

## Dogs wear body armor to stop eagle attacks

20th May, 2021



Image: coyotevest.com

Dog owners in Alaska and Canada are buying special vests for their pets. The vests are to protect the pets from attacks by bald eagles. In recent weeks, a number of pet dogs have been taken away by the birds of prey. The number of bald

eagles has risen greatly in Alaska. There have been many conservation efforts, which has seen the bald eagle population increase. Conservationists estimate there are now around 30,000 of the eagles in Alaska. While bird lovers are happy about this, pet owners are worried. The eagles have a 2.4-metre wingspan. They are strong enough to pick up and fly away with a 6-kilogram animal. The eagles are already a nuisance for farmers as they are killing chickens.

The special vest that pet owners are buying is called the CoyoteVest. It is a protective jacket that was designed to protect small dogs from coyotes. A coyote is a wild dog that is similar to a wolf. It is common across North America. The CoyoteVest has a variety of spikes and other sharp things on it to protect the pet. Some of the vests have brightly coloured whiskers that are meant to scare birds away. It is made of a material called Kevlar, which is used in bulletproof vests. The Kevlar protects a small dog from the teeth of a larger dog. The CoyoteVest company said its vest helps to, "slow down or prevent a surprise attack and give you enough time to react before serious injury occurs" to a pet.

Sources: [vancouver.sun.com](http://vancouver.sun.com) / [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) / [people.com](http://people.com)

### Writing

Small dogs need to wear vests to protect them against larger dogs. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

dog owners / vests / pets / attacks / eagles / bird lovers / conservation / chickens / jacket / wolf / coyote / bulletproof / material / teeth / surprise / time / injury

### True / False

- 1) Dog owners in Alaska are making special vests for their pets. T / F
- 2) Eagles have not yet taken any pet dogs away. T / F
- 3) The number of bald eagles in Alaska has gone up by around 30,000. T / F
- 4) A bald eagle is powerful enough to fly off with a 6-kilogram dog. T / F
- 5) The vest pet owners are buying was made to protect dogs from coyotes. T / F
- 6) Some vests have brightly coloured whiskers on them. T / F
- 7) Some pet owners are making their dogs wear bulletproof vests. T / F
- 8) The vest gives owners time to stop pets from being harmed. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>buying</b>   | a. created    |
| 2. <b>protect</b>  | b. increased  |
| 3. <b>risen</b>    | c. range      |
| 4. <b>worried</b>  | d. annoyance  |
| 5. <b>nuisance</b> | e. widespread |
| 6. <b>designed</b> | f. purchasing |
| 7. <b>common</b>   | g. harm       |
| 8. <b>variety</b>  | h. concerned  |
| 9. <b>scare</b>    | i. safeguard  |
| 10. <b>injury</b>  | j. frighten   |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of eagles that are bald?
- c) What do you know about coyotes?
- d) What do you think of the CoyoteVest?
- e) Should all dogs wear a CoyoteVest?
- f) Should the company make a protective vest for humans?
- g) What other things can people use to scare birds away?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the vest company?

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The vests are to protect          | a. away                  |
| 2. birds of                          | b. for farmers           |
| 3. bird                              | c. owners are buying     |
| 4. fly away with a                   | d. time to react         |
| 5. The eagles are already a nuisance | e. the pets from attacks |
| 6. The special vest that pet         | f. lovers are happy      |
| 7. A coyote is a wild dog that is    | g. a surprise attack     |
| 8. scare birds                       | h. 6-kilogram animal     |
| 9. slow down or prevent              | i. similar to a wolf     |
| 10. give you enough                  | j. prey                  |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of eagles?
- How dangerous are eagles?
- What animals are the best pets?
- What other dangers are there for pet dogs?
- What do you know about birds of prey?
- How much of a bird lover are you?
- Is the eagle the best bird in the world?
- What can farmers do to protect chickens from eagles?

## Spelling

- eptorct the pets from attacks
- birds of pyre
- There have been many veoocisntnar efforts
- itasteem there are now around 30,000
- The eagles have a 2.4-metre piwsangn
- a isceaunn for farmers
- It is a rcpeetovit jacket
- almisri to a wolf
- The CoyoteVest has a tyeiavr of spikes
- gilybhrt coloured whiskers
- npetvre a surprise attack
- before serious nrujiy occurs

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. h	5. d
6. a	7. e	8. c	9. j	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – A Tarantula

You think a tarantula is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a dog, a snake or a goldfish.

### Role B – A Dog

You think a dog is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a tarantula, a snake or a goldfish.

### Role C – A Snake

You think a snake is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a dog, a tarantula or a goldfish.

### Role D – A Goldfish

You think a goldfish is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a dog, a snake or a tarantula.

## Speaking – Pets

Rank these with your partner. Put the best pets at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| • An eagle | • A goldfish  |
| • A dog    | • A tortoise  |
| • A cat    | • A rabbit    |
| • A snake  | • A tarantula |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.