

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

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Illinois Valley News, Cave Junction

The Real Dog Problem

Like humans, dogs come in all kinds of shapes, sizes and dispositions. And like humans, a great many are of dubious character and impetuous demeanor – and of questionable value to society.

On the other hand, some are of such high value as to be priceless companions or servants of mankind, highly intelligent and so useful in many ways as to be almost indispensable.

The value of the pint-size lapdog, while not being so readily apparent to some of us, is real enough to its doting owner. Its true worth, of course lies in its ability to make its owner dote, even if at the same time it might make others grind their teeth in caninicial frustration. These multifarious mites no doubt brighten the lives of a fair-sized group of animated-toy lovers, and therefore must be considered of some value to the community.

The real dog problem in every small town or rural community lies in the great reservoir of footloose, wandering marauders whose population usually outnumbers that of the citizenry two to one. These are the unpedigreed so-called mongrels or curs – often, with undoubted justification, called other names even less affectionate. They started out as cute little puppies, occupying a prominent and meritorious position in the household, which, of course, also boasted one or more two-legged mites who needed, or at least appreciated, puppy companionship. As

the puppy reached its gangly adolescence, its prestige, especially with the grownups, started slipping. As it grew to mature doghood, being poignantly aware of the waning affection coming its way, and for reasons it considered private and would rather not have discussed, it began wandering off nights and joining the neighborhood dog gang, thenceforth to be numbered with other public nuisances, and in dire peril of the dog-catcher's net or the shotgun – or a poison-happy householder.

A pet irritation of mine is a surly-looking malamute-type fleatrap on Rockydale Road that stands silently and unblinkingly scowling at me as I drive past on my way to town. I always loose face with myself when I pass that place. He looks as though he's just itching to take some timid or unwary citizen by the seat of the britches, and I always wonder if I'd be brave enough to walk past this domain instead of safely jeeping by.

One of the commonest offenders in a community such as ours is the untrained hound-dog or thrill-seeking mutt that goes off in the near hills and woods and chases deer, sometimes catching and killing little fawns. Nearly everyone has a soft spot in his heart for the graceful doe and her dainty spotted babies, and the thought of having them molested or killed by worthless dogs is a repulsive one.

One time, many years ago, I heard a dog yapping some distance from my place. Obviously, in this isolated neighborhood, it was giving chase, and I suspected the chatee to be a deer. I stood in the door of my cabin listening

as the baying grew louder. Presently an old doe deer appeared in the lower end of the meadow, coming straight toward the cabin. It was so tired it loped along like a spavined old horse, its tongue actually hanging out. The next to make its appearance, about a hundred yards behind the deer, was a big ugly-looking pooch.

Deciding to get into the drama myself, I took my rifle down off the wall-pegs and I jacked in a load – and to this day I'm at a loss to explain what followed. It was during the Big Depression of the 30's, and I was hungry same as everybody else, but in the confusion engendered by this unfamiliar situation I shot the dog instead of the deer.

My stomach remained empty, as before,

but a rather pleasant sensation seemed to envelope my heart, and my chest swelled out till another button popped off my tattered old blue chambray.



A spike outside of Al's window.

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Busting the MYTHS on Measure 17-63

Hospital's won't be able to use Lysol = **FALSE**

Vets won't be able to treat your pet's fleas & ticks = **FALSE**

Logging will disappear from Josephine County = **FALSE**

Roadside weed control needs pesticides = **FALSE**

Houses will be overrun with pests = **FALSE**

*Please do not take our word for it, read what Measure 17-63 says:
www.freedomfrompesticidesalliance.org/measure17_63*

Voters Beware: The "official" information on Measure 17-63 is misleading and in some cases FALSE!

The *Ballot Question* and *Summary* for Measure 17-63 were drafted by the District Attorney of Josephine County in October 2013. Both the Question and Summary contain misleading and patently false information. The voters of Josephine County deserve the truth about what Measure 17-63 is and isn't vs. what the county government has colored it as.

Ballot Question: Shall Josephine County prohibit governmental and corporate entities using pesticides on all lands within Josephine County except private residential properties?

What the Ballot Question doesn't say but should:

- Measure 17-63 does not prohibit government or corporations from using all pesticides; only those needing an applicator license.
- Measure 17-63 is about protecting the right to clean air, water and soil.
- Measure 17-63 is about protecting the right not to be chemically trespassed.

Ballot Summary:

1) *Would prohibit the use of pesticides by any governmental or corporate entity on all lands within Josephine County, with the exception of private residential properties.*

FALSE: Measure 17-63 ONLY prohibits pesticides that require an applicator license. It would not stop government or corporations from using other pesticides including organic pesticides. Private, residential use of pesticides would be allowed. (Measure 17-63: Section 3b)

2) *Defines pesticides as any chemical used to destroy plant, fungal or animal pests.*

FALSE: Measure 17-63 specifically identifies "synthetic chemicals" as related to classifications of pesticides. (Meas. 17-63: Section 9f)

3) *Provides that Josephine County, a resident of the County, or a group of residents may enforce the prohibition.*

TRUE: Measure 17-63 is about our right to local self-government and having the ability to protect the rights as enumerated. (Measure 17-63: Section 4a)

4) *In any court action to enforce the measure, the natural community or ecosystem must be a named plaintiff and any damages assessed would be payable to the municipality.*

FALSE: There can be a court action that does not include natural communities or ecosystems. However, if a court action does include the natural community or ecosystem it shall be named as plaintiff, and most importantly, when damages are rewarded that they would go to the county government to be used exclusively for the restoration of that natural community or ecosystem. (Measure 17-63: Section 4b)

5) *Specifically prohibits a government or corporation holding an applicator license from engaging in the application of pesticides.*

TRUE: Measure 17-63 does that, which means that neither government or corporations can engage in the application of pesticides requiring an applicator license. **Measure 17-63 does not ban all pesticides; it is about PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND TOXIC OF PESTICIDES.** (Measure 17-63: Section 3b)

6) *Can enforce by either court action or "direct action" by a resident or group of residents, and would prohibit any "private actor" from filing civil actions against those participating in "direct action".*

FALSE: Measure 17-63 provides a direct action enforcement provision ONLY available IF the local government or the courts FAIL to enforce the rights and prohibitions of the ordinance. It is meant as a last resort to allow residents of Josephine County the ability to protect their fundamental rights as enumerated in the ordinance against the harms of certain pesticides and not be prosecuted either civilly or criminally for doing so. (Measure 17-63: Section 4c)

7) *Purports to invalidate any Josephine County, State, Federal or international law that conflicts with the measure; repeals any part of the County Code that is inconsistent with the measure.*

TRUE: Measure 17-63 would only recognize laws – county, state, federal, and international – to the extent that they do not violate the rights or prohibitions of the Ordinance. (Measure 17-63: Section 4e)



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