

Proposers thoughts on amending Proposal 57

Please do not amend proposal 57 to include a leash on a dog to recover all fur animals!

Unlike big game, fur animals who have been shot can quickly escape and get to dens in the ground, in trees, across water etc. Just like a duck or a rabbit can quickly escape if a dog is not immediately sent, a fox, coyote, lynx etc. can also escape quickly. The idea behind using a dog to recover some of these animals includes the dog tracking for great distances in a short amount of time and then retrieving the animal back to the handler. I have much experience with this and while utilizing a leashed dog might recover the occasional wounded fur animal, it is far more likely to recover without a leash. I personally use GPS E-Collars on my dogs.

I personally had a dog recover a wounded fox that was within a few feet of its den and had the dog not been able to quickly track independent of the handler, the fox would have been lost to die in its den.

A friend of mine shot and wounded a coyote that ran off into the woods through deep snow. His dog was able to catch up to the coyote approximately 800 yards away and held it there until the handler was able to catch up and harvest the animal. Had the dog been leashed, the coyote most likely would have been lost and wasted.

Please consider my extensive knowledge and experience in using trained hunting dogs to recover all manner of game. Please do not amend proposal 57 to include a leash.

I would be fine with amending the proposal to exclude wolf and wolverine as I would not send a dog to recover one of those animals without a leash for obvious reasons.

Thank you,

Mike Harris