

A personal letter from physicians, a veterinarian, a scientist, a wildlife agent, a wildlife advocate, a former Congressman, and M-44 survivors

June 23, 2026

Mr. Doug Burgum, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Stevan Pearce, Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Burgum and Mr. Pearce,

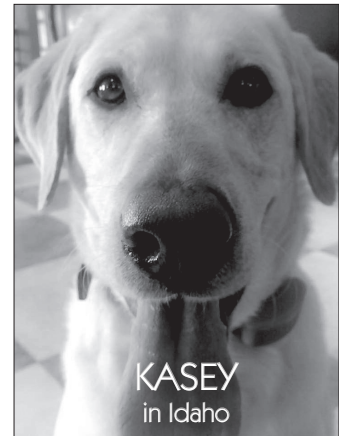
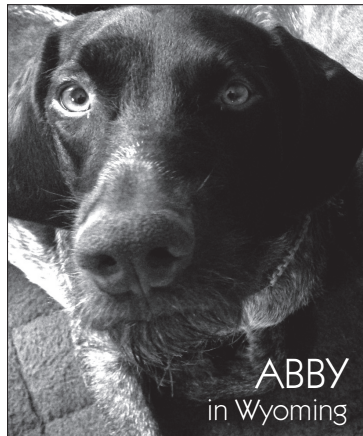
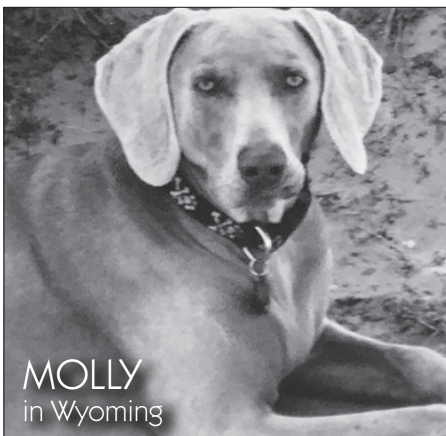
Because you are in a unique position to ensure safety for people and pets recreating on America's vast and diverse public lands, we are writing you about a legacy we hope you will want to put in place. Specifically, we hope you will take action to prevent any more unintentional poisonings and deaths on the lands you safeguard. You can do this by preventing the return of the predator control devices known as M-44 "cyanide bombs" to BLM lands.

As you may be aware, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between DOI/BLM and USDA Wildlife Services in April 2026 that will allow M-44s to be used again on BLM lands. This reverses the 2023 ban. You have likely been told that M-44s will be used sparingly, safely, and on a "case-by-case basis." But there are more people who recreate on public lands than ever before, and there is no truly safe place or method for using these devices. The reality, which we have long witnessed with victims of all types, is that M-44s are indiscriminate and warning signs are no solution. No wild animal, dog or young child can read them.

In the most prominent poisoning case that garnered worldwide attention in 2017, an M-44 barely missed killing 14-year-old Canyon Mansfield of Pocatello, Idaho (see Attachment A). While taking a customary walk with his dog on BLM land just 300 yards from his house, he saw what he thought was a sprinkler head and touched it, accidentally triggering the illicitly set poison device. The cyanide slowly killed his dog Kasey, who suffered an agonizing death right in front of him. Canyon is believed to have been spared death simply due to the direction of the wind, but suffered years of excruciating health effects from poisoning. In another 2017 incident, two Wyoming families took a favorite prairie walk on carefully mapped-out BLM land with their dogs. Unbeknownst to them, it had around 10 private acres land-locked within it, which is where they lost two of their four dogs, Molly and Abby, to unmarked M-44 devices. The distraught family members, including an 8-year-old girl, kissed their dogs as they lay dying in front of them. They were miraculously spared serious poisoning, as their dogs were the ones fully dosed. In 2003 an M-44 permanently disabled a healthy, hard-working, heavy equipment operator in Utah named Dennis Slaugh while he was recreating on BLM land. It contributed to his death in 2018 and is listed on his death certificate (see Attachment B.) These are just a few cases among many.

- cont. on pg. 2

On behalf of countless thousands poisoned by M-44 "cyanide bombs"



The dogs above died agonizing deaths by M-44s in front of family members in 2017. They are among countless thousands of dogs that have been killed by M-44s since the 1990s. During this time dozens of people have also been poisoned, some barely missing death and one suffering permanent disability leading to death. The specific number of dog deaths, cannot be fully tallied, as so many cases go unreported by USDA Wildlife Services trappers, per whistleblower reports. (See lists in Attachments C and D.)

The countless numbers of beloved family dogs that have been killed by M-44s on BLM lands are devastating. The total number is estimated to be in the thousands, but cannot be fully tallied, as so many dog deaths go unreported per whistleblower reports (see Attachments C and D). Dogs and other canids cannot resist the scent that each M-44 is baited with. This is why M-44s have also killed countless thousands of wild animals like bears, wolves and eagles, none of which were the targets of these devices.

The take-away from these reports is simple: No dog, young child, or wild animal can read a warning sign. M-44s are indiscriminate killers that cannot be used safely.

In addition to strong public sentiment against the use of M-44 devices, many ranchers don't want them used because they have livestock guardian dogs protecting their cattle and sheep full time and they don't want their dogs to die. These dogs are expensive, and decades have now been spent incorporating them for nonlethal control. The same sentiment applies for many trappers employed by USDA Wildlife Services to set M-44s; they don't like using them because they don't want to be poisoned or lose their own dog. Tragically, these trappers are afraid to go on the record, due to fear of retribution.

There are many nonlethal methods of protecting livestock that have been proven to work. And it merits mentioning that the best available science shows that killing coyotes—the intended victims of M-44s—ultimately leads to an increase in coyote populations, which means killing them is counter-productive.

Above all, we firmly believe the federal government has no justification for trying to “manage” native predators with a device that ejects one of the deadliest poisons on earth. It can never be used safely. Because USDA Wildlife Services agents primarily kill coyotes through other methods—including aerial gunning, trapping, snaring, shooting and killing pups in their dens—banning M-44 use does not stop the multiple methods of killing available.

Experts have said they fear it may take the death of a child to end the use of M-44s and, sadly, we agree. But you can prevent this from happening. Please ensure the best possible legacy for your tenure by rescinding BLM-MOU-HQ230-2026-05 and preventing countless more unnecessary deaths and poisonings.

Sincerely,



Brooks Fahy, Executive Director
Predator Defense
PO Box 5446, Eugene, OR 97405
brooks@predatordefense.org

Co-signed by:

Carter Niemeyer, Idaho, former USDA Wildlife Services Trapper & Montana District Supervisor

Peter DeFazio, U.S. Congressman, 1987-2022, Oregon

Donna Harris, DVM, veterinarian for 25 years, Oregon

Sander Orent, M.D., board certified in internal medicine & occupational/environmental medicine, Colorado

Robert Crabtree, Ph.D., conservation biologist and renowned coyote expert, Montana

Amanda Wood Kingsley, 1994 M-44 victim & survivor, Washington

Dorothy (Slaugh) Hullinger, widow of 2003 M-44 victim Dennis Slaugh, Utah

Sharyn Aguiar, mother of 2006 canine M-44 victim Max, Utah

Canyon Mansfield, 2017 M-44 victim & survivor, Idaho

Mark Mansfield, M.D., father of Canyon Mansfield, Idaho

Theresa Mansfield, mother of Canyon Mansfield, Idaho

Madison Mansfield, M.D., sister of Canyon Mansfield, Idaho

Hunter Mansfield, M.D., brother of Canyon Mansfield, Utah

**Meet some M-44 victims in the attachments and watch their film at
www.predatordefense.org/lethalcontrol.**

The Stark Reality of M-44 Use

Those who have been poisoned or lost a dog understand why M-44 “cyanide bombs” can never be used safely.

The reason is simple: M-44s are indiscriminate killers and no child, dog or wild animal can read a warning sign.

Sadly, experts agree that it’s only a matter of time until an M-44 kills a child.

Statements from M-44 “cyanide bomb” victims & survivors



“The events of April 2, 2006 are seared permanently into my memory. That’s the day my beloved German shepherd Max was lured to an M-44 set by USDA Wildlife Services on public lands. He instinctively pulled on the scented bait, activating the poison ejector. A lethal dose of cyanide was fired forcefully and flawlessly into his mouth, and he suffered an agonizing death. I am absolutely astounded that our federal government is bringing these horrendous killing devices back into use on our public lands. And I am outraged that “we the people” are ultimately the ones paying for these M-44 cyanide bombs. They have been extremely harmful to human victims and have caused the death of many beloved pets and nontarget wildlife. Public lands should not be rendered unsafe by our own government.”

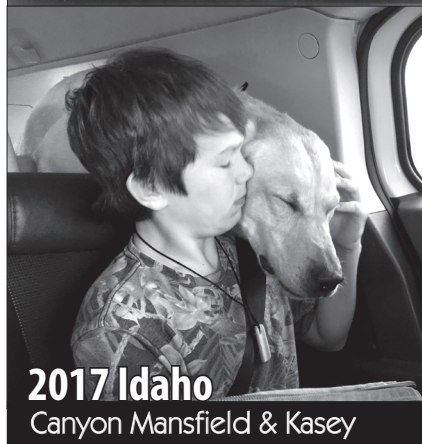
- Sharyn Aguiar, who lost Max, her dog and working companion, to an M-44 device in a BLM community pit quarry

Amanda Wood Kingsley & Ruby



“In 1994 I lost my dog Ruby and was injured myself by an M-44 cyanide device illegally set on my family’s farm near Harrisburg, OR. It took 15 horrifying minutes for Ruby to die. She was gasping and crying with her head arched back, eyes wild, fighting for air. Her strong legs thrashed and with every choking breath she let out a screaming moan. A month later I learned from the poison center that I had also suffered classic cyanide poisoning symptoms, including an irregular heartbeat and arms going numb from the shoulders down. They expressed surprise that I had survived the first 24 hours. For the federal government to now reverse the 2023 BLM ban on M-44s is nothing short of medieval. I hope they will reconsider and save other people from suffering similar or worse nightmares.”

- M-44 survivor Amanda Wood Kingsley



“I don’t want anyone else to go through the devastation of cyanide poisoning. I hope our nation’s actions can restore my previous faith in our society, that we can trust our government to protect public safety and our shared interests. That is their duty, but their actions don’t match up. When I think about it, it just leaves me sad.”

- M-44 survivor Canyon Mansfield, who lost his dog and best friend, Kasey, and was poisoned himself while taking a customary walk on BLM land just 300 yards from his house. He touched the unmarked M-44, thinking it was a sprinkler head, and lives with the knowledge that he inadvertently poisoned his own dog.

Let's make sure Dennis Slaugh's suffering and death are not in vain.



Dennis Slaugh | 2003 Utah

"My husband Dennis was poisoned while we were rock hunting on BLM land in 2003. There were no warning signs, so we were just out enjoying our day. Dennis saw what he thought was a survey marker and touched it to see what township and range it was from. It was an M-44 cyanide device and it exploded in his face. He would have been better off if the cyanide had killed him quickly, because he would not have had to endure so much suffering. But he lived another 15 years, permanently disabled and with multiple medical problems brought on by the poisoning. I don't want anyone else to succumb to the same inhumane death or near deaths that have been endured. I don't want another wife, mother, child, husband, father, grandparent, or pet owner to suffer the same type of loss. Falling victim to the effects of cyanide released from an M-44 device causes horrifying pain and suffering. Please stop using M-44s on public lands."

- Dorothy (Slaugh) Hullinger, widow of M-44 victim Dennis Slaugh



Dennis Slaugh (2nd from right) traveled to Washington, D.C., in 2008 to share his devastating story of cyanide poisoning and call for a ban on M-44 devices. During the visit he had to take multiple breaks to vomit, a side effect of the poisoning. His story brought Congressional staff to tears. Also pictured: Brooks Fahy of Predator Defense (far left), Rep. Peter DeFazio (2nd from left), Dennis' wife, Dorothy Slaugh (far right).

IN MEMORIAM



DENNIS SLAUGH, 1942-2018, Vernal, UT was a healthy, hard-working, heavy equipment operator when he was injured by an M-44 in 2003 while recreating on BLM land. The cyanide permanently disabled him and led to his death in 2018. Cyanide poisoning from an M-44 device is listed as a significant causative condition on his death certificate (see Attachment B).

Meet more victims and learn more about M-44 cyanide bombs at
www.predatordefense.org.



PREDATOR DEFENSE

Statements from the Family of 2017 Idaho M-44 Victim, Canyon Mansfield



The Mansfield family of Pocatello, Idaho, at a time before the M-44 poisoning incident on BLM land that transformed their lives.



Canyon Mansfield with his dog Kasey on the hill behind his house in the spot where he was poisoned and Kasey died on March 16, 2017.



The Mansfield family traveled to Washington, D.C. in June 2017 to urge Congress to ban M-44 devices via legislation that is now known as "Canyon's Law." Photo credit: Jenifer Morris Photography

"The decision to allow M-44s to be used on BLM lands again a mind-blowing step backwards. An M-44 cyanide bomb, set by the USDA's Wildlife Services program, stole a cherished member of my family—our dog Kasey, an irreplaceable piece of my son's innocence, and my entire community's sense of security. Canyon experienced excruciating headaches for over a month, all day long and through the night without relief for five weeks with nausea, vomiting, numbness in his hands, and crushing insomnia. We did everything we could to bring him comfort, but there are no tests for a sublethal dose of sodium cyanide and there is no effective treatment for the irreversible physical effects of cyanide poisoning, much less the accompanying emotional and psychological trauma."

- Mark Mansfield, MD,
father & family physician

"It's hard to explain the long-term emotional scares this horrific event has had on our entire family. Even though it's been nine years since that tragic day, we still have reason to be concerned about the long-term poisoning effects on Canyon. To bring back cyanide bombs to our public lands after so many tragic events is reprehensible. Please don't!"

- Theresa Mansfield, mother

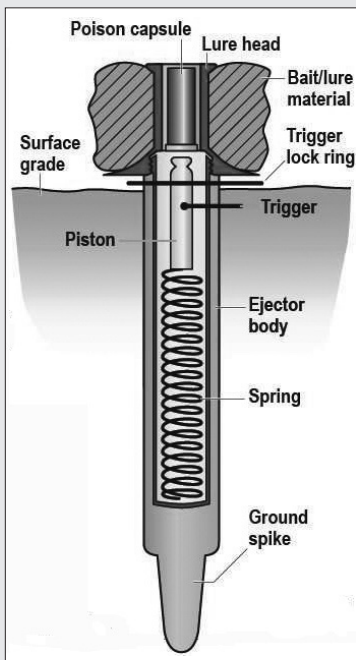
"The reversal of the M-44 cyanide bomb ban on BLM land is disgraceful to my brother, our lost dog Kasey, and Canyon's fight to make our outdoors a safer place. To think that this happened without public discourse speaks to the same rashness that led to the loss of Kasey and many other dogs. Wildlife Services showed complete incompetence when using this indiscriminate lethal tool in the first place. Now they are poised to do it again."

- Hunter Mansfield, brother

"My brother's poisoning and the loss of our dog changed my family forever. I still remember the fear and confusion that followed. In an instant, a walk on public land turned into a tragedy that killed our family dog and exposed my brother to a dangerous poison. What many people don't see is that the impact didn't end that day. Even now, nearly a decade later, the memories remain vivid and this event remains part of our family's story. The knowledge that devices capable of causing this kind of harm could be placed in areas where children, families, and pets recreate is deeply troubling. No family should have to experience the trauma, uncertainty, and loss that ours has endured because of a cyanide bomb. Bringing cyanide bombs back to public lands ignores the very real harm they have caused to families like mine."

- Madison Mansfield, sister

What Are M-44 “cyanide bombs”?



- ▶ M-44s are poison traps used for decades by a program within the USDA called Wildlife Services to kill native predators on behalf of the agricultural industry.
- ▶ M-44s are spring-activated devices. They eject a deadly dose of sodium cyanide, hence the nickname “cyanide bombs.” The EPA has rated cyanide poison at Category 1, the highest degree of acute toxicity.
- ▶ Sodium cyanide suffocates the body’s red blood cells. It causes dizziness, weakness, labored breathing, and nausea, followed by a weak/irregular heartbeat, unconsciousness, convulsions, and death. Victims exhibit intense anxiety. They can die within minutes or suffer for hours.
- ▶ The heads of M-44s are applied with a smelly bait that lures coyotes, but also attracts non-target wildlife and dogs. M-44s are triggered when pulled on, even via a mere light touch. Their poison granules can spray up to five feet.
- ▶ Wildlife agents are required to carry an antidote, amyl nitrate. But people who stumble across M-44s, which are often unmarked, have no such protection. And young children, dogs and wild animals can’t read warning signs.



Statements from Experts & Observers of M-44 Use

"When a dog dies from cyanide poisoning, it experiences extreme panic and desperation. It convulses violently, blood vessels rupture, and it vomits blood and foam. Death can take minutes to hours, depending on the amount of poison ingested. It is horrifying for both the animal and all who witness the death."

Donna Harris, DVM, veterinarian for 25 years

"As a medical doctor for over 50 years, and a toxicologist with extensive experience in poisoning issues surrounding predator control activities, I am extremely concerned about the resumption of M-44 use. To be clear, this is a device spring-loaded with cyanide powder, unarguably one of the deadliest mammalian poisons. Deploying it is a profoundly unsafe practice. This almost resulted in the death of a child a few years ago and many household pets have been killed by these devices, as well as domestic livestock. M-44s are in no way specific for coyotes and they are deadly to humans. I could not be more fervently opposed to any re-authorization on America's public lands."

- Sander Orent, M.D., board certified in internal medicine & occupational/environmental medicine

"Returning these poison land mines to almost all 245 million acres of BLM lands meets the definition of insanity. The American public is once again being put in harm's way to satisfy a handful of ranchers who want their land free of predators no matter what the cost. They want to outsource their duty to protect their livestock to an indiscriminate killing device. Word to the wise: don't let your kids or dogs walk on public lands."

- Peter DeFazio, U.S. Congressman, 1987-2022

"Based on my past as a coyote trapper, and then as a scientist studying coyotes for 37 years, I can unequivocally say that indiscriminate killing of coyotes is a complete waste of time, economically and ecologically. It also usually makes the problem worse. It creates populations that are more educated, younger, bolder, and consequently more willing to invade farms, ranches and cities to prey on domestic species in order to produce more pups. If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results, it certainly applies to resuming the use of M-44s."

- Robert Crabtree, Ph.D., conservation biologist & renowned coyote expert

"I spent decades supervising government trappers who used M-44s. So when I say this country does NOT need sodium cyanide in its arsenal of predator-killing methods, it is from first-hand experience. Many trappers refuse to use them, for fear of what could happen. They know that if their dog triggered one, they were dead. Personally speaking, I couldn't sleep at night if I still had an M-44 out. I don't believe M-44s should ever be used on public lands. There is virtually no place people do not go and signage doesn't work. These devices should stay part of the past, as they have no place in a humane world."

- Carter Niemeyer, former USDA Wildlife Services Trapper & Montana District Supervisor

Death Certificate for Dennis Slaugh, M-44 Poisoning Victim

STATE OF UTAH CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD			
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH State File Number: 2018002960 Dennis Ray Slaugh			
DECEDENT INFORMATION			
Date of Death:	February 24, 2018	Time of Death:	11:05
City of Death:	Murray	County of Death:	Salt Lake
Age:	75	Date of Birth:	September 1, 1942
Place of Birth:	Vernal, Utah	Sex:	Male
Armed Services:	No	Marital Status:	Married
Spouse's Name:	Dorothy Lorraine Hullinger	Usual Occupation:	Heavy Equipment Operator
Industry/Business:	Uintah County	Education:	Associate Degree
Residence:	Vernal, Utah	Parent or Father:	Mervin Jay Slaugh
Parent or Mother:	Mary Emily Bowden	Facility Type:	Hospital Inpatient
Facility or Address:	Intermountain Medical Center		
INFORMANT INFORMATION			
Name:	Dorothy Lorraine Slaugh	Relationship:	Wife
Mailing Address:	Vernal, Utah 84078		
DISPOSITION INFORMATION			
Method of Disposition:	Cremation		
Place of Disposition:	Basin Cremation Center Inc, Vernal, Utah		
Date of Disposition:	March 2, 2018		
FUNERAL HOME INFORMATION			
Funeral Home:	Ashley Valley Funeral Home		
Address:	410 North 800 West, Vernal, Utah 84078		
Funeral Director:	Jacob Phillips		
MEDICAL CERTIFICATION			
Medical Professional:	Eric Anding MD, 5121 South Cottonwood Street, Murray (Salt Lake), Utah 84107		
CAUSE OF DEATH			
Acute Myocardial Infarction			
Due to (or as a consequence of): Coronary Artery Disease			
Other significant conditions: Cyanide Poisoning / Exposure From M44 Device 2003			
Tobacco Use: Non-user			
Medical Examiner Contacted: Yes Autopsy Performed: No Manner of Death: Natural			
Date Registered: February 27, 2018			
Date Issued: May 11, 2018			
AMENDMENT HISTORY			
02/27/2018 Spouse Last Name from Slaugh to Hullinger			
03/06/2018 Decedent Date of Birth from 01/01/1942 to 09/01/1942			
05/10/2018 Conditions Contributing to Death from Cyanide Poisoning / Exposure from M44 Device 2002 to Cyanide Poisoning / Exposure From M44 Device 2003			
This is an exact reproduction of the facts registered in the Utah State Office of Vital Records and Statistics. Security features of this official document include: High Resolution Border, V & R Images in top cycloids, and microtext. This document displays the date, seal, and signature of the Utah State Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics.			
 Richard J. Oborn, MPA State Registrar Rev. 1/16		 066038886 Jordan D. Mathis Director/ Health Officer TriCounty Health Department	
ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE			

Featured Incidents of Pet Killings and Human Poisonings Caused by M-44 Cyanide Devices

Published by Predator Defense, www.predatordefense.org

The list below highlights just a few of the documented incidents of people and domestic animals injured or killed by the M-44 cyanide devices used by USDA Wildlife Services. It was compiled from agency documents, news reports, and various other sources. However, the real M-44 body count is estimated to be in the thousands, far exceeding the numbers officially reported by Wildlife Services in their annual Program Data Reports. We say this because whistleblowers from Wildlife Services have consistently stated that many dogs just go missing and families are left to wonder what happened to them. Additionally, unless someone other than a federal agent is there to witness the poisoning, the agents often do not record them. So countless dog deaths go unreported and will never be known.

NOTE: This list intentionally omits recent incidents, as these intervening years are when more bans were enacted, including the 2023 ban on BLM lands, thus reducing the M-44 death count. The incidents described below more accurately reflect what will happen if M-44s are returned to use on BLM lands from 2026 forward.

February 2018: Dennis Slaugh of Vernal, Utah, dies. Slaugh was poisoned by an M-44 in 2003, and his death certificate listed cyanide poisoning from M-44 as a contributing cause.

March 2017: A dog and a 14-year-old boy triggered an M-44 in Idaho. The boy, along with several emergency personnel, were exposed to cyanide. The boy suffered long-term, adverse health effects. His dog died in front of him. Were it not for wind direction, the boy might also have died. No warning signs were posted.ⁱ

March 2017: Two dogs were killed in Wyoming by an M-44 during a walk with their family.ⁱⁱ

February 2011: An M-44 was placed 918 feet from a residence in Texas without the family's knowledge, killing their dog and violating three EPA use restrictions.^{iii,iv}

February 2010: A dog was killed in Nebraska by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on the dog owner's rangeland/pasture.^v

April 2010: A dog wearing collar and tags was killed in W. Virginia by an M-44 set on neighboring land. The Wildlife Services agent buried her without notifying the family.^{vi}

January 2008: A dog was killed by an M-44 in N. Dakota.^{vii}

January 2008: A man in Texas was injured by an M-44 placed without his knowledge on grazing land.

February 2008: A beagle was killed by an M-44 in Virginia.^{viii}

February 2008: A dog was killed by an M-44 in New Mexico.^{ix}

April 2008: A dog in N. Dakota was killed by an M-44 set on rangeland/pasture.^x

June 2008: A pit bull was killed in Virginia by an M-44 in a livestock pasture/hayfield.^{xi}

January 2007: A dog was killed by an M-44 in North Dakota.^{xii}

March 2007: A Border collie was killed by an M-44 in Virginia.^{xiii}

April 2007: A Border collie puppy was killed by an M-44 in Virginia.^{xiv,xv}

Featured Incidents of Pet Killings and Human Poisonings Caused by M-44 Cyanide Devices (cont.)

May 2007: A worker in Texas accidentally triggered an M-44. The cyanide was ejected into the man's eyes and he subsequently experienced burning and irritated eyes as well as disorientation.^{xvi, xvii}

June 2007: A Great Pyrenees was killed by an M-44 in New Mexico.^{xviii}

January 2006: A Golden retriever was killed by an M-44 in Virginia.^{xix, xx}

February 2006: A Labrador retriever was killed in Utah when she triggered an M-44 set a foot from a road.^{xxi}

April 2006: A young German shepherd was killed when he triggered an M-44 on public land in Utah.^{xxii, xxiii}

March 2005: An Australian Shepherd was killed in New Mexico by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on rangeland.^{xxiv}

March 2005: A dog was killed in New Mexico by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on ranch land.^{xxv}

April 2005: A Border collie in New Mexico was killed by an M-44 set on the owner's ranch property.^{xxvi, xxvii}

December 2005: A certified therapy dog who worked with at-risk youth was killed in front of a girl's group by an M-44 set 10 feet from a public road.^{xxviii, xxix}

January 2004: A dog was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services in New Mexico on the ranch of the dog owner's relative.^{xxx}

February 2004: An Irish setter was likely killed by an M-44 in Virginia.^{xxxi}

March 2004: A dog in Idaho was found dead within 200 yards of an M-44 set by Wildlife Services in a nearby sheep pasture.^{xxxii, xxxiii}

March 2004: A German shepherd was killed by an M-44 in New Mexico.^{xxxiv}

May 2003: Dennis Slaugh was poisoned and permanently disabled when he triggered an M-44 on public land in Utah. He was forced to retire from his job.^{xxxv}

January 2002: A rancher in Nebraska was injured by the accidental discharge of an M-44 that had been set by Wildlife Services on his property.^{xxxvi}

February 2002: A dog was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services.^{xxxvii}

February 2002: A Labrador retriever was killed in Virginia by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on a neighbor's cattle pasture.^{xxxviii}

February 2002: A dog was killed in New Mexico by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on rangeland/pasture.^{xxxix}

February 2002: A dog triggered an M-44 in Oregon placed on a neighboring ranch by Wildlife Services.^{xl}

February 2002: A dog was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services.^{xli}

February 2002: A dog was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on the farm of the dog owner's relative.^{xlii}

February 2002: A dog in Oregon took 8 hours to die after exposure to an M-44 set on property next door to her home and without her knowledge. During a subsequent investigation WS requested that Oregon authorities "consider the info provided during the investigation be confidential *and not disclosed as public record* [emphasis added]." WS also refused to release a copy of the incident report to the dog's owner.^{xliii, xliiv, xlv}

Featured Incidents of Pet Killings and Human Poisonings Caused by M-44 Cyanide Devices (cont.)

April 2002: A dog was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on a neighboring farm in Virginia.^{xlvi}

June 2002: A black Angus cow was killed in West Virginia by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services in a pasture.^{xlvii}

November 2002: A woman was injured after trying to remove an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on her neighbor's property.^{xlviii}

May 2001: A dog in Colorado was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on a neighboring ranch "outside the provisions authorized by state law".^{xlix}

April 2001: A dog in Nebraska was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on rangeland/pasture.^l

January 2000: A dog in Oregon was killed after triggering an M-44 set 100 yards from the owner's home. The device was one of six that had been planted in a tree farm frequented by local children.^{li, lii, liii}

February 2000: A dog in New Mexico activated an M-44 set on rangeland/pasture by Wildlife Services.^{liv}

March 2000: A dog in Colorado was killed by an M-44 set on private property without the knowledge of the owners. The family, including a three-year-old girl, watched as the dog suffered and died. A state investigation found that Wildlife Services had not only trespassed, but broken a suite of federal rules regulating M-44s.^{lv}

May 2000: A Border collie in West Virginia was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services in a sheep pasture.^{lvi}

September 2000: A county surveyor in Utah discharged an M-44 after mistaking it for a survey marker.^{lvii}

March 1999: A man and his three-year old daughter were walking with their dog on their property in Colorado when it triggered an M-44 and later died. A WS staffer had placed two traps on their land, trespassing and breaking a suite of federal rules.^{lviii}

April 1999: A dog was killed in Virginia when he triggered an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on a neighboring farm. The owner also found another dog's body at the device. A third dog also encountered an M-44 and returned home with red and swollen eyes as well as a swollen mouth and a peculiar odor. The owner himself likely experienced secondary poisoning.^{lix, lx}

August 1999: An individual helping a Wildlife Services employee look for and remove M-44s accidentally fired one of the devices.^{lxi}

September 1999: A hunting dog was killed in Virginia by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services. M-44s were not permitted for use in that state from September 1 to January 7, but the Wildlife Services employee had failed to remove them.^{lxii}

September 1999: A dog was killed in Oregon by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services.^{lxiii}

October 1999: A Wildlife Services employee in Texas accidentally discharged an M-44 as he was setting it. He had to be airlifted to a facility for treatment.^{lxiv}

October 1999: A dog was killed in Utah by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services.^{lxv}

December 1999: Two dogs were killed by M-44s during a hunting trip in New Mexico on state lands.^{lxvi}

December 1999: A citizen in Nebraska accidentally discharged an M-44 as he attempted to move it with a pair of pliers while he was repairing fence wire.^{lxvii}

February 1998: A dog in Utah was killed by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services on BLM land that adjoined the owner's

Featured Incidents of Pet Killings and Human Poisonings Caused by M-44 Cyanide Devices (cont.)

private yard. No one was notified about Wildlife Services' activities.^{lxxviii, lxxix, lxx}

November 1998: A man in Texas, working on private land, was injured when he grabbed what he thought was a rusted metal rod to pull it from the ground and an M-44 exploded in his hand.^{lxxi}

December 1998: A dog was killed in Oregon by an M-44 set by Wildlife Services.^{lxxii}

April 1995: A hunter in Idaho accidentally discharged an M-44 that had been set by Wildlife Services.^{lxxiii}

Fall 1994: A dog in Oregon was walking with its family when it triggered an M-44 set on the property without their knowledge. The owner, not knowing why her dog was in respiratory distress, attempted to help it and suffered secondary cyanide poisoning from inhalation. The dog suffered for 15 minutes before dying.^{lxxiv}

August 1993: Two bow hunters in Utah pulled M-44s set by Wildlife Services.^{lxxv}

April 1990: A dog in New Mexico accompanying a ranch hand triggered an M-44. After attempting mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the dog, who died within a few minutes, the man quickly experienced loss of breath, a swollen tongue, a fast heart rate, numb lips, and curling fingers on one hand. He was transported to a hospital where he was treated and placed in intensive care.^{lxxvi}

ⁱIdaho State Journal David Ashbury March 16 2017 Pocatello boy watches family dog die after cyanide bomb explodes. http://idahostatejournal.com/news/local/pocatello-boy-watches-family-dog-die-after-cyanide-bomb-explodes/article_d0003a2f-6b7f-5d31-b427-68db03d3b93a.html

ⁱⁱhttp://www.predatordefense.org/features/m44_WY_Amy_dogs.htm

ⁱⁱⁱPredator Defense, http://www.predatordefense.org/m44s_bella.htm

^{iv}Tom Knudson, "Efforts to investigate Wildlife Services' methods continue," The Sacramento Bee, June 25, 2012.

^vUSDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report.

^{vi}Letter from James R. Gardner to Commissioner Gus Douglas, West Virginia State Department of Agriculture, April 21, 2010.

^{vii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{viii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{ix}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^xUSDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{xi}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{xii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{xiii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{xiv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{xv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Report of Injury or Death of Non-target Animal.

^{xvi}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Human Incident Supplemental Report

^{xvii}Brazoria County Sheriff Incident/Offense Report, 22 May 2007.

^{xviii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{xix}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report.

Featured Incidents of Pet Killings and Human Poisonings Caused by M-44 Cyanide Devices (cont.)

- ^{xx}USDA-APHIS-WS, Report of Injury or Death of Nontarget Animal.
- ^{xxi}Mike Stark, “Dog died at cyanide trap set in an off-limits area,” Associated Press, 01 June, 2008.
- ^{xxii}Memo from Michael J. Bodenchuk, Utah State Director, Wildlife Services to Ms. Barbara Knotz, 21 June 2006.
- ^{xxiii}“Utah couple challenges USDA use of cyanide bombs,” Associated Press, 20 August 2006.
- ^{xxiv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxvi}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxvii}USDA Work Task form, 15 April 2005.
- ^{xxviii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report.
- ^{xxix}Born Free USA, http://www.bornfreeusa.org/database/trapping_incident.php?id=110
- ^{xxx}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxxi}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxxii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxxiii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Report of Injury or Death of Non-target Animal.
- ^{xxxiv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxxv}Christopher Ketcham, “America’s secret war on wildlife,” Men’s Journal, January 2008, p. 49.
- ^{xxxvi}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Human Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxxvii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxxviii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xxxix}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xl}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xli}USDA-APHIS-WS, Report of Injury or Death of Non-target Animal.
- ^{xlii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Human Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xliii}Letter from Danielle Clair to Congressman Peter DeFazio, 18 February 2002.
- ^{xliv}Letter from Mark Jensen, Oregon Assistant State Director, Wildlife Services, to Dale Mitchell, Assistant Administrator, Oregon Department of Agriculture, 15 April 2002.
- ^{xlv}Letter from Congressman Peter DeFazio to Bill Clay, Deputy Administrator of Wildlife Services, 24 May 2002.
- ^{xlvi}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xlvii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xlviii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Human Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{xlix}Memo from Craig Coolahan, Colorado State Director, USDA-APHIS-WS to Martin Mendoza, Director, OSS, 16 May 2001.
- ^lUSDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{li}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.
- ^{lii}Keri Watson and Greg Hanscom, “Poison traps kill unintended victims,” High Country News, March 13, 2000.
- ^{liii}Predator Defense, http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/m44_article_Buddy_Tippetts.pdf
- ^{liv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report.
- ^{lv}Keri Watson and Greg Hanscom, “Poison traps kill unintended victims,” High Country News, March 13, 2000.

Featured Incidents of Pet Killings and Human Poisonings Caused by M-44 Cyanide Devices (cont.)

^{lvi}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lvii}Memo from Michael J. Bodenchuk to Michael V. Worthen and Thomas R. Hoffman, 28 September 2000.

^{lviii}High Country News 3/1300 Poison traps kill unintended victims <https://www.hcn.org/issues/174/5628>

^{lix}Written account from Gary Tucker, 20 May 1999.

^{lx}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lxi}Accident Report signed by Alan May, District Supervisor, 16 August 1999.

^{lxii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lxiii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lxiv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Human Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lxv}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lxvi}Keri Watson and Greg Hanscom, "Poison traps kill unintended victims," High Country News, March 13, 2000.

^{lxvii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Human Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lxviii}Memo from Nick Sandberg, Bureau of Land Management to Mike Bodenchuck, USDA-APHIS-WS, 19 March 1998.

^{lix}U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Incident Record, Case No. UT-069-98-03.

^{lxx}U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Resource Area, Conversation Confirmation Report, 03 March 1998.

^{lxxi}Predator Defense, http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/m44_letter_Guerro_DeFazio.pdf

^{lxxii}USDA-APHIS-WS, Adverse Effects Incident Information Report and Domestic Animal, Fauna, or Flora Incident Supplemental Report.

^{lxxiii}Memo from Dr. Peter L. Joseph, USDA-APHIS-Biotechnology, Biologies, and Environmental Protection to Mr. Robert A. Forrest, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 25 April 1995.

^{lxxiv}Predator Defense <http://www.predatordefense.org/testimonials.htm>

^{lxxv}Memo from James A. Winnat, Utah State Director, USDA-APHIS-WS to ADC employees, 09 September 1993.

^{lxxvi}Memo from Larry J. Killgo, State Director, ADC, Albuquerque, NM to District Supervisor, ADC, Roswell, NM, 01 May 1990.

USDA Wildlife Services Yearly Summary Statistics of Domestic Dog Killings by M-44s

Published by Predator Defense, www.predatordefense.org

The totals reported below by USDA Wildlife Services in their annual Program Data Reports do not reflect the total number of domestic dogs killed by M-44 cyanide devices. The real numbers are estimated to be in the thousands.

Whistleblowers from Wildlife Services have consistently stated that many dogs just go missing and families are left to wonder what happened to them. Additionally, unless someone other than a federal agent is there to witness the poisoning, the agents often do not record them. So countless dog deaths go unreported and will never be known.

NOTE: This list intentionally omits recent dog deaths, as these intervening years are when more bans were enacted—including the 2023 ban on BLM lands—thus reducing the M-44 death count. The statistics described below more accurately reflect what will happen if M-44s are returned to use on BLM lands from 2026 forward (with the caveat above that countless dog deaths go unreported).

FY 2016: 22 dogs and 7 “domestic animals (pets or livestock)” unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2015: 17 dogs and 6 “domestic animals (pets or livestock)” unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2014: 17 dogs and 7 “domestic animals (pets or livestock)” unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2013: 44 dogs and 2 “domestic animals (pets or livestock)” unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2012: 27 dogs unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2011: 32 dogs unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2010: 40 dogs unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2009: 32 dogs unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2008: 32 dogs unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2007: 50 dogs unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2006: 63 dogs unintentionally killed by M-44s.

FY 2005: 92 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

FY 2004: 117 dogs were killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

FY 2003: 108 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

FY 2002: 120 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

2001: 169 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

2000: 178 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

1999: 228 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

1998: 267 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).

1997: 237 dogs killed by M-44s (not broken out by intentional/unintentional).