canine behavior, specializing in the evaluation and treatment of aggression. I am an author of 13 books about canine behavior and our relationship with dogs, and travel around the world speaking to veterinarians, professional dog trainers and sports dog fanciers about canine behavior. I have worked with thousands of owners of canids, from families with Border collies who bite the delivery person, to police dog handlers whose dogs won't release their prey on cue, to hunting dog owners whose dogs growl at strangers, to owners of wolf-dog hybrids whose "pets" killed the dog next door.

In my professional opinion, as a zoologist and a certified applied animal behaviorist, the proposed regulations will inevitably result in egregious pain and suffering of both dogs and wolves and violate Wisconsin Statute 951 regarding animal cruelty.

The regulations state that dogs can be used to "track and trail" wolves, however there are no provisions that will protect dogs from being attacked by wolves themselves, nor ones that will prevent direct confrontations between wolves and dogs.

As written, the regulations would allow dogs to range at great distances away from their handlers, which puts the dogs at significant risk from attacks by wolves. Dogs used presently for bear and coon hunting often range so far out of handler control that they wear collars with GPS locational devices. Without restrictions, dogs used in similar ways to intentionally seek out wolves have a high likelihood of confronting wolves far from the intervention of their handler or the inhibiting presence of a human.

An animal's response to running dogs is often species specific: Wolves do not climb trees like bears and raccoons often do, and unlike bears and wolves, they are often found in groups rather than alone. Nor are they likely to respond by 'going to ground' like a large cat or fox. As highly territorial and pack-living animals who defend their resources by attacking any canid-like creature (from other wolves to coyotes to dogs), wolves are far more likely to respond by turning and fighting. This is not a random claim; both scientific studies (Ruid 2009 for example) and the reports of hunters confirm that wolves can and do attack dogs.

Ironically, one of the arguments made in defense of the wolf hunt is to decrease the potential of more injurious wolf/dog interactions. Purposefully sending dogs into wolf territory appears to defeat that goal. Certainly there is ample evidence that wolves attack dogs when dogs enter their territory: according to reports in 2010 alone hunters filed 19

claims for dogs killed by wolves. In the same year, 6 companion dogs were also killed and 10 badly injured by wolves.

In addition, suggestions that dogs can be trained to avoid confrontations with wolves are unrealistic. No dog trainer with any degree of credibility would argue that training can result in 100% compliance, especially under highly stimulating and perhaps threatening circumstances. Field trial champion retrievers, worth \$20,000 and over with years of training and trained by the country's top trainers, do not do everything perfectly every time. Neither do the most highly skilled and best-paid athletes of our own species. But mistakes by quarterbacks or basketball players are not fatal. Nor would any level of training, no matter how effective, protect of dog from a wolf's attack.

Thus, the conditions are ripe for what would be little more than state-sponsored dog fighting.

Without more provisions for protecting both dogs and wolves from what behaviorists, wildlife ecologists and many hunters believe will be frequent and violent confrontations, the regulations (or lack of them) proposed are in violation of Wisconsin Statute 951, are anathema to the public, an embarrassment to the State of Wisconsin, an insult to responsible hunters, and perhaps worst of all, a betrayal of man's best friend.

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