Luna and Keanu are two beautiful creations who have been selective bred to have some visible wolf-like features with the temperaments of golden retrievers. Despite never having an issue, the Massachusetts Environmental Police have vigorously pursued removing these dogs from the state because the law says that any dog with a heritage having a wild wolf in it is illegal. Well it is a sloppy statute since every dog in the state fits that category. We have an expert from the University of Kansas working with us to fight criminal charges against our client and keep the dogs with him. Under questioning the states expert, Dr. Tom Beach said he knows they are wolves after observing them for 15 minutes from outside their cage. Well I took some crash courses in what qualifies as a wolf dog and then spent an hour inside their pen. These are dogs who love to have their stomachs rubbed and give kisses to you. A wolf would run from humans. The battle here for Boston Dog Lawyers is again not allowing the loudest voices in the room to win. The state biologist has now background in dogs or wolves but has been the catalyst behind charging my client criminally. The target of such stupidity could be any one of us. The statute as written is void for vagueness and overly broad and the experts has relied upon are not any better.

*A win for Dogs in Wolves’ Clothing*

Boston Dog Lawyers teamed up with defense Attorney Joseph M. Griffin and University of Kansas Professor Ray Pierotti to defeat the Massachusetts Environmental Police who sought to seize our client’s dogs Luna and Keanu for being “wolf hybrids” under state law.

Humans have domesticated wolves into dogs for thousands of years. We argued that the criminal statute (Mass. General Law Ch. 131 §77A) is unconstitutional for being overly broad and void for vagueness. The judge agreed and dismissed the case. The law essentially prohibits people from having any dog with wolf ancestry.

Genetic testing for wolf content (just as it is for “pit bulls”) is unreliable; enforcement of the law relies on the subjective ‘eye test’ which is very similar to way breed specific legislation operated and has since been banned in MA. Oftentimes Alaskan Malamutes, German Shepherds and Siberian Huskies are mistaken for wolves or wolf hybrids.

Our client’s dogs were selectively bred to look similar to their wolf ancestors and behave like domesticated dogs. Unlike wolves, Keanu and Luna rely on their pet parents for food and they crave human attention. Keanu fell asleep while I rubbed his belly. The police relied on the state biologist who looked at the dogs from a distance and proclaimed them wolf hybrids. Our client relied on his team to look at the law and argue it was unconstitutional.