

# Protect Arizona's Wild Cats From Cruel Methods



*In Arizona mountain lion and bobcats are trophy hunted in the hundreds and thousands respectively through cruel and inhumane methods such as hounding and trapping.*

## **HOUNDING IS A BARBARIC PRACTICE THAT PITS DOGS AGAINST WILDLIFE**

In Arizona, both mountain lions and bobcats can be hunted using hounds. Hounding involves chasing by packs of trailing dogs until the cat retreats into a tree or rock ledge to escape, enabling the trophy hunter to shoot the animal at close range. Hounding poses significant risk to the hounds as well as to young wildlife, including dependent kittens, who may be attacked and killed by the hounds.<sup>i</sup>



Hounds also trespass onto private lands and can disturb or kill non-target wildlife.<sup>ii</sup> Jaguars, ocelots, and lynx – or their kittens – may be chased down, injured, or killed by hounds. This practice is not fair chase and is highly controversial even among hunters.<sup>iii</sup> More than 70 percent of the mountain lions trophy-hunted in Arizona are chased with hounds.

Hounding is cruel for both the wildlife and the dogs used to chase them. Too often the dogs are treated as equipment rather than members of the family. Both the hunted animals and the dogs can be

exhausted by Arizona's extreme heat and the high-stress chase.

Hounding puts the dogs at risk of being mauled, and if dogs get lost during a hunt, they are often abandoned and left to be killed by other animals. They may be struck by vehicles, die as a result of dehydration, or be abandoned at local animal shelters.

## **TRAPPING IS INHERENTLY CRUEL**

Thousands of bobcats are legally trapped in Arizona every year, using cruel steel-jawed leg-hold traps, body-gripping traps, and snares on private land, and cage traps on public land. Trapped animals struggle to break free, resulting in significant suffering and severe injuries, if not fatalities. Trapped animals endure stress, pain, starvation, dehydration, predation and/or exposure.

Because trappers are only required to check the traps once a day, animals could be stuck in excruciating pain for hours or left in extreme weather to die from exposure.

**The public dislikes trapping, and Arizonans are no different – the majority support a prohibition on the use of leghold traps on private land.**



PHOTO: BORN FREE

Although trapping mountain lions is prohibited in Arizona, records show that mountain lions are routinely trapped inadvertently in other states where trapping is illegal. Traps are notoriously indiscriminate, and often catch other non-target animals, even endangered species.



Because of the inherently indiscriminate nature of traps, Arizona's other wild cats – jaguars, ocelots, and lynx – remain at imminent risk of being accidentally caught in traps set for bobcats on private lands.

## **BAITING LACKS SPORTSMANSHIP**

Trophy hunters and trappers can also kill bobcats with the aid of bait. Placing chunks of meat and other foods to lure a bobcat in for an easy kill flies in the face of sportsmanship. Non-target animals are also lured in by these baits, increasing the chances for disease transmission between species. Bait can be also be toxic to wildlife—meat and other bait can spoil, and either cause sickness or even mortalities.<sup>iv</sup>

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- <sup>i</sup> Lindzey, F. G., et al. 1992; Logan, K. A., and L. L. Sweanor. 2001; Elbroch, L. M., B. D. Jansen, M. M. Grigione, R. J. Sarno, and H. U. Wittmer. 2013a. Trailing hounds vs foot snares: comparing injuries to pumas *Puma concolor* captured in Chilean Patagonia. *Wildlife Biology* 19:210-216.
- <sup>ii</sup> See e.g., Hristienko, H., and J. McDonald, John E. 2007. Going in the 21st century: a perspective on trends and controversies in the management of the black bear *Ursus* 18:72-88.
- <sup>iii</sup> Teel, T. L., R. S. Krannich, and R. H. Schmidt. 2002. Utah stakeholders' attitudes toward selected cougar and black bear management practices. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 30:2-15.
- <sup>iv</sup> Sidor I (2015) "Final Report: Toxicology Results Involving Bear Mortality by Chocolate (Methylxanthines)," University of New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory UNH Case Number 14-6784; Dunkley L and Cattet MRL (2003) "A Comprehensive Review of the Ecological and Human Social Effects of Artificial Feeding and Baiting of Wildlife," Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre - Dept. of Veterinary Pathology, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1020&context=icwdmccwhcnews>; Inslerman RA et al (2006) "Baiting and Supplemental Feeding of Game Wildlife Species. The Wildlife Society.," <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Baiting06-1.pdf>, Technical Review 06-1. 58p.