



Bachman Bay Outdoors LLC

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Dear ODFW Commission Members,

We are writing to petition the ODFW Commission for an exception to an existing Oregon statute. We would like to train dogs to avoid porcupines in the wild by using live captive porcupines. This avoidance training is commonly done in other states to protect working livestock dogs, hunting dogs and pets. In our research, we have discovered that this is not legal in the state of Oregon. Under current statutes and rules, this activity would be illegal based on Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 498.006 and OAR 635-044-0500. We have included the statute and rule below.

ORS 498.006 Chasing or harassing wildlife prohibited.

Except as the State Fish and Wildlife Commission by rule may provide otherwise, no person shall, chase, harass, molest, worry or disturb, any wildlife except while engaged in the lawfully angling for, taking, hunting or trapping such wildlife.

OAR 635-044-0500

(A) (f) Captive wildlife may not be restrained with a chain, rope, hobbles or similar restraint method

(2) It is unlawful for any person possessing wildlife in their care and possession to cause or allow such wildlife to be chased, injured, harmed, harassed or neglected.

Based off this information, we would need to petition for an exception to this rule. Our goal is to use our captive porcupines to implement a porcupine aversion training course for dogs and their owners across the state of Oregon. Anyone who has ever had a dog get too close to a porcupine has seen how quickly the situation can turn devastating. Teaching porcupine aversion will help protect working dogs and pets from serious injuries or even death from quills, as well as costly veterinarian bills for their owners. The solution to this issue is relatively simple and effective. In our experience, having dogs that are trained to avoid porcupines significantly reduces the possibility of ever seeing a porcupine in the wild. When owners don't have to worry about their dog attacking a porcupine, they are much less likely to kill porcupines just because they see one. In that way, trained dogs also protect wild porcupines.

We feel that we are uniquely qualified to start helping people train their dogs to avoid porcupines. Dominic Bachman is a wildlife biologist who has been breeding and training hunting dogs for over 25 years. Jill Bachman has legally housed and trained pet porcupines for many years. A person is allowed to hold up to two porcupines as a pet in Oregon without a holding permit under OAR 635-044-0480. Porcupines make good pets, and our current porcupines are friendly and easily trainable. For many decades, dog trainers have effectively used live rattlesnakes to teach dogs to avoid them. We would use similar techniques that are used with rattlesnakes. Our porcupines would be protected in custom crates and no dogs would ever be able to physically touch or harm them. Our porcupines are accustomed to dogs coming up to their enclosures and have no fear of them. If an exemption was approved by the commission, we would apply for a wildlife exhibitor permit and we would follow the holding and cage standards found in Division 44 Exhibit A for minimum requirements to hold a porcupine. Our cages have environmental enrichments including tunnels, climbing walls, branches and several shelters. We use food enrichment activities with our porcupines and easily train them to go into their transport cages. We feed our porcupines based off the Baltimore Zoo husbandry standards.

We have a deep fondness for dogs and porcupines alike and want to do our part to help protect both species. Thank you for your consideration to our petition.

Sincerely,

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