

# DOGS UNDER ATTACK

## THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE OLDEST FRIENDSHIP IN HISTORY

**T**here is an almost decade-old fight to destroy the use of dogs, not just in the act of hunting, but to literally destroy the millennial-old bonds between us and them. This attack is being led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and a whole cast of other anti-hunting, anti-dog non-profits. Their attack is based on a malignant view of the human-dog relationship and is cloaked in a lie that purports dog safety. This should sound painfully familiar to law-abiding citizens who see their gun rights eroded to the gun grabbers' lie of "gun safety."



**BY RICK  
TRAVIS**  
LEGISLATIVE  
DIRECTOR

### THE HUMAN-DOG RELATIONSHIP

To set the record straight, we need to look at the human-dog relationship based on science and not emotional dogma, then explore the actual attack and note the fallacies and finish with how you can preserve the world's oldest friendship.

The oldest relationship between humans and any other species according to science is that of the human and domesticated dog. The reigning theory is that friendlier versions of wolves who scavenged near human trash piles made the first move to become our friends, according to a *National Geographic* article published on March 3, 2013. Since then, there have been countless articles, documentaries and even the 2018 "Alpha" movie that attempts to portray one version of that first contact.

It is important to note that somewhere between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago, gray wolves and dogs diverged from a now extinct species

of wolves. The result is that wolves and domesticated dogs share 99% of their DNA, and all the differences from a Chihuahua to Malamute to a German Shorthaired Pointer to a Labrador Retriever are found in that remaining 1% of their DNA. That incredible diversity, according to the Smithsonian Institute on August 15, 2018, is due to "survival of the friendliest" versus "survival of the fittest."

Humans saw aggressive wolves as a fellow apex predator and thus competition. The "friendly" theory suggests that wolves self-domesticated. They did this by learning to read human facial and hand gestures. This skill is largely responsible for all the variations we see today. Dogs learned to adapt and evolve to our needs. In the case of my hunting lab, he provides the family with game meat, but make no mistake, he eats more in a year than he provides in a season of hunting. Dogs have learned to get the better deal.





(SHUTTERSTOCK)

ifornia Fish and Game Commission and within the California legislature to remove dogs from the field. All of this is to bring an end to hunting once and for all by the anti-hunting crowd and is part of a larger rewilding effort by those same groups.

The current set of HSUS proposals being moved nationwide from the Carolinas to California involves the use of the word *pain*. Pain for humans varies from person to person. I served as a medic for decades and can tell you that for almost every injury, I have asked humans to give me different ratings on a 1-10 scale. My point is measuring pain is a subjective process without direct scientific testing. HSUS argues that a dog feels pain exactly like we humans do. They define pain as anything that causes an emotional or physical state ranging from mild discomfort to excruciation. The use of choke chains, leashes, e-collars, cages, pens, or any other method that would influence a dog's behavior could lead to prosecution of the dog owner. (For the record, there are a series of attempts to remove your ability to possess any animal as a pet.)

**HSUS PROPOSALS**

In 2012, California Senate Bill (SB) 1221 was introduced to end the use of hounds for hunting bears. Many sporting dog enthusiasts did not get involved in defending houndsmen






as they did not see it as their cause. Many argued at the time that HSUS would be back to go after other dogs in the field. Since the passage of SB 1221 in California, we have witnessed several attempts at the Cal-



**VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

Donate your car, truck, RV or Boat to the CRPA Foundation to support our ongoing commitment to inform and educate all Californians and California gun owners of their constitutional rights. We'll make it easy for you to donate with your free scheduled pick-up, and you may even qualify for a tax deduction! Visit us online at [crpa-foundation.careasy.org/home.html](http://crpa-foundation.careasy.org/home.html).

**WE ACCEPT ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES:**

 <b>CARS</b>	 <b>MOTORCYCLES</b>	 <b>BOATS</b>
 <b>TRUCKS</b>	 <b>TRAILERS</b>	 <b>AND MORE!</b>

**HOW IT WORKS**

- 1** Call us at **833-200-CRPA** or **833-200-2772**.
- 2** We will tow your vehicle at no cost to you!
- 3** Get a tax deductible receipt and help our cause.



The comparison of pain when it's convenient is a hallmark of the failed logic and science behind HSUS and other anti-hunting groups. When humans train in gyms, academia, sports, military, and other endeavors, they experience a level of pain and/or stress. That experience in the vast majority of situations leads to a better outcome for the individual as well as the group.

HSUS is not just introducing this one bill nationwide but a series of bills that will make it cumbersome and economically infeasible to own a dog. **One proposed bill says that most dog houses, blankets and other types of pet housing are uncomfortable to a dog, and that's why they circle their beds.** The scientific fact is, dogs do this instinctually to position themselves to ward off an attack in the wild. HSUS claims in the public they have researched the perfect

housing, but it is not based on science. Their proposal for your dog shelter and compliance is nothing short of egregious.

No one likes or approves of puppy mills, and many laws have been enacted to rid us of the practice. The fact is that HSUS cannot continue to fundraise off a problem that is largely solved, so they now are attempting to define anyone who has a litter of puppies as a commercial breeder. Their legislation calls anyone who transfers four or more puppies a commercial breeder. If my lab has a litter, I cannot tell her not to have more than three pups (for the record the average litter for a lab is seven to eight puppies). The craziness continues with proposals in several states to give your neighbor the right to call for an attorney to represent your dog if they feel the dog is not happy. The end goals are to change the

culture of the human-dog relationship by legislating it out of existence. This should not be a surprise to gun owners who are witnessing the same tactic on our culture.

**TAKE A STAND**

The time has come for all of us to stand as one against the anti-hunting and anti-dog ownership community. This fight will be brutal as we move to preserve our oldest friendship and traditions. The California Rifle and Pistol Association has local chapters statewide where you can become involved in this fight by contacting us at [contact@crpa.org](mailto:contact@crpa.org). We need your sporting clubs and dog clubs to reach out and contact us to build a coalition to stop HSUS in California. The CRPA will fight this at every level from the Fish and Game Commission to the courtroom. **CRPA**

# HUNTERS' CODE OF ETHICS

- Follow the rules of firearm and hunting safety. Insist that fellow hunters do the same.
- Respect the environment and wildlife. Study the ecosystem. Tread lightly. Leave no trash behind.
- Do not waste game or fish. Make full use of any animal taken. Take only what you will use, even if it is under the legal limit.
- Use only fair and humane

- methods of taking wildlife. Develop your hunting and shooting skills as necessary to ensure clean, sportsmanlike kills.
- Know your fitness, skill and equipment limitations. Hunt within those limits.
- Obey all hunting regulations. Hunt with the appropriate license and tags only in allowed areas during designated times and seasons. Obey bag and

possession limits. Use only legal hunting methods and equipment. Report game law violations immediately.

- Ask landowner for permission to hunt and respect the land. Close any gates you open. Say thank you.
- Be considerate of non-hunters' sensibilities. Strive to leave them with positive images of hunting and hunters.
- Don't flaunt your kill. Be as discreet as possible. Treat game carcasses

in an inoffensive manner, particularly during transport.

- Generally conduct yourself in a sportsmanlike manner. Hunt according to "fair chase." Require the same of your hunting partners.
- Support NAM wildlife conservation programs and urge policymakers to support strong NAM-based conservation initiatives.
- Teach others the skills, techniques, rules and ethics of hunting. Pass these ethical hunting practices along to younger hunters.



**HUNTERS ARE THE TRUE CONSERVATIONISTS!**