

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OF THE WESTERN STATES

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OPPOSITION STATEMENT TO WASHINGTON HB 2861

Responsible Dog Owners of the Western States was formed October 15, 1989 to protect the civil rights, Constitutional rights, and interests of dog owners.

Responsible Dog Owners of the Western States stands in opposition to HB2861 - 2007-08 Including a wolf-hybrid in the definition of a "potentially dangerous wild animal." Sponsored by Representatives Hailey, Haler, Kretz, Schmick, and Blake.

The Canine Genome Project proved with DNA testing that all domestic dog breeds are derivative of *Canis Lupis Familiaris*, a sub-species of the Gray Wolf. In other words, all dogs are wolves. HB 2861 has the potential of creating the unintended consequence of causing all dogs to be considered "potentially dangerous wild animal"(s) in Washington state.

A true hybrid is incapable of reproducing. An example is a mule, a cross between a burro, and a horse. Mules, are true hybrids, and are incapable of reproducing. Wolves, and dogs are the same species, their offspring are capable of reproduction.

Dog ownership has been archaeologically traced back more than thirty thousand years. Tradition gives animal owners legal standing to own dogs. All animals are the ancient property of human beings. Animal husbandry is among the most ancient of professions. We, the people expect our legislators to protect our rights, and our property, not to remove those rights, and that property.

Responsible Dog Owners of the Western States respectfully requests that the Representatives sponsors withdraw HB 2861 from consideration.