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February 19, 2013,

The objective of this letter is to bring to light the ethical and medical issues brought by causing death by choking as currently being done to wolves in British Columbia.

The physiological responses of the wolf and the dog are the same. Responses to hanging in dogs and cats include neurological (seizures, urination and defecation) respiratory and cardiovascular effects. The collapse of the circulatory system under controlled situations in animal models can take up to 8.5 minutes under anesthesia. The time that it can take a wolf to die from choking is likely to be longer given that it is conscious at the time of choking and the head or a limb can prevent the apparatus from working as intended. Choking can lead to the accumulation of fluid in the lungs, severe soft tissue injuries, swelling of the head due to loss of venous return and death that can take hours through an extremely painful and slow process.

I have spent the last sixteen years of my life as a veterinarian trying to reduce suffering and pain of animals and I cannot comprehend the decision made by the government of British Columbia to elicit this kind of suffering and pain to a living being and I urge the government to reconsider this policy. Other ecological and economic arguments against this nonsensical decision can also be made, but I limit my points to the medical aspects of this issue.

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