

PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

5 AAC 92.030. Possession of wolf and wild cat hybrids prohibited.

Modify the regulations to allow the possession of Czechoslovakian Vlcak in Alaska without a permit as follows:

5 AAC 92.030. Possession of wolf and wild cat hybrids prohibited

Allow the Czechoslovakian Vlcak officially recognized by State of Alaska as a breed of dog, and not a wolf hybrid.

5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

Allow the Czechoslovakian Vlcak dog breed to be owned and possessed in the State of Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As everyone knows, adopting a puppy is a major decision that requires a great deal of long-term commitment and responsibility, as well as research to understand the needs, temperaments, and compatibility of a given breed for your household. After having been involved in this process for some time, I discovered and fell in love with a breed known as the Czechoslovakian Vlcak (pronounced vul-chyk) as it embodies a great deal of who I am as an individual and Alaskan.

These dogs were initially bred for working patrol dogs by the Czechoslovakian military in the 1950s from roughly 40 German Shepherds and four Carpathian wolves, and today are used in both Europe and North America for search and rescue, tracking, agility, drafting, and working dog sports. The breed is characterized by their hardiness and independence, a couple of hallmarks for those of us who live in this great state, and make for an amazing companion for an active lifestyle full of hiking, camping, and time in the outdoors.

While there may have initially been wolves bred into the breed, they currently make up an approximate 25-30% of their genetic makeup, there has not been a wolf bred into the line in more than ten generations which far exceeds the guidance in 5 AAC 92.030 that requires wild cat breeds to be “at least four generations removed from a wild ancestor.” This is also the standard to which I believe species of dog should be held and is a sentiment that was shared with the state permitting biologist, when I spoke with her both via the phone and email about the subject.

In addition to the above standard, the Czechoslovakian Vlcak is recognized by the United Kennel Club as of 1 July, 2006, and as an official breed and has been recognized by breeder’s associations in Europe as a breed since as early as 1982. There are currently approximately 200 pedigreed Czechoslovakian Vlcaks in the United States (as of 2018). As of 2001, the breed is recorded by the American Kennel Club (AKC) Foundation Stock Service (FSS) and has been able to compete in AKC Companion Events since 1 January, 2010.

It is with these things in mind that I would request that an amendment be made to 5 AAC 92.030 and/or 5 AAC 92.029 so that the State of Alaska recognizes the Czechoslovakian Vlcak as a standard dog breed so that they will be allowed to be registered with an accredited kennel club (AKC, UKC, FCI), imported, and possessed in the state without the fear of being mistaken for a wolf or wolf hybrid.

Below are references and a statement from Terri Wemigwans, a Vlcak breeder and a board member of the Czechoslovakian Vlcak Club of America:

<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/czechoslovakian-vlcak/>

<http://www.czechoslovakianvlcak.org/>

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/czechoslovakian-vlcak>

My name is Terri Wemigwans I am a Board member of the Czechoslovakian Club of America and also a Czechoslovakian breeder located in Michigan. The Czechoslovakian Vlcak club of America and I are working towards a goal of having the Czechoslovakian Vlcak, also known as the Czechoslovakian Wolfdog, legal in all 50 states.

The Czechoslovakian Vlcak "CSV" has been bred with a military-like precision since the inception of the breed. Each dog, from the first cross with 40 German shepherds and three Carpathian wolves with a fourth added in 1985, has been carefully selected and put through a rigorous series of health and temperament tests. Only those dogs that meet or exceed the standards have been allowed to contribute to the breed.

This stringent set of testing continues to this day in the breed's patron countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, where most of the US breeding dogs originate. The Czechoslovakian Clubs breeding committees research each and every litter to ensure that the breed maintains a healthy, temperamentally sound dog. In these European countries, a breeding license must be obtained to whelp a litter and the US CSV club's CSVCA continues to maintain this same type of breeding structure.

We would like the CSV to be added to the Clean list to ensure that this unique breed of dog is differentiated from the more common wolf hybrid and can legally dwell in the great state of Alaska without fear of being reclassified as a wolf hybrid.

In the past when we have placed a CSV in a wolf hybrid illegal state after communicating with the state who then decided that the CSV is a dog, and therefore legal. The cute puppy then grows into a wolfy-looking animal, and a Good Samaritan neighbor calls the local authorities to report an illegal wolf-hybrid living nearby. Authorities show up and see what to them looks like a wolf-hybrid. They decide to solve the issue by having the 'dog' submit to a DNA test. The DNA test comes back as "wolf hybrid" causing the dog to be classified as a wolf-hybrid, and thus not legal. The animal was then required to leave the state. This type of scenario has happened several times in "wolfdog illegal" states.

DNA tests submitted by CSVs often come back a wolf hybrid because of the genetics of this rare and unique breed. Since the breed's inception, no dogs have been bred into the line. Therefore, the original wolf percentage of 25 to 30% stays intact and does not dilute and the breed's wolf percentage stays stable. All CSV alive today are at least nine or more generations away from the wolf ancestor, with most of the dogs alive being 15+ generations away from the wolves. CSV are a primitive breed of dog, but they are in no way a wolf hybrid nor should they be treated as such.

We have worked with several wolf hybrid illegal states, Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois, and are now in the process with Pennsylvania. So far, each state changed or added an addendum to the wolfdog or wolf hybrid illegal law. In each of these states, the CSV is legal if the CSV is registered AKC, UKC or FCI and has papers proving that the dog is registered. The same CSV with no registration papers could be considered a wolf hybrid, and thus subject to legal action.

Statewide Regulations Proposals

We understand that Alaska's 'Clean list' list will accomplish the same goal. Therefore we ask that you add the Czechoslovakian Vlcak, AKA Czechoslovakian Wolfdog, to the Clean List.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

(Note: Contact information for Teri Wemigwans is available from ADF&G Boards Support upon request.)

PROPOSED BY: James Majetich

(HQ-F21-009)
