



moving forward
for wildlife

with science &
the majority

IN LOVING MEMORY



Celebrating the life of
Woody, our long-time MVP

To be honest, we couldn't continue the painful work of advocating against the slaughter of wildlife if we didn't surround ourselves with the sweetest creatures we know—dogs and cats who shower us with love and provide daily inspiration and delight.

Our dear dog Woody, who departed this year, was a testament to tenacity and joy. Part border collie and part Australian shepherd, Woody lived to well over 15 (birthdate unknown). In his younger years he loved to climb trees, chasing squirrels up to elevations of 15 feet!

Woody beat death multiple times, thanks to miraculous medical interventions. But his body finally wore out. Saying goodbye was heartbreaking, to say the least, but as Woody was a workaholic, we take comfort in thinking he went to work on our behalf behind the scenes and helped us find Hannah, who came to us all the way from "death row" in Thailand.

Meet Hannah, our newest team member! See pg. 4.

December 2019

Courage and Action Are Contagious. They're What Our Future Requires.

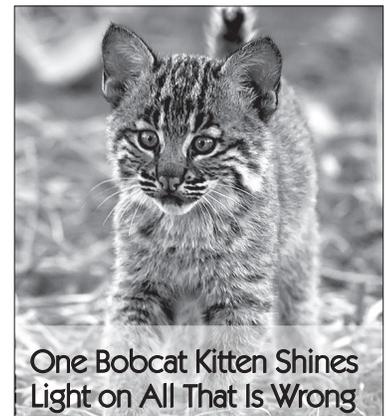
Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

We are facing a future on this planet where a positive outcome is far from guaranteed. Global environmental catastrophe is a genuine possibility. To prevent this from becoming reality requires far more than hope and prayers and compromise. It requires genuine courage. And action.

The good news is people are rising up around the globe in protest of the old guard's obsolete death grip on the economy and the environment. A huge number of young people have decided that not only is enough enough, but they need to be the change they wish to see in the world NOW. Examples abound, but are personified in people like:

- Melati and Isabel Wijsen, who at age 10 and 12 formed the nonprofit Bye Bye Plastic Bags and got them banned in Indonesia; now leading a global movement to end single-use plastics.
- Greta Thunberg, the young Swede with a "superpower" called Asbergers, whose school strike for climate at age 14 sparked a viral global movement.
- Jamie Margolin, who tired of politicians not listening to youth voices at age 14 and founded Zero Hour, an intersectional movement of youth activists fighting for a livable planet.

While most of our supporters are adults over 50, we are currently ramping up efforts to share our expertise and passion for native predators with young people. We are working on mentoring students and engaging youth in real-life experiences with wildlife. We want them to understand the importance of the natural world they have such a vested



One Bobcat Kitten Shines Light on All That Is Wrong

In October a curious, likely orphaned, bobcat kitten entered a school office in Eugene, OR. Police captured it and assured the school it would be released. Instead they killed it via "blunt force trauma" to the head. In our 30 years responding to wildlife atrocities, we've never seen outrage and compassion like the public expressed over this barbaric act, which epitomizes the mindset that must change. See pgs. 2-3.



— cont. on page 4

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Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990



Let's Make the Kitten's Death Count

We want what happened at the Oak Hill School to never happen again. We want this bobcat kitten's death to change how Oregon handles wildlife. We testified to this end to legislators at a special hearing. We also coordinated a petition to Governor Kate Brown, signed by 62 veterinarians from around the state. Both the Governor and the House Natural Resources Committee have asked for recommendations to improve how wildlife incidents are handled. We've urged that they:

1. Undertake a full investigation, hold the individuals involved responsible for any policy violations, and train them in humane methods of handling animals that also exclude unnecessary death.
2. Establish explicit protocols on how to humanely respond to wildlife and domestic animal incidents.
3. Require that all agencies responding to calls about wildlife receive full training in humane and veterinary-approved handling of animals.

We encourage you to join us by sharing your thoughts with Governor Brown. You can also support our efforts by donating today at predatordefense.org.

Bobcat Kitten at Oregon School Was Not "Euthanized," Nor Was It Killed "Humanely"

Case emblematic of nationwide problem with wildlife agencies. Public outraged, Veterinarians around state join our push for reform.

The bludgeoning of a bobcat kitten that naively wandered into an office at the Oak Hill School, located near a wooded area at the edge of Eugene, Oregon, prompted more outraged and grief-stricken calls and emails than we've ever received on any issue. The kitten's only crime was being curious or hungry...and most likely orphaned. But wildlife officials immediately called the kitten's behavior "abnormal" (it was not) and killed it within minutes via blunt force trauma to the head, claiming they "humanely euthanized" it. They did no such thing.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), euthanasia is only applicable for putting down seriously injured, sick or diseased animals. And blunt force trauma to the head is a method of last resort and only appropriate for much smaller animals. Veterinarians across the state agree that "blunt force trauma to the head" does not qualify as humane. That means vets across the state disagree with Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's vet, who has refused to acknowledge that blunt force trauma to the head was inhumane.

The best approach for this bobcat kitten would almost certainly have been evaluation by a qualified veterinarian, followed by release, relocation, or placement in a wildlife rehabilitation center.

Unfortunately the media, agency officials and legislators became overly focused on whether the kitten was "humanely euthanized," thus distracting from the fact that it should almost certainly never have been killed in the first place. It was not examined by a veterinarian to determine if it qualified for euthanasia. And no necropsy was performed after the fact to determine its condition.

This case is yet another egregious example of the attitudes and behaviors of state wildlife agencies around the country. Their solution is to kill. By saying they "humanely euthanized" the bobcat kitten, they showed how they completely misuse language to conceal their brutality from the public. They are known for routinely claiming public safety concerns and using euphemisms like "manage, take, cull, harvest" to conceal their brute killing of wildlife in general.

We spent countless hours responding and mobilizing the public and media to call out wildlife officials for their unconscionable behavior. We are thankful that countless people did so. We also submitted a petition to Governor Kate Brown, signed by 62 Oregon veterinarians from both rural and urban areas and coordinated with the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, available at www.predatordefense.org. Read our director's testimony to Oregon legislators at a special hearing on pg. 3.



Read media coverage of this incident and learn about our work to hold wildlife officials responsible and reform their policies at predatordefense.org.

OREGON NEWS
A bobcat wandered into an Oregon school. State agencies killed it, and people want to know why.

Our Testimony on Inhumane, Unnecessary Killing of Bobcat Kitten

Presented Nov. 20, 2019 by Brooks Fahy, Executive Director of Predator Defense, to the House Interim Committee on Natural Resources at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem



Oct. 15, 2019 - Police removing bobcat kitten from school using catch pole shortly before killing it.

"I am here today to tell you why the bobcat kitten that entered the Oak Hill School in Eugene on October 15, 2019 should not have been killed.

The reason is simple. While this kitten wasn't exhibiting stereotypical behavior, it was not acting "abnormally" for an animal that was almost certainly orphaned.

The claim by the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and the Oregon State Police that the kitten was somehow "off" is simply how they are continuing to avoid acknowledging the truth of the situation. They grossly over-reacted to an animal that posed absolutely no threat to anyone.

I say this from over 40 years of experience working hands-on with wildlife. I am formally trained in handling wild animals—wolves, cougars, bears, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, and more. I've also been trained and certified in humane euthanasia.

For the past 30 years I've been director of Predator Defense, a national wildlife advocacy nonprofit based in Eugene. I started Predator Defense as a wildlife hospital, dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of predator mammals. At the time we were the only facility in Oregon that specialized in predator rehabilitation. We received animals from ODFW, OSP, ODOT, humane societies, animal control agencies, veterinary clinics, and the general public.

We also ran a 24-hour hotline for people to call if they had a wildlife emergency or questions.

During those years we received a large number of animals that were orphaned due to their mothers being shot, trapped, or hit by vehicles...or taken out of the wild by well-intentioned people trying to help. I've lost count of how many times I've seen wild orphans desperate for food do what this little bobcat kitten in Eugene did.

But in my entire lifetime working with wildlife I've never seen a more brutal, callous example of an agency's indifference to an animal in need of a little help than what ODFW and OSP did with this bobcat kitten.

Instead of the kitten receiving a helping hand and a little compassion—like being let out the window, relocated, or sent to a wildlife rehabilitation center—it was treated with extreme brutality. ODFW and OSP never came close to exhibiting compassion or using common-sense. It was a situation that would have been very easy to handle.

One of many things that stuns me about this incident is that no staff from the ODFW office in Springfield bothered to drive just five miles to the school to assess the situation. They simply let OSP kill the bobcat.

So what could have been a great teaching moment for the kids in proper handling of wildlife instead instilled them with fear and taught them that senseless killing is OK.

Unfortunately, my long experience dealing with ODFW has shown me that this is not an isolated incident. Most cases go unnoticed because ODFW says they "euthanized" the animal "humanely." But bashing an animal on the head is NOT humane. And killing an animal that wasn't badly injured, sick or diseased does NOT qualify as euthanasia.

The killing of the bobcat kitten demonstrates how disconnected ODFW is from the sentiments of the general public. It is a symptom of a much bigger problem within this agency that sees animals almost strictly as things you control and kill. Sadly, the kitten-killing is no surprise to those of us who have been working to reform ODFW for decades.

If this tragic case hadn't been caught on video, no one would have ever known about it. Thankfully, it was. My organization has never received as many phone calls and emails of outrage from the public in a one-month period than we have on this incident. It struck a chord statewide.

Part of our response was to rally veterinarians around the state to demand change. Together we have petitioned the governor for a full investigation, to hold the individuals involved responsible for any policy violations, and to make sure all staff who respond to wildlife incidents be trained in humane methods.

The vast majority of us want to make sure this kind of senseless killing never happens again. We want our wildlife officials to listen to the will of the people and BECOME HUMANE."

Help us instill a passion for wildlife and wild places in the younger generation. Donate today at predatordefense.org.

Timeless Food for Thought from Naturalist Henry Beston

"We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals.

"Remote from universal nature and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion.

"We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate for having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein do we err.

"For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with the extension of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear.

"They are not brethren, they are not underlings: they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth."

– Henry Beston, *"The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod"*

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, *cont. from page 1*

interest in saving. The stakes couldn't be higher. Here's one of countless examples..

Delusional, Obstinate EPA Reapproves Sodium Cyanide Use in M-44s

The Trump "administration" has yet again shown their overarching strategy for governing—delusion, obstinacy, endangering the public good and the environment, and ignoring the will of the people. This month the EPA reauthorized sodium cyanide use in M-44 devices, assuring the public they've made them safer by tightening up use restrictions. As we've said so many times, these "cyanide bombs" used for predator control can never be made safe and must be banned nationwide. M-44s are indiscriminate killers. There is almost nowhere in the great outdoors that wild animals, dogs and people do not go. Warning signs will not prevent animals and (potentially) young children from being killed, as they cannot read them. Over 99% of the public who submitted comments to the EPA agree with us.

While M-44s are still used in 13 states, we have had successes. M-44s are banned in Oregon, Washington, and California; a temporary moratorium continues in Idaho; and they have been banned on public lands in Colorado and Wyoming. We will continue to work at the state, local and federal level to ban these public safety menaces across the country.

Next Year We Turn 30! Here's How You Can Help Us Celebrate!

As you may know, we've long been the tip of the spear in the war for sane wildlife policies, waging hard-fought battles against USDA's Wildlife Services program. As we enter our 30th year in 2020, we continue to need your support bringing about reform. You can help tremendously by making a donation. We also need more "boots on the ground." Specifically, whenever you hear of a wildlife atrocity or plan to kill predators, call/write your elected officials and radio and TV stations and enlighten them. This is vital, as many still buy the propaganda fed to them by wildlife agencies. Also, please urge your governor to appoint conservation biologists to your state wildlife commissions, not just hunters and ranchers. Together, we can do this!

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director

PREDATOR DEFENSE



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*Predator Defense is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Donations are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines.*

Happy Holidays from Hannah, Our New Forward-Charging, Alpha Female!



Pictured: Brooks Fahy (Director) with Danny (black Labrador/Doberman mix) and new team member Hannah (Rhodesian ridgeback/mystery mix).