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A Veterinarian's Perspective

"I first met Brooks Fahy back in the 1980's at my veterinary clinic near Portland. At that time he was working as a homebuilder, but he rescued and rehabilitated orphaned coyotes and other wild animals on the side.

Fast forward to 2011 when I was already retired from veterinary medicine and had moved to Central Oregon. Caring for mainly dogs and cats for decades (and occasionally treating wild birds), I obviously had a passion for animals. So it was an easy transition to my advocating for wildlife, with an emphasis on our wild carnivores like the wolf, coyote, cougar, and grizzly, which have been vilified for many decades. As letter-writing to protest what our wildlife agencies were doing to harm these top predators became almost a second occupation for me, I started joining multiple conservation groups for help on this.

Enter Predator Defense and Brooks. In 2011 when I initially connected with Predator Defense's website, noticing that Brooks was its executive director, I just had to call him and ask him if he remembered me from almost 25 years ago. That call significantly connected me once again to Brooks, whose passion for our wild carnivores is unmatched. He is a trailblazer of sorts in a world of many reactive vs. proactive small and large nonprofits. His proactive "boots on the ground" philosophy of going directly to the source of the problem, whether it be a dog poisoned by contact with an M-44 cyanide device, an animal caught in a trap, or a wolf shot illegally or under suspicious circumstances, has always been his "modus operandi." As director of Predator Defense, Brooks reforms outdated myths and unfounded beliefs about wild carnivores, and

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fights animal cruelty from the ground up, using science proven from peer-reviewed research conducted by wildlife biologists and ecologists, and using his own experience working hands-on with wildlife since he was a young boy.

Don't laugh, but if I had to assign Brooks' personality to a specific breed of dog (remember I am a veterinarian!), it would be a Border Collie...focused, alert, tenacious, intelligent, a non-stop analytical problem solver who fights 24/7 for the purpose of ending cruelty aimed at our wild carnivores and making coexistence with them a primary goal. Three decades of never giving up has awarded him significant wins. These include:

- (1) making award-winning documentary films where national exposure, even at the U.S. Capitol, publicized whistle-blowers' exposés about animal cruelty promulgated by our own federal agencies, such as Wildlife Services;
- (2) achieving passage of a law banning M-44 use in Oregon;
- (3) his "dogged" determination to fight the cruelty of trapping; and
- (4) his unwavering upholding the right of wolves to live in the habitat they originally were a part of. This is evident in the state of Washington, where massive anti-wolf rhetoric is coming from the agricultural/ranching

lobbyists, legislators, and state wildlife agencies who wish to delete the wolf from its rightful place in its former habitat.

Brooks, your unyielding soul to protect the rights of wild carnivores to exist, and for animals in general not to be harmed by cruel methods, touches and binds to my soul. Carry on for the animals!"

- Donna Harris, D.V.M.