

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210520-bald-eagles.html>

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: <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/coyote-vests-a-trend-among-small-dog-owners-in-vancouver>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9580945/Pet-owners-putting-dogs-cats-spiked-body-armour-protect-bald-eagles.html>
<https://people.com/pets/coyote-vest-for-dogs/>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. protect | a. The protection of the natural environment and of wildlife. |
| 2. bald | b. Roughly calculate or judge the value, number, quantity, or extent of. |
| 3. bird of prey | c. Keep safe from harm or injury. |
| 4. conservation | d. A person, thing, or situation that is very annoying. |
| 5. estimate | e. Having no hair on your head. |
| 6. lover | f. A bird that hunts, has a hooked bill and sharp talons, for example an eagle, owl or hawk. |
| 7. nuisance | g. A person who really likes or enjoys something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. wild | h. An instance of being harmed or hurt. |
| 9. common | i. Of an animal or plant living or growing in the natural environment; not in people's homes. |
| 10. variety | j. Occurring, found, or done often; prevalent. |
| 11. scare | k. Able to stop bullets from a gun passing through. |
| 12. bulletproof | l. Cause great fear or nervousness in people or animals; frighten. |
| 13. prevent | m. A number of things of the same type that are different from each other. |
| 14. injury | n. Stop. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210520-bald-eagles.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

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**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210520-bald-eagles.html>

1. What kinds of eagles are attacking pet dogs in Alaska?
2. What kinds of efforts have made the number of eagles increase?
3. How many of the eagles are there now in Alaska?
4. What part of the eagle is 2.4 metres wide?
5. Who does the article say the eagles are a nuisance for?
6. What was the vest originally designed to protect dogs against?
7. What does the vest have on it that are brightly coloured?
8. What is the name of the material that is used to make the vests?
9. What is the material usually used for?
10. What might the vests slow down or prevent?

EAGLES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'bald'?
3. What do you think of eagles?
4. How dangerous are eagles?
5. What animals are the best pets?
6. What other dangers are there for pet dogs?
7. What do you know about birds of prey?
8. How much of a bird lover are you?
9. Is the eagle the best bird in the world?
10. What can farmers do to protect chickens from eagles?

Dogs wear body armour to stop eagle attacks – 20th May, 2021
Thousands more free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

EAGLES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'eagle'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of eagles that are bald?
15. What do you know about coyotes?
16. What do you think of the CoyoteVest?
17. Should all dogs wear a CoyoteVest?
18. Should the company make a protective vest for humans?
19. What other things can people use to scare birds away?
20. What questions would you like to ask the vest company?