

From: Barbara Holzel [mailto:agneschamplain@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 01, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote "open season"

I have been reading in FPF about an upcoming coyote open hunt. Despite the fact that I am against all animal killing, I still think this proposal of killing and weighing in "pounds" of coyotes (nuisance) animals is really over the top. I suppose if you find one chasing down your dog, then killing it might be reasonable. But that brings all kinds of safety into question: was the animal identified correctly and not someone else's coyote looking dog, bullets not aimed well--I just don't trust this plan of action as a good idea.

True I don't know anything about coyote habits, breeding issues, etc. but I put this in the same category as that squirrels are running around like crazy--do we have open seasons? Mosquitos and ticks are big pests---do we go back to spraying chemicals?

I just do not like this idea---at all!

Thank you,
Bobbi Holzel
194 Shady Lane, Colchester (PO Box 741)

From: Emily Beattie [mailto:emilyb@sover.net]
Sent: Monday, January 01, 2018 10:50 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing you regarding the state-wide coyote killing contest that is set to span the entire month of February, and I am asking you to please support future legislation to stop coyote killing contests and the open season.

"As with other carnivore species, coyote populations are naturally regulated by available food and habitat. Lethal control, however, can disrupt the group hierarchy, allowing more coyotes to reproduce, encouraging larger litter sizes because of decreased competition for food and habitat, and increasing pup survival rates (Crabtree and Sheldon 1999). It is also likely that lethal control favors the survival of the most resilient and genetically robust coyotes (Crabtree and Sheldon 1999). More critically, with the disruption of pack structure, training across generations of coyotes that promotes consumption of wild prey can be compromised and increase killing of livestock and pets (Crabtree and Sheldon, 1999; Mitchel et al, 2004)."

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/carnivores/coyote/>

This is simply a cruel killing spree. You have the power to change this.

Thank you.

~ Emily Beattie
Weybridge, VT

From: Barbara Holzel [mailto:agneschamplain@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 01, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote harvest - not a good idea

I have been reading in FPF about an upcoming coyote open hunt. Despite the fact that I am against all animal killing, I still think this proposal of killing and weighing in "pounds" of coyotes (nuisance) animals is really over the top. I suppose if you find one chasing down your dog, then killing it might be reasonable. But that brings all kinds of safety into question: was the animal identified correctly and not someone else's coyote looking dog, bullets not aimed well---I just don't trust this plan of action as a good idea.

True I don't know anything about coyote habits, breeding issues, etc. but I put this in the same category as that squirrels are running around like crazy--do we have open seasons? Mosquitos and ticks are big pests---do we go back to spraying chemicals?

I just do not like this idea---at all!

Thank you,
Bobbi Holzel
[194 Shady Lane, Colchester](#) (PO Box 741)

From: Merry Anderson [mailto:merryndrsn@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 01, 2018 4:33 PM
To: Louis.porter@vt.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing Contests

Dear Mr. Porter and Mr. Ketchel,
I have been a Vermonter for the past 45 years. In all of that time, I never heard of a more destructive wildlife management idea than this. Killing coyotes only increases their population. It is a cruel, dangerous, and violent practice.
Such a practice promotes, fear, hatred and bloodlust against a helpless coyote population. It promotes greed among the illegal hunters, whose cruel practices are in evidence when we find bobcats, dead in traps, caught illegally for their pelts, who suffered an agonizing death over a long period of time.
Please do whatever you can to stop this. It certainly does not reflect the values of the Vermonters I know.
Thank you.
Merry Anderson
718 Montgomery Road
Pownal, Vermont 05261

From: Karen Grace [mailto:krgrace@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 01, 2018 4:21 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote kill contest

Dear Sirs,

I heard about this from a neighbor and it makes me sick to think of this being a contest. Please consider ending this inhumane practice in VT.

Sincerely, Karen Grace

"We are learning that the more we open our mouths, the more we become a choir. And the more we are a choir, the more the tune is forced to change."

~Amber Tamblyn

Karen Grace
krgrace@gmail.com

From: Christine Turner [mailto:geojewel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2018 2:03 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel; Claire Ayer; Christopher Bray; Peter Conlon
Subject: Coyote Kill schedule for Feb 1st

Dear Madam and Sirs:

I think it is reprehensible that Vermont sanctions such a killing! Especially when research has determined that most coyotes coexist peacefully within our landscape. In fact, it is counter productive to do such mass killings. Coyotes have a hierarchical social structure. Only the alpha male and female get to breed and litter size is determined by the amount of food available. Food being rabbits, small rodents, insects, frogs and berries. By removing a balanced population you can expect a population explosion to occur in years to come. Plus, if you have a coyote social group that respects humans and their livestock it is best to leave that group alone. I would only condone the killing of an abhorrent animal who regularly takes livestock.

While I am not against hunting in an appropriate regulated way, this type of killing is disturbing and has no merit. I hope you, as our representatives, will take a closer look at such events. I first found out about this from Front Porch Forum and now links to Protect our Wildlife. protectourwildlifevt

protectourwildlifevt

Please stop such events from occurring. Wildlife has a place in our landscape and we must share it not abuse it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Christine Turner
Salisbury, VT

From: Marcia Bellas [mailto:mlb489@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2018 5:26 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Upcoming Coyote Killing Contest

Dear Commissioner Porter and the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife,

I was dismayed to learn of the upcoming statewide coyote killing contest scheduled to take place during the month of February (apparently an annual event) The contest is sponsored by the Series 11 firearms store in Londonderry and the Weston Rod and Gun Club. Whomever kills the most coyotes, as determined by combined weight, wins a gun.

Why are there no prohibitions against contests such as this? Why is it open season year round on coyotes? Why is it legal for coyotes to be hunted by packs of dogs and “teams” of hunters who inflict terror, pain, injuries and death on animals that are part of our ecosystem and merely trying to survive the winter?

Wildlife killing contests run counter to the ideals of responsible hunting, and respect for wildlife and our ecosystem that so many Vermonters share. Coyotes are part of that ecosystem and deserve protection from this type of slaughter.

Please support legislation to ban wildlife killing contests!

Marcia Bellas
Worcester

From: Bern R [mailto:dulcimeralive@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2018 5:50 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote hunting contest comment

Hi,
A neighbor posted about this on FPF. I read the statement http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_73079/File/Hunt/trapping/Eastern-Coyote-Position-Statement.pdf and feel that it may be good policy to make such contests illegal because of the danger presented to pets and night hunting. (is that illegal?) I know we can hear coyotes from my son's home, but I always have felt that they are an important contribution to the cycle of life in VT. People should also be aware that they eat small mammals as well, who are carriers of ticks/lyme disease. Balance. not crazy.

Sincerely,
Bern Rose
Barre VT

From: RoseAnn Johnson [mailto:rojohnmidd@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2018 8:32 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Stop the coyote hunt!!!

Roseann and Larry Johnson
Rochester, VT

From: Ezra Hall [mailto:ehallvtmtns@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2018 9:54 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Request to end wildlife killing contests

Dear Vt Fish and Wildlife committee,

I am writing to request stronger actions by the state to end animal killing contests such as the upcoming coyote killing contest sponsored by non state entities.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Ezra Hall

Richmond, Vt

From: Joann Dwyer [mailto:joanndwyer@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 8:09 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please put a stop to killing contests!

This is not humane!!

From: McGrath, Kathi [mailto:kmcgrath@corp.wcvr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 8:38 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: killing animals!

Hello,

On Front Porch I read about a sick contest for killing animals. We are taking over animals habitats and then have the audacity to kill them off.

It is sick the way we treat animals in this country, as though they don't matter except for our purposes.

Please support putting a stop to this barbaric killing contest.

The way a man treats an animal is a reflection of the type of person he is.

Kathi McGrath
105 Delmont Ave
Barre, VT

From: Laura Schutz [mailto:laura.schutz@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing contests

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner and F&W Committee -

While I appreciate that you do not support killing contests like the upcoming coyote one, I would like to see Vermont move to a stronger position against them where they are outlawed. As Project Coyote succinctly summarized their objections ""These contests send a chilling message that killing is fun, wild animals are disposable, and life is cheap. The contests also serve no ecological purpose; they are at odds with all principles of conservation biology and ecosystem-based management. Far from offering any beneficial management purpose, wildlife killing contests simply promote gratuitous violence, the destruction of countless magnificent and ecologically vital apex predators."

What can I do to help the state of Vermont end these sorts of contests? I do support moderate and regulated hunting & trapping as well as the ability of farmers to eliminate individual coyotes that are causing livestock losses.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts here and letting me know how I can help eliminate these sorts of contests.

Thanks!

Laura Schutz

From: Audrey [mailto:audreyrockstar@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 11:50 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: NO coyote-killing contests in VT!

Good morning,

I'd like to voice my strongest disapproval of the current coyote-killing contest taking place in Vermont. It's not hunting for food or for band health and maintenance, it's cruelty, greed and depraved indifference to animal life. And it has no place in Vermont. It needs to end asap.

Thank you for your time.

--Audrey Clare Homan
Hinesburg VT

From: Morris, Janet [mailto:Janet.Morris@uvmhealth.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 12:56 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please end coyote killing contests

Hello,

I've heard that a month-long state-wide coyote killing contest is to begin next month. Please put a stop to this senseless killing before it happens!

I see the VT Fish and Wildlife Department doesn't support these contests and I hope they will go one step further and prevent them from happening at all.

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_73079/File/Hunt/trapping/Eastern-Coyote-Position-Statement.pdf

Thank you,
Janet Morris
Richmond, VT

From: tucker pierson [mailto:tuckerpierson@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Stop the Coyote Hunt and Killing!

Dear Mr. or Ms. Ketchel,

I have learned about a coyote hunting contest in Vermont and it is troubling to me and my family. Please stop this reckless and useless killing of coyotes!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
tucker pierson

From: Adam Morrow [mailto:amorr13@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 5:58 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing Contest

Please put a stop to this type of contest. Hunting is one thing - but as a State-wide contest, it means more live ammo in wooded neighborhoods and communities, and encourages a care-free attitude. There are enough hunting accidents as it is, this looks like asking for more. And it does nothing to control the population.

Thank you,
Adam Morrow

From: Marian Willmott [mailto:marianw@gmavt.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 9:24 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote killing contest

Please stop this destructive state-wide coyote killing contest. It is not supported by Vermont Fish & Wildlife and promotes a despicable attitude toward hunting and killing. We support hunting and do not post our land but this contest may make us reconsider. Marian Willmott, Hinesburg

From: Diane Terry [mailto:dterry@cvsdvt.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote hunts

I've never heard of coyote huntings, or killing for sport in Vermont. Please stop this dangerous hunt and wreckless hunting in our beautiful state. Our animals don't deserve to be abused and/or killed for sport.

Diane Terry
Hinesburg

From: Hannah Regier [mailto:hannahregier@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 12:52 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please stop coyote killing contests

Dear Ms. Ketchel,

I hope you can read and pass on my concerns to the F&W House Committee:

I am writing to express my extreme concern and disgust about a statewide coyote killing contest set to happen in February 2018. This contest is being sponsored by the Weston Rod and Gun Club and by Series11 Sporting Goods in Londonderry. The participant who brings the most weight in coyote carcasses to the reporting station will win a new gun, valued at almost \$1000. You can find the poster for the event on both of their facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestonRodandGunClub/photos/a.940280386139668.1073741828.913932362107804/940280372806336/?type=3&theater>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/Series11VT/photos/a.1632954597014714.1073741828.1629144270729080/1864684207175084/?type=3&theater>

I plead that you take action to halt this “first annual” event and to end the barbaric practice of recreational coyote hunting in this state by banning killing contests and restricting the coyote hunting season. Many studies have been done and the VT Fish and Wildlife department itself has a position statement declaring that hunting coyotes and especially having competitions that result in large numbers of the animals being slaughtered, does nothing to reduce the population.

(http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_73079/File/Hunt/trapping/Eastern-Coyote-Position-Statement.pdf) The coyote population is self-regulating, not problematic for the health of the state's deer herds and in fact beneficial to the health of the ecosystem as one of the only large predators in our woods. Coyotes are intelligent beings who feel pain and stress and should not be inhumanely chased with dogs and/or killed for sport. Additional reasons for concern, if any are needed, are: the presence of hunters in the woods for the whole month of February as a nuisance and safety risk for recreational snowshoers, skiers and their companion dogs, the latter who have sometime been known to be accidently shot and killed when mistaken for a coyote. These hunts tend to look like a paramilitary exercise, with teams of hunters

cornering coyotes with dogs and ATVs, coordinating with walkie talkies and radio collars. Furthermore, the presence of piles of coyote carcasses in a highly touristed part of the state cannot be good for the optics of "quaint" Vermont.

I have respect for hunters who eat what they kill and I can understand a farmer needing to dispatch a nuisance animal. I do not like the practice of posting land as I am a recreational hiker and forager myself and appreciate being able to cross over various public and private lands in the state. That said, I am sharing information of this event widely amongst my landowning acquaintances and organizations and suggesting they post their land to protect their coyote population. I believe allowing competition killing to continue is going to ultimately restrict land that owners would otherwise allow reasonable hunting on.

Sincerely and with a heavy heart,
Hannah Regier
Athens, VT

From: Dottie Nelson [mailto:dottienelson2@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 2:09 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing contest

Hello,
I'm writing because I recently learned that a statewide coyote killing contest will take place for the entire month of February in Vermont. I am horrified. Although I and my family are not hunters we do not oppose hunting if the meat is eaten. In fact, we view hunting as a more humane way of obtaining meat than buying meat from animals raised on factory farms.

Killing for the "thrill" is sickening. It shows no respect for wildlife. It shows no respect for the web of life that we are all a part of. It makes honest hunters look bad...people won't separate legitimate hunters from the low-lives who think killing coyotes is "fun".

I'm writing to ask that you speak out against this ill-conceived event and that you support future legislation that would stop killing contests and open seasons on coyotes.

Thank you for reading and considering my thoughts.
Dottie Nelson
Middlebury

From: Danielle Calibird Fernandez [mailto:calibird77@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 8:39 PM
To: Christy Ketchel; Louis.Porter@vermont.govand
Cc: Marc Bekoff
Subject: Wildlife Killing Contest

Hello,

I am just hearing terrible news:

WILDLIFE KILLING CONTEST TO START FEB. 1st: A statewide coyote killing contest is set to span the entire month of February. Series11 retail shop located in Londonderry and the Weston Rod & Gun Club are sponsoring the killing contest. Whomever kills the most coyotes (most accrued weight) wins a gun. This promotes reckless thrill-killing and unthinkable suffering and death for countless coyotes, all in the name of recreation. Coyotes are often pursued by packs of hounds to the point of exhaustion. Coyotes end up injured and are left cornered where they're ultimately attacked by dogs and killed by the "hunter."

As we move into 2018, I kindly ask you to reconsider these murderous contests. As humans, we need to evolve and to think about why we are committing such bloodlust, and this desire for violence upon animals and the environment. Those of you with the power and authority can change the course of history, so we can become a more peaceful society. It all begins with the individual.

Please think about this and find a way to stop these "murder" contests.

Thank you,
Danielle

From: Lise Anderson [mailto:liseand55@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 8:40 PM
To: Christy Ketchel; Louis.Porter@vermont.govand
Subject: February Coyote Shoot

I am writing to express my strong opposition to open season hunting of coyotes and, in particular, store- and club-sponsored hunting contests.

Coyotes are an important species for the ecology of the Champlain Valley. They help to manage Vermont's incredible populations of small rodents. Field mice and voles are important hosts of Lyme disease and troublesome to farmers and gardeners in our area. Evidence has shown that coyotes do not reduce the deer population. Vermont natural areas need carnivores to balance the ecosystem.

Open season on coyotes is bad natural resources policy. Coyote populations should be managed with a hunting season and a focus on nuisance individuals.

Residents in Cornwall, Vermont recently packed the local school to learn about coyote and wolf behavior. They weren't there to learn how to bait or trap or shoot these creatures. They were there to learn how to listen for, observe, track, and co-exist with them.

The competitive hunting of coyotes looks like a slaughter to me. This is not "hunting". Reward-based killing contests are terrible for Vermont. Bloody loads of dead coyote carcasses. It reminds me of the whaling slaughter. Like whale killing, let's work to make this a thing of the past.

Urging you to consider legislation to stop killing contests and the coyote open season.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Anderson
Cornwall

From: Fred Cheyette [mailto:fredcvt@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 9:57 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov
Cc: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing contest

Please prevent this coyote killing contest from happening, if it is at all possible.

The main food for coyotes is rodents, especially mice and voles.

Some years ago Los Angeles killed most of the coyotes in that area. The result was an enormous explosion of rodents, to the point where the roads were slick with their bodies.

Killing coyotes will not diminish the coyote population in the long run, because the females will have larger litters.

Other than satisfying blood lust, there is no purpose in this event.

PLEASE STOP IT!!

Fred Cheyette
Orange, Vt

From: Nvkulk [mailto:nvkulk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.govand; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing contest

Dear Sir,
Please do not further or promote this senseless killing in February. My family spends quite a bit of time and money in Vermont and we urge the good people of VT not to encourage coyote killing contests.
Thank you.
Regards,
Nik Kulkarni MD

From: Fearn Lickfield [mailto:fearnessence@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Fwd: Asking for your support

Hello
Fish and Wildlife Committee

I have recently become aware of a seriously brutal coyote hunt competition that runs for the whole month of February in Vermont.

This, in addition to the fact that there is a year round open season for killing way too many of this very intelligent and important apex species in our ecosystem is very damaging to the coyotes and by extension, many other species.

I am asking you to support all legislation to end this competition and to protect this species from over hunting from now on.

Please vote in favor of acts H60 (coyote season), H336, (more diverse voices at Fish and Wildlife), H262 (regulate nuisance animals).

thank you so much!
Catherine Lickfield
Worcester, VT.

From: Josey Hastings [mailto:joseyhastings@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 7:01 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing contest

Dear Fish and Wildlife Committee,

I am saddened to hear of the upcoming coyote killing contest. It does not strike me as an ethical way of managing wildlife. Is there anything that Fish and Wildlife can do to prevent this contest from happening?

Best,
Josey Hastings

--

Josey Hastings Archdeacon L.Ac.
Five Element Acupuncturist
at
Tree of Life Medicine
174 River Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-522-7608

From: Sarah Birgé [mailto:sbirge@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 7:43 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing

Dear Mr. Porter and Vermont Fish & Wildlife,

My name is Sarah Birgé, and I am a life-long Vermonter who spends considerable amounts of time hiking, snowshoeing, and camping in our beautiful state. I would like to voice my opposition to the coyote killing contest, which Front Porch Forum tells me is soon to take place.

While I don't hunt or fish, I am a strong supporter of the way that Vermont manages its natural resources and animal populations. The vast majority of hunters understand their role in the balance of ecosystems, abide by licensing laws, and have respect for the animals they kill. I am not a biologist, but I am *very concerned about unregulated killing of any part of Vermont's delicate ecosystem.*

This coyote killing, and its attendant dangers to domestic dogs/hunting dogs, does not mirror Vermont's values around hunting and nature. I hope that the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife can extend its very reasonable policies to coyote management as well. Eventually, the attempted destruction of any given species will only bite us in the ass.

Thank you in advance,
Sarah Birgé

--

ELA Specialist, Vermont Agency of Education

Board Member, Nanubhai Education Foundation
www.nanubhai.org

From: HALE IRWIN [mailto:hale.irwin@comcast.net]

Sent: Saturday, January 06, 2018 1:37 PM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: Coyotes are not Vermin

Fish and Wildlife Committee:

I sent this letter to Governor Scott... and Commissioner Porter of F&W....

Vermont's treatment of coyotes is despicable and contrary to intelligent wildlife management. While the State is begging for more hunters to control the growing deer herd they allow their number one predator, the coyote, to be massacred day and night - year round. These animals are not vermin. If left to their natural ways the deer herd would be under control and the coyotes would limit their population on their own! It is time for Agency of Natural Resources and you, Governor Scott to quit kowtowing to the ignorant woodchucks who love to kill for the sake of killing. Save the coyote from man!

I look forward to the State of Vermont to do what is right in regards to the wanton massacre of coyotes.

**Thanks.
Sincerely,**

Hale Irwin

Middlesex, VT
802-917-4132

From: Polly Thurston [mailto:ptravennest@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 07, 2018 12:45 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please stop the coyote killing contest

Councilman Louis Porter and State Fish & Wildlife Committee,

I'm writing to ask you to find a way to STOP the coyote killing contest and support legislation that no longer allows coyote killing contests. Seems to me this senseless killing spree is a remnant of an old paradigm that promotes cruelty for sport. The way these sentient animals are brutally hunted down is from a time before there was any awareness about welfare of other beings or an understanding of ecological balance. As a wildlife biologist and field ecologist, I understand the challenges of balancing human activities with other species. I also know that humans are not going to find that balance with brutal means such as killing contests - it will always backfire - the ecological balance does not work that way. Please consider giving your state a better image than one of domination and brutality. Thank you.

Polly Thurston
Port Townsend, Washington

From: Porter, Louis [mailto:Louis.Porter@vermont.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 2:33 PM
To: Polly Thurston; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Re: Please stop the coyote killing contest

Dear Polly,

It is our understanding that the planned coyote contest has been cancelled due to lack of interest among hunters. Although coyote hunting contests are legal under Vermont law, the Fish and Wildlife Department in Vermont does not endorse or support these contests.

Coyote populations in Vermont are healthy and abundant, with coyotes now living in all regions of Vermont. Although not a native species in Vermont, coyotes have come to occupy an important niche as a medium size predator. The Department recognizes the value of predators and has for years worked to educate all Vermonters about the importance of these animals and about the need to respect wildlife, and their place in the environment. We also work to educate non-hunters about the value of hunting, its importance to wildlife management and to keeping

wild animals wild, the value of the food and other materials which come from hunting, and the important connection hunting fosters between people and their environment.

We do understand that some Vermonters would like to see these contests banned on ethical grounds through a change in statute. There is no evidence that hunting pressure, including from hunting contests, has any significant or long-lasting impact on coyote populations in Vermont. The Department is now in the process of preparing a report on coyote populations and regulations at the request of legislators, and we expect to discuss the results of that extensive review with lawmakers this year.

I would encourage you to read the Department's take on coyotes in Vermont here:

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_73079/File/Hunt/trapping/Eastern-Coyote-Position-Statement.pdf

Thank you for your note and your concern for wildlife in Vermont.

Sincerely,

Louis Porter

Commissioner

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

From: Charlene Chambers [mailto:charleneggg@aol.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 07, 2018 6:54 AM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: Coyotes

Hello,

This letter is in regard to the "coyote killing contest" which sounds disgusting just saying it, but the fact is this is cruel, unnecessary, and just threatens an already unsteady environment. Nature has a balance of its own and it is proven over and over that human intervention, especially large kills like this, disturbs the natural order. Vermont is supposed to be a "green" state meaning environmentally conscious and this "killing contest" is far from green or environmentally conscious.

I urge you to stop this cruel and environmentally disruptive act and put help put laws in place to prevent further events like this in the future.

Here is an excellent 4 minute video to show the importance of animals in nature and how they help keep the balance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

Thank you,
Charlene Chambers

From: Heather Williams [mailto:wmsheather924@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 07, 2018 9:08 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote hunting

This is cruel and dangerous. Please put an end to this.

From: fletcher d. [mailto:fletcherd@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 07, 2018 9:36 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Stop the coyote killing contest

Dear Ms. Ketchel,

I am appalled to read that there is a coyote killing contest scheduled for February. How insane and cruel!

According to the VT Fish and Wildlife website, "coyotes play an important role in Vermont's ecosystems" (stated twice). And we are not in danger of their overpopulation. Also, their website reports that "the family group is territorial and defends the core home range from other coyotes, thus limiting the total number of coyotes that Vermont can support." In addition, I read that half die off from birth to the first year and that adults die from many similar diseases and parasites that affect our domesticated canine friends.

Predators species such as the coyote help keep other populations healthy and in check by culling the old and the weak.

I am not opposed to hunting. If hunters were killing them for food, I could understand having a season for that, but this is just stupid, disrespectful killing for the hell of it.

I urge you to put a stop to this senseless killing contest. I have also notified my legislators as well, who I hope will get involved and help your committee to outlaw it.

I would appreciate your response.

Sincerely,

Fletcher Dean

PO Box 2

E. Calais, VT 05650

fletcherd@hotmail.com

From: Miles Sherts [mailto:milessherts@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 07, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Cc: Miles Sherts
Subject: coyote killing contest

Greetings,

I am a 30-year Vermont resident from Standard concerned about Coyote killing contests. I recently heard of a statewide privately sponsored contest and would like you and your agency to do whatever you can to ban these and keep them from happening.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Miles Sherts
Sky Meadow Retreat
63 Winchester Rd.
Greensboro Bend, Vermont 05842 802-533-2505
www.SkyMeadowRetreat.com

From: Elinor Osborn [mailto:elinor91@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 8:04 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote hunt

Dear Commissioner Porter and Committee members:

The coyote killing contest in February has no place in a normal wildlife environment. Please do what you can to stop it. It makes no sense to have this kind of destruction of beneficial animals.

I commend VT F&W for trying to educate the public with the science based information on coyotes.

Sincerely yours,
Elinor Osborn

Elinor Osborn Photography
1286 Lost Nation Rd
Craftsbury Common VT 05827

802 586-9994

From: Jeanette Malone [mailto:jmalone@gmavt.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:24 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: no kill contests

Please support future legislation to stop coyote killing contests and the open season.

Thank You,

Jeanette Malone
Richmond, Vermont

From: Abigail Hagler [mailto:baudetdepoitou@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:49 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

PLEASE let's have no more killing contests. What are we, a bunch of barbarians? I wonder sometimes. Apex predators are mandatory to the health of prey herds.

From: toby powers [mailto:tobypowers@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:56 PM
To: louis.porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Animal Killing Contests and Open Season

I am writing you to encourage you to ban all animal killing contests in VT and end the open season. Coyote killing contests and any type of animal killing contest is animal cruelty mislabeled as hunting. This is not the same as hunting deer for food or any type of typical hunting, this is engaging in animal abuse as a form of entertainment and disguising it as "hunting". It is not hunting and the "hunters" who engage in this should be ashamed of themselves to call themselves hunter. I encourage you to call this out for what it is and join in banning this sick form of entertainment.

Toby Powers & Nilton Costa

Winooski VT 05404

From: larkshield@aol.com [mailto:larkshield@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 6:44 PM
To: louis.porter@vermont.gov
Cc: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

Dear Mr. Porter,

I understand that Green Mountain Houndsmen's Club will be hosting a coyote killing contest starting on February 10th through the 11th and payouts will be given to the heaviest and smallest coyotes. As I know you and the Fish and Wildlife Department are against these contests I hope you will make sure this one is canceled immediately. Considering this is the second one that I know about I would hope you would support legislation to make sure a law is in place to make sure these contests are punishable by law. Such wanton waste is against conservation.

Sincerely,

Lark Shields
Craftsbury, VT

From: Suzie McCoy [mailto:suziemccoy1@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 6:54 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote killing contests?

Please put a stop to coyote killing contests! This does not align with VT values.

--

Suzie McCoy
(802)343-4076

From: Judith Macdonald [mailto:jlydia158@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 9:54 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

PLEASE support future legislation to stop coyote killing contests and eliminate open season on coyotes. They are an important predator in the ecosystem and deserve to be treated with respect!

Thank you,

Judi Macdonald

909 Battles Brook Road

Braintree, VT 05060

From: sedna101@aol.com [mailto:sedna101@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 12:58 AM

To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel

Subject: coyote killing contests

Please support future legislation to stop coyote killing contests and the open season on coyotes. The Green Mountain Houndsman Club will be hosting a coyote killing contest starting on February 10th through the 11th. Payouts will be given to the heaviest and smallest coyotes. This is revolting. Killing for fun? Only mentally ill people enjoy torturing and killing animals. Rather than enabling their illness, please get them the help they desperately need. And for hound hunters to set their canines on other canines is particularly vile. Aren't there laws against dog fighting??? That is exactly what this sick "sport" is.

Coyotes perform crucial ecosystem services, not the least is that their diet is almost all rodents. I really do not want Vermont to be known as a state full of ignorant killers; we are better than this.

Jane Eagle

From: Rachel Smolker [mailto:rsmolker@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Rachel Smolker

Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 9:48 AM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: coyote contest

I heard recently about the plan for a coyote killing contest in the state. This is hideous and should not be permitted. First of all, coyotes are part of the ecosystem and should not be "eliminated" - nor does hunting them effectively reduce population. Second, it is cruel and senseless. Third, it will result in a far less welcoming attitude towards hunters. I for one will be posting my land for the first time ever.

Rachel Smolker, Ph.D.
Biofuelwatch (codirector)

rsmolker@riseup.net

802.482.2848 (o)

802.735 7794 (m)

skype: Rachel Smolker

twitter: @rsmolker

From: b.flynn@myfairpoint.net [mailto:b.flynn@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 2:49 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Wildlife

I respectfully urge you to support legislation to outlaw wildlife killing contests and open seasons. This means a great deal to me and many others. Please do the right thing. Please respond.

Brian Flynn
Craftsbury Common

From: Martha J. Mahan [mailto:mjm@tds.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2018 7:21 AM
To: 'Porter, Louis'
Cc: Christy Ketchel; Ann Cummings; Anne Donahue; Patti Lewis; Francis Brooks; Anthony Pollina
Subject: RE: COYOTE KILLING CONTEST

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for your reply. I hope you are correct in your understanding that the coyote killing contest has been cancelled.

I am one of the Vermonters who would like to see these killing contests banned, but not merely based on ethical grounds. The Vt. Fish & Wildlife Statement (which I had previously read) addresses attempts to control coyotes through killing contests as being ineffective or failures. If there is no significant or long lasting impact, as you have stated, and the contests are essentially ineffective or failures at controlling populations, then why have them and what is the purpose?

It seems logical that there may, in fact, be significant or long lasting impacts if more landowners, like us, post our land to hunting, simply because we do not want to be a participant in this indiscriminate type of killing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Martha J. Mahan
P.O. Box 395
Northfield, Vt. 05663
802 485-7429

From: Kathleen Wilson
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 1:46 PM
To: jessupkimberly@gmail.com ; acummings@leg.state.vt.us ; apollina@leg.state.vt.us ; FBrooks@leg.state.vt.us ; David Deen ; Jim McCullough
Cc: louis.porter@vermont.gov
Subject: This needs to END

Dear Legislators,

I'm convinced that Vermont's humanity is still at the level of savagery. I honestly do not know why hunting wildlife down with hounds is still legal in the state, along with trapping. I really think fish and wildlife exists to protect trappers and hounders and to heck with the rest of us who live here. I'm ashamed to say I even live in this state where I was born 68 years ago. Vermont, where this kind of murder is still tolerated.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wilson
East Montpelier

From: Jeff Beaupre [mailto:rockngriz@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2018 9:46 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

There is very few people left that think trophy hunting is right, and these coyote killing blood sport is even below trophy hunting. As a Native Vermonter of many generations I can't even believe this senseless killing for the sack of just killing is even allowed in this state. Sincerely Jeff Beaupre

From: Ruth [mailto:rwhiteway@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 2:44 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Why is it so hard for some to see what is right? Imagine making animals suffer like that. Where do they get that hate?

Please always fight for legislation that will one day, ban leg hold traps.
And better yet..punish those who abuse the law.

Thanks for caring.

Ruth whiteway and Curtis whiteway
1601 East Craftsbury Road
Craftsbury Vermont 05826

From: Hale Irwin@comcast.net [mailto:hale.irwin@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 6:31 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: The coyote is not a varmint

From: Sue Martin [mailto:suemartin455@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 6:33 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing contest

Hi,

I heard there is another Killing Contest being planned and I would like to register my disdain for such methods of hunting. Coyotes do have their place in the wild environment and may need to be controlled at times, but a contest seems sick. Perhaps a short hunting season without prizes seems more in keeping with good hunting practices.

I also think leghold trapping is inhumane and should be banned. There's better ways of hunting without torturing animals. I am not a hunter and not against hunting, just some of the methods used. Thank you.

Susan Martin
1409 Big Hollow Rd
Starksboro, Vt.

From: carol Bick [mailto:craecounselor49@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 9:04 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Contest

I'm interested in helping to stop this deplorable contest.
Carol Bick

From: Jennifer Latorre [mailto:jennifer610@icloud.com]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 9:51 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Support

Committed for the fish and wildlife,

I urge you to please support future legislation to stop coyote killing contests and the open season .

Thank you

Jennifer La Torre

From: MICHAEL SHIELDS [mailto:mshields494@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 9:51 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

Trapping is cruel and inhumane. This barbaric act needs to end. Maybe you will get caught in your own trap and find out, first hand, the pain and senseless misery that you are inflicting on the diminishing wild life in your state.

From: Tom Zenaty [mailto:tzenaty@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 10:46 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: Tom Zenaty
Subject: H.60 and killing contests

I would ask that you pass along to the House VT Fish and Wildlife Committee that I strongly urge the committee to ban any killing contests, as is now apparently now allowed.

Furthermore, as I understand it, H.60 would represent a significant, necessary step in creating a sane, managed coyote hunting season. This would seem to be only appropriate.

I strongly urge action by the committee to address these issues.

Tom Zenaty
Shelburne

From: Colleen Schuster [mailto:caseyjonesvt1@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 12:07 PM
To: Christy Ketchel; Michael Yantachka; Claire Ayer; Fred Baser; Christopher Bray; David Sharpe; Louis.Porter@vermont.gov
Subject: Wildlife concerns

Hi,

I am writing to all of you about some concerns I have for Vermont wildlife. Specifically I would like to see the elimination of coyote and other wildlife killing contests, as well as the elimination of the open season on coyotes. This is not supported by scientific evidence as being necessary or of any benefit, and just promotes wanton waste.

Thank you for your consideration with these issues.

Colleen Schuster
Bristol, Vermont

From: mary ann young [mailto:mafulleryoung@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 5:22 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: contests

please ban the coyote contests. Killing contests is bad sport. Let us have a heart and respect for living things.

mary ann fuller young
south burlington, vermont

From: Elinor Osborn [mailto:elinor91@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 7:29 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: VT fish and wildlife committee

A Regulated season on coyote hunting would be much better than the anytime season that now exists.

The coyote killing contest should not be allowed.

Thank you
Elinor

Elinor Osborn Photography
1286 Lost Nation Rd
Craftsbury Common VT 05827

From: [Alana Stevenson, MS](#)
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:28 PM
To: ddeen@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: Bills in Fish & Wildlife and meeting

Hi David,

I am not in your district, but Charlotte. However, I have recently been asked to be on the advisory board for the Vermont Wildlife Coalition and would like to set up a meeting with you and other members of the committee to discuss some of the important bills that are pending, one of which H. 60 was introduced by you.

I did contact Mary Sullivan as well as my legislators.

In a nutshell, please do all you can to pass H. 60 out of committee and make it a strong bill. I was horrified, and still am, that a rod and gun club was hosting a coyote killing contest for Feb. Although it was cancelled, a 'Houndsmen' Club in Franklin County took it up for Feb 10/11. It is inexcusable for VT to have no restrictions on the killing of coyotes. It's deplorable -- as are all killing 'contests.'

H. 336 would help change the way the Fish and Wildlife Board operates and how it's comprised. This is actually what made me connect with VWC as I've long been appalled that the Board has final say on nearly all wildlife matters and does not have to follow recommendations from the Fish & Wildlife Committee. That the Fish and Wildlife Board is made up entirely of hunters and professional trappers (a conflict of interest), members need no special credentials, and have no accountability is especially discouraging. Most homeowners I know dislike the way hunting and wildlife is managed in VT. The public needs to have a say in how Fish and Wildlife is managed, and it should not be solely run for the pleasure of a few, at the expense of the rest of Vermonters.

H. 262 and H. 590 (especially) are important as there is no clear definition of what constitutes 'nuisance' wildlife and there are no standards for killing wildlife - they can be stomped on, drowned, or beaten. If someone traps a raccoon and calls Fish and Wildlife they are told to drown it or suffocate it in the back of their car -- but it is illegal to relocate it and one would need a permit to help rehab or care for one. That's not responsible management or environmentally sound and it is old and out-dated. It is also not right that trappers do not have to report the number of animals or species they kill -- including animals such as dogs and cats. They should not be above the law. I could go on.

Please, again, push these bills through the committee favorably so they can move on to the house floor and be voted on and hopefully, move onto the senate. And if there are any times to meet you in in Montpelier, please let me know. Thank you.

Alana Stevenson, M.S.
617.921.1224 (c) | AlanaStevenson.com
AnimalBehaviorServices.com

From: keri and bill [mailto:wkedmunds@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 12:30 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote hunting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am not sure if I am supposed to send a letter regarding this issue, but I wanted just to say that we are opposed to an open season on coyotes.

When we asked houndsmen not to hunt with their dogs around our house (along with all our neighbors, which now includes at least 7 of us and comprising of hundreds of acres), we were harassed for 25 years. They parked in front of our house in the middle of the night with trucks and flashlights with the sounds of chains and baying hounds. Our house is close to the road, less than 50 feet, so basically right out our door. One hunter stopped every week to ask me 2 questions, "Where is the fox den?" and "Where is your husband?" We wrote to everyone we could think of and finally the Attorney's General Office told us we could probably take care of this by calling it stalking. They finally killed all our foxes, mother and babies, out of season, and threw them at the end of our driveway. I have caught more than 17 (I believe 23) hounds in our

yard. They were here night and day, 7 days a week. The hounds were found sleeping on our deck, attacking our cats through a cat door, etc. Finally, this year we woke to hear hounds. My husband jumped out of bed and there was a pack of hounds running under our window with 3 hunters standing on our front lawn. He told them to get off our property. By this time, I had grabbed a coat to cover my PJs and my camera and ran out to take pictures. The hunters walked between our no hunting signs, and they are close together, not more than 50 feet apart. (I have attached pics so you can see they walked right by our no hunting signs and also see the shed with our house right behind it where they mauled the coyote and then again against our cat fence) with guns to kill a coyote their hounds were attacking. The coyote was injured, exhausted and terrified and was trying to hide under our shed beside our house. I yelled at the hunters once again to leave, but their hounds mauled the coyote 3 more times before they gathered them.

This last summer hunters ran a sow bear with tiny bear cubs behind our house. When I ran out the mother and cubs, who were smaller than my cats, would not climb trees, but were under a brush pile and the mother was trying to defend them against 2 hounds and 1 pit bull. Finally, I was able to scare the mother away from the cubs and the hounds followed her. While this was not running coyotes, this is one of the coyote hunters and this hunter was recently arrested for poaching a lactating moose, shooting her twice, hitting her with his truck and dragging her 12 miles, leaving her calf to starve to death.

This is just a fraction of what we and our neighbors have been through. Fish and Wildlife have helped us over the years and things have continued to improve, but I just want you to know what sort of men and women believe coyote hunting should be 365 days a year. This has nothing to do with ethical hunting. Ethical hunting is once a year, killing with one shot. It is not a bloodsport. Killing coyotes indiscriminately is a bloodsport, running a pack of 6 hounds against one innocent animal which probably never caused trouble in its entire life. Science shows that coyotes feed mostly on rodents, groundhogs and berries, while some feed on fawns for a short 4-week period in the spring, once the fawns are 4 weeks old they are able to outrun bear and coyotes. Some coyotes never show an interest in fawns and a study of radio-collared coyotes showed that every adult deer they killed had already been severely injured (i.e., by car collisions) and would have died anyway. I am not saying they never kill adult deer, but we live in an area with a healthy population of foxes, coyotes, bear and deer and everyone exists amongst each other. We and our neighbors are in the woods every single day and we have game cameras up all the time and are able to watch all these animals coexist with each other. Just yesterday I had to stop for 12 deer crossing the road below our house and yet the woods are full of coyote, fox and deer tracks. One young deer was hit by a car last week and the ravens are foxes are feeding on it beside the road. This is a natural ecosystem and it works.

There are sanctuaries all across our country where landowners are protecting land for wildlife and have proved time and time again that coyotes are not the beasts that these hunters claim they are. The hunters who need to kill year-round are the beasts. Bloodsports, again, have nothing to do with ethical hunting and is not the behavior Vermont should be participating in. We have always been a forward-thinking state of kind and thinking people. If you have seen pictures on Facebook you have seen the horrors coyotes face every day of bullying and tormenting, running until their lungs nearly burst, being used as live bait when caught in leg-hold traps while the hunter trains his gun on the woods, waiting for the other pack members to react to the trapped

coyote's distress calls so he can shoot them as they come. Supporting torture is truly as low as Vermont can get. I am begging you to take control of this situation and support traditional Vermont values and stop this abuse now. It is already out of hand and never should have gotten so far. Please represent all Vermonters and landowners and do not make brutality acceptable.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Kerry and William Edmunds
Craftsbury Common, Vermont

From: larkshield@aol.com [mailto:larkshield@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 2:13 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

I would like to go on record for the Jan. 25th meeting in regard to coyotes:

Having killing contests goes against any kind of conservation. The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Board say they do not support these contests yet they have not supported or encourage the legislature to do pass any bills or laws against them. It is a proven FACT by the majority of biologists by killing coyotes consistently that you are only increasing their numbers. They manage their own population numbers. Don't go against the science. Therefore we need a:

1. Regulated Season -- therefore support and pass (H.60). That would create a regulated annual coyote hunt. A regulated hunt would be a huge step beyond the no limits approach that currently applies. Right now, you can hunt coyotes 24/7, 365 days a year, and there are no limits on how many coyotes can be taken.

and a ban on:

2. Killing Contests -- There is no bill drafted currently to outlaw killing contests, but there is discussion about such a bill and the legislator needs to support a bill and pass a law to outlaw these killing contests.

Sincerely,

Lark Shields/Craftsbury, VT

From: Vince O'Connell [mailto:mitochondriax@riseup.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:11 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: POSSIBLE SPAM: H.60

Dear Christy,

Please convey to the Fish and Wildlife Committee that I strongly support H.60 which would regulate coyote hunting in Vermont.

Thanks and best regards,

Vince O'Connell
Craftsbury Common, VT 05827

From: Jessica [mailto:jessica@homewardboundanimals.org]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:50 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please act to end unregulated killing of coyotes and ban wildlife killing contests

Dear Clerk Ketchel,

I live in Brandon Vermont and as I was driving to work this morning something in the woods off of Union Street leading into town caught my eye. It was a solitary silver/grey coyote standing silent in the snow and I felt so lucky to live and work in a state where I could so casually see a wild animal in its own element.

As you are aware, there is a fight for the coyote happening in Montpelier right now and I urge the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife to stand on the side of this maligned species and please bring Vermont into the 21st century with respect to how we treat this creature.

Thank you.

Jessica Danyow
Executive Director
Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society
236 Boardman Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-1100 x 222

From: Jane Dimotsis [mailto:dimotsisjane@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 1:41 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: No more coyote death contests.

Dear Legislator, as a Vermonter, born and bred, I cannot believe our state would allow the senseless killing of a healthy animal like the coyote to be legal. Particularly, that killing is allowed 365 days a year and there are actual contests to see who can kill the most. Other states have banned this heartless "kill" type party. Vermont needs to do so also. It is disgusting. Even people who don't like hunting usually approve of killing animals for food or sometimes even sport but are we so heartless and callous as to have killing contests??????????? I hope not. I am not voting for or supporting any legislator who supports heartless killing like this. jane gomez dimotsis, Former State employee and Vermonter

From: LaeliaDT [mailto:laeliadt@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 9:35 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: please regulate coyote hunting & prohibit killing contests

Thank you for whatever you can do to support such legislation.

Leslie Tawnamaia
Marshfield, VT

From: Bonnie Geisler [mailto:bgeisler@ffvt.org]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 12:20 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: Robert Starr; John Rodgers; ggviens@gmail.com; Michael Marcotte
Subject: Please Protect Coyotes

To the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife,

The role our department of Fish and Wildlife in Vermont is "To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont."

As a citizen of Vermont I find it unconscionable that coyotes are offered NO protections at all. They are a critical apex predator. Mice which are carrying the ticks that are making moose, deer and people sick in Vermont are a key part of coyote's diet. If packs are left intact, only the alpha male/female produce off-spring and they will regulate their own populations. Nuisance behavior from coyotes is easily managed by not disrupting the social order of the pack and by common-sense hazing techniques. Coyotes do not have a significant impact on deer populations.

But the Department of Fish and Wildlife in Vermont knows all of this. The Department is also aware of the unfounded prejudice against this species and the heinous culture and cruelty associated with coyote culling.

This week, please move forward on protections for coyotes including a specific short season, eliminating the inhumane trapping of coyotes and all other species in Vermont and a total ban on "contests". And most importantly, please use the resources of our of Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide the public with science-based facts about these animals.

I am copying my legislators on this note because I'm hoping that there will be timely action on this long-standing issue and that they will have a bill to support in their chambers in the 2018 season.

Thank you,
Bonnie Geisler

--

Bonnie Geisler
Coventry, VT
802-673-4351

From: Stephen Dybas [mailto:sdybas@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 12:28 PM

To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing legislation

Hello,

I am writing to strongly support legislation that will define a set season on coyote hunting. I do not support the open season and there is no evidence to support that it is good for wildlife management or Vermont.

Please notify the entire committee of this stance.

Best,

Stephen

From: Kent Goodwin [mailto:kentogoodwin@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:10 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: louise.porter@vermont.gov
Subject: Committee on Fish and Wildlife: Coyote Killing Contests

Dear Representative Ketchel,

I understand there is a hearing this Thursday to discuss wildlife management and in particular management of the State's coyote population and reform of current practices that allow "coyote killing contests." Louis Porter is tasked with spearheading policy in this area but seems deaf to entreaties from a growing group of Vermonters to end this barbaric practice. I respect many of the traditions of hunting, woodsmanship and the values and responsibilities it teaches. I also respect wildlife and care about the preservation of natural habitat. I believe in the balance of nature and that when man artificially intrudes in the indiscriminate reduction in the population of a given animal, it has repercussions for the entire wildlife chain. We are ultimately part of that chain, also, and the way things are going, I fear for the day when the siting of wildlife in Vermont becomes an extremely rare event.

So, in a time of increasing intrusion in wildlife habitat via development and the impacts of climate change, we need to be very smart and informed about wildlife policy. It is an area that we can readily control. That means studying animal populations and ensuring that hunting regulations do not unduly disrupt or diminish them or impact them during breeding and nursing seasons. These are immediate fixes that we can control. These decisions should be fact-based, not politicized factors such as catering to the whims of an old-fashioned hunting mentality that does not best serve the people of Vermont, only a very small, in-grained, malicious mind-set among a certain class of hunters that attributes false evil to a particular animal species, and makes sport of killing the greatest number possible with no regard for its sustainability.

I grew up hunting and fishing in my native Oregon. These same battles were fought over the length of fishing seasons, number of takes, size of fish, wild animal hunting seasons and quotas

and on and on. Initially it was difficult to overcome the antiquated mentality and mindset of the hunting population and the attitudes of the Fish & Wildlife departments. It raised fears of reduced hunting fees that represented revenue for the State to manage wildlife resources. Dept. of F&W was afraid of offending hunters and fisherman. Over time, however, all came to realize that the status quo would mean an eventual and more permanent decline in fish and wildlife, and that would mean a reduction in tourism for all of the people that flocked to Oregon because of its plentiful fish and wildlife populations and outdoor recreation. The amount of tourist dollars spent annually dwarfed any predicted decline in hunting/fishing fee revenue. Today, Oregon successfully manages fish and wildlife to preserve populations that, like Vermont, are also under duress from development and climate change. But, they control what they can control. Hunting, fishing & outdoor recreation tourism in the State is booming. Populations are either sustained or growing in the face of development and climate change challenges.

Why not look to other states for their policy formulations? Why not hold Louis Porter, an extremely important factor and influence in fish & wildlife policy, accountable for knowing what other states do and why? Why is he not questioned and held accountable for refusing to reform activities like coyote killing contests? He seems instead bent on protecting outdated and potentially destructive policies and behavior merely to protect past habits that do not serve either the present or future of Vermont wildlife or Vermont residents or tourists.

Please take these factors into account in your duties on the Committee. Unfortunately I am unable to attend.

Feel free to share this with whomever you choose. I have cc'd Louis Porter, also.

Sincerely,

Kent Goodwin

From: Norma Norland [mailto:norlandnorken@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:14 PM

To: Christy Ketchel

Cc: Harvey Smith

Subject: Coyote legislation

Fish and Wildlife Committee:

VT Fish and Wildlife should be an example of enlightened wildlife management.
If only!

But there is an important opportunity coming up, a chance to prohibit coyote-killing contests that give both hunting and hunters a bad name. My family hunts deer and, on occasion, rabbits. They are ethical hunters who would never take part in this kind of "let's-stamp-out-all-the-cockroaches" kind of "sport," if it was even deserving of that name. This is the *least* the legislature can do.

What's more, having a 365 day open season on coyotes makes no sense either. Animal science studies have shown over and over again that coyotes multiply when there is open territory, the

obvious result of coyotes having been eliminated from another area. For gosh sakes, let's learn to live sensibly and ethically with wildlife!

Norma Norland
1320 Hallock Road
New Haven, VT

From: kipross@kipross.com [mailto:kipross@kipross.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:11 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov
Cc: info@protectourwildlifevt.org; Christy Ketchel; Matthew Hill; Daniel Noyes; rawestman@gmail.com
Subject: Coyote Slaughter

Dear Mr. Porter,

As you well know, the ground swell of objections to open season Coyote killing is growing rapidly.

Yet you remain silent on the subject. Why???

This is a morbid cult of sadists that you are enabling. It's senseless, sickening, a stain on our state and respectful and responsible hunters and just cruel.

You know the resilient nature of these animals. So, you know the more the freaks slaughter Coyotes the more their numbers grow and spread over larger areas.

You know all this. Vt. Fish and Wildlife promotes "conservation". Open season on Coyotes isn't conservation. Is it?

Show some integrity and explain to the growing numbers of angry Vermonters who oppose fun killing what your rationale is. Be brave instead of invisible and silent.

Kip Ross
23 Center Road
Hyde Park, VT 05655

From: Olga Sobko [mailto:fmrl.osw@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:49 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Support H.60 Coyote killing reform

Dear Vermont Legislators:

I and my family write to you to ask you support this critically important reform to coyote hunting in the state of Vermont.

Not only is this an essential and necessary change in light of the outrageous heinous inflow of out-of-state hunters and in state hunters who spawn mass killings of coyotes under the namesake

of game calling device companies and their commissioned field reps who earn income at the expense of brutal coyote killing for the sake of the game calling businesses, but also to address the immoral and unethical killing under "silent" "hidden" and unmonitored coyote killing contests, random killing of coyote esp during breeding season or even when young pups are reliant upon mothers..

All of this, truly does NOT place Vermont, Vermont fish and Wildlife, hunting or wildlife conservation in a positive light. It is an ugly mark on this state and all who condone and turn a blind eye to these horrendous killing allowances. Do the right thing, step out of your complacency and vote for coyote killing reform- Please.

Below are several points that address the unjustified and illogical purpose of open season killing of coyote.

Please read them. please do the right thing and support H.60

thank you

Olga Sobko

Blood Brook Rd

Fairlee, VT

Support H.60 to Reform Coyote Hunting

For additional questions, please contact Barry Londeree,

Introduced by Rep. David Deen

This bill would require a needed review of current coyote policies and suggestions for reforms

VT State Director, The Humane Society of the United States,

at (802) 598-9737 or blonderee@humanesociety.org.

What are the current coyote hunting rules?

- In Vermont, it is legal to hunt coyotes 365 days per year, night and day, with virtually no regulations.
- This policy results in the commonly-held view of coyotes as vermin, killing contests or derbies that award cash prizes, widespread wanton waste, unethical hunter behavior, and a diminished public understanding and respect for this important species.

Importance of Coyotes

- Coyotes are an integral part of healthy ecosystems, providing a number of free, natural ecological services.
- They help to control disease transmission, keep rodent populations in check, clean up carrion (animal carcasses), increase biodiversity, remove sick animals from the gene pool, and protect crops.

Killing Coyotes is Ineffective as Population Control

- According to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, "Coyotes are density dependent breeders. As the number of coyotes in an area decreases, their reproductive rates increase. Coyote control efforts are therefore often unsuccessful because they tend to stimulate reproduction."
- In fact, the indiscriminate killing of coyotes can increase populations by disrupting their social structure, which, ironically, encourages more breeding and migration, and ultimately results in more coyotes.

Coyotes Have Little Impact on Livestock and Game Animals

- Proponents of the indiscriminate killing of coyotes often rely on exaggerated claims that coyotes attack livestock and diminish game populations. In reality:
 - According to USDA data, livestock losses to native carnivores are minuscule, just 0.5 percent of the total number of livestock animals. The largest source of mortality to livestock, by far, is from disease, illness, birthing problems, and weather.
 - Coyotes, which have a diverse diet and favor rabbits and rodents, also have minimal impact on game animals. A study by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation found "only when other factors, such as poor habitat, harsh winters, and other forms of predation are severe and chronic that coyote predation limits the growth of a deer population."
- Open hunts do not target specific, problem-causing coyotes. Disrupting the coyote family structure may actually increase conflicts by creating pack led by younger, less experienced coyotes.

From: Janice Stearns [mailto:jstearns918@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 3:34 PM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: Coyote killing

I am writing to insist that the Department of Fish and Wildlife support legislation to eliminate the senseless killing of wildlife in our beautiful state of Vermont! I can't understand how your department which is designed to support wildlife can support the senseless killing of said wildlife. You are attempting to destroy the cycle of nature. Coyote killing contests are just plain SICK and wrong as are leg hold traps!

Respectfully,
Janice D. Stearns
Middlebury, VT.

From: Steve Allen [mailto:saphoto@gmavt.net]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 6:06 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: strictlytrout@vermontel.net
Subject: Coyote Hunting in Vermont

I am writing to provide my prospective regarding the current effort to limit coyote hunting in Vermont. I have lived in VT for the last thirty years and have been hunting all of this time. My wife and I also actively pursue wildlife viewing and enjoy seeing the evidence of a healthy wildlife ecosystem visible around our property during the winter due to the tracks in the snow. Coyotes hunt and kill the snowshoe hares that live around here as well as the whitetail deer. They are not part of a healthy ecosystem, they throw it out of balance. It is my strong belief that we do not need to institute any restrictions on coyote hunting.

As an "off the record comment" to the direction Vermont has been headed since the Shumlin administration. My wife and I are putting our house on the market this spring and moving down South. I feel very bad for my friends who have lived here for generations. I see the social and political direction Vermont is headed to be morally unacceptable, and I'm not even a Christian.

Sincerely,
Steve Allen
Waitsfield, VT

From: Elise Eaton [mailto:ebecatgirl@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 6:34 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Comments

House Committee Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife
Montpelier, VT

Good Evening:

I am but one of many, many Vermonters I know who care deeply about Vermont's wildlife. As I see it, we have reached the tipping point when it comes to ending the senseless and cruel killing of coyotes and open season wildlife hunts. If you are familiar with this activity, you know it fails miserably and often, the fair chase litmus test. The word reprehensible comes to mind.

Due to another commitment, I am unable to attend the hearing this Thursday morning at which Louis Porter will present a coyote report commissioned by the legislature. Frankly, it is remarkable to me in the worst possible way that thus far he continues to refuse to recommend a ban on an open season and these cruel wildlife killing contests.

My faith is in my elected officials, you, to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Elise B. Eaton

Chittenden-6-2

From: Karen Nielsen [mailto:knielsenmv@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 7:14 PM

To: Christy Ketchel; fwboard.washington@gmail.com; Francis Brooks; Ann Cummings; Anthony Pollina; Tom Stevens; Theresa Wood

Subject: Coyote Killing Contests and Open Season

Fish and Wildlife Committee, Ms. Elmer, Mr. Brooks, Ms. Cummings, Mr. Pollina, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Wood,

I am writing to ask you all to support future legislation to stop coyote killing contests and the open season in Vermont.

I am a trained biologist (University of Vermont, B.A., Zoology, Masters from Cambridge University, England in Applied Biology). I am shocked at the arcane and outdated practices that the Vermont Fish

and Wildlife Department uses. They should join the 21st century and use humane and effective wildlife management practices or look for new people to work there. It is shocking that Vt. Fish and Wildlife endorses killing contests and an open season on coyotes (in addition to their trapping practices, but that is another story). Please support the employment of responsible and humane practices throughout Vermont Fish and Wildlife or make room for people who will. There are ways to control and manage populations without inflicting undue harm and suffering. And you all know that.

Sincerely,

Karen Nielsen
Waterbury Center, VT

From: Gloria Currie [mailto:gbcurrie@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 9:59 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote slaughter

We support humane treatment of coyotes and want civilized legislation enacted to protect them from this barbaric slaughter. The hunters do not own Vermont's wildlife.
It's time to listen to all Vermont citizens and not give the hunters and trappers everything they want.

William and Gloria Currie
Salisbury, Vermont

From: Matt L [mailto:mattlake84@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 2:30 PM
To: David Deen; Mary Sullivan; Steve Beyor; David Ainsworth; Paul Lefebvre;
jim_mccullough@myfairpoint.net; Carol Ode; Trevor Squirrell; thomas.terenzini@yahoo.com; Christy Ketchel
Subject: Fw: Coyote Hunting

Dear Commissioner and anyone involved in the Vermont Fish and Game Department

My family owns a 600 acre farm in Bridport and we've been hearing some discussion about limiting coyote hunting.

I just wanted to reach out and convey how upset this would make us as farmers and myself as a hunter.

I feel the general public is unaware of the damage the coyote population does here, we frequently lose calves born in the pasture, the neighbors cat was taken off his porch while he was standing there, we have seen deer killed right along side the road by groups of coyotes.

Our farm is only 600 acres but in 7 months I have removed 12 coyotes, 4 were trapped during the fall season, 8 were shot (only one of which I was actually hunting and called in) the rest showed up in our VERY small pasture which is also VERY close to my brothers house where my young nieces often play outside.

On one occasion my brother spotted a coyote sneaking up the fence line to where his children were playing, after receiving his call I drove from home and shot the coyote 25 yards from his house.

On another occasion I went to get the mail and spotted our family dog (an overweight beagle) stuck between 2 snarling coyotes, 10 yards from a paved road.

In no way am I saying the coyotes are viscous child killers, but from what I've seen they are definitely a threat to livestock, small animals and our livelihood.

Also from what I've seen here just on our small farm, no amount of hunting or trapping will endanger the species, as I said I've removed 12 in the past 7 months and just saw 3 Sunday behind the barn.

I've recently decided to actually start "hunting" coyotes not only to protect our livestock but as a great way to get outside in the winter when there isn't alot to do.

I hoped in my truck and started stopping at local farms to get permission to coyote hunt on their land, of the 10 farms I visited EVERY one of them was not only said yes, but was happy to hear that I was going to help with their "PROBLEM"

One farmer was particularly upset with the number of calves he looses every year, and feels the coyotes are as much an invasive species at the mil foil in the lake .

I'm sorry for being so long winded, and THANK YOU VERY MUCH for taking the time to read this, I hope it helps with the decision to maintain the open coyote hunting season in our great state which I feel is beneficial not only to the farmers but to the deer and rabbit population

One final note,

In order to get started hunting I've bought a GPS, calls, warm gloves and boots, decoys, ammo, a range finder, spending thousands of dollars LOCALLY, thus stimulating the local economy.

Matt Lawton
Champlain Acres Farm
5090 Lake Street
Bridport VT 05734
(802) 349 5429 Cell anytime

From: Anne Macklin [mailto:anne.marshotel@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 4:25 PM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: H.60

Dear House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing to you today because I am tired of seeing the injustice to coyotes going on in our own backyards and woods. In the past few months I have seen photos, videos, and comments

from the people that hunt coyotes. After witnessing this activity and behavior I cannot turn my head and pretend that this okay, change needs to happen.

Let's start with why some people loathe coyotes. Yes, they are predators, which predators are a vital part of our ecosystem. Their diet of woodchuck, rabbit, mice, rat, vole, and moles help keep populations down, which in abundance these other animals can cause considerable damage. Yes, they might occasionally go after someone's chicken or other small farm animals, but a fence or a guard dog could remedy that. Keep in mind that the coyote is just trying to survive, and these are not vindictive acts that people make them out to be, it's only the human that is vindictive.

The images and videos I have seen are considered legalized animal abuse. Photos of coyotes in leg hold traps as the hunter takes a selfie with the terrified animal, radio-collared dogs that chase the coyote to the point of exhaustion with the hunter in pursuit on an ATV to corner it and then they either club it, shoot it, or let the dogs finish it off. These people take great pride in the torture they put upon these animals. I come from a family of hunters and know that not all hunters support this type of hunting. Coyote "hunters" give true ethical hunters a bad wrap. Is that really how Vermont Fish and Wildlife want to be represented?

Please put regulations on coyote hunting into place, and stop killing contest that just enables this sadistic behavior. Vermont can do better than this.

Sincerely,
Anne Macklin

From: Jeffrey Mack [mailto:jlmkaw@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 7:15 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyotes

My name is Jeffrey Mack and I live in Shoreham Vt. I would like law makers in Vt to stop the endless attack on coyotes. Wildlife is for all Vermonters. Any person that kills for fun can not be called a hunter. Bait piles hounds with trackers and killers with high power rifles give the coyote zero chance. Yellow poster signs litter our landscape to keep the killers away. Time for Louis Porter to work for all Vermonters.

Jeffrey Mack

From: Mike Covey [mailto:obsesiveracer@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 8:38 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: Rodney Graham; Robert Frenier
Subject: Of concern

Chairman Deen and Fellow Committee Members,.

For the last three years Vermont's outdoor community has been under attack from some who seek to cripple, complicate, and otherwise jumble conservation efforts in the state. I wanted to

take a moment and touch on a little bit of these folk's conduct. Below are several quotes, all documented, from leadership and supporters of the recent anti-hunting movement we have seen. Their attacks on hunting and trapping as conservation tools, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and members of the outdoor community at large have been virulent and at times quite personal. The clear message from these organizations is that hunters and trappers are inherently evil, with common use of adjectives such as sadistic, cruel, sick, and disgusting being the general order of the day.

They are engaged in bigotry at its basest level. Generating a public narrative which demonizes hunters and trappers and dismisses their interests and lifestyles because "they are a minority". When did this become an acceptable way to treat minorities within our communities? How could any legislator conscientiously support a group of folks who unilaterally dismiss an important segment of society as having no value and deserving no consideration simply because they choose to enjoy a more traditional lifestyle and deeper connection to the landscape with their friends and families? I believe some have been misled by what has been a largely one sided narrative. Granted, there have been some inflammatory remarks from sportsmen resulting from this unprovoked attack, an outburst which has been unprecedented in its virulence. The average person is not not given to weigh all sides as does a legislator. Average folks who have been targeted for "shaming" by those who wish to end their lifestyle tend to be reactive. I urge each of you to ask yourselves, do you believe they are inherently evil for their interest in actively participating in the management of our renewable wild resources? That is clearly the position groups such as Protect Our Wildlife have taken.

Your vote is your statement.

My best regards,

Mike Covey

Williamstown

"Photograph them and shame them whenever possible!"

"This is not conservation, it is sadistic behavior."

"There are trappers out there right now committing unthinkable acts of cruelty upon our wildlife... This is sadistic behavior and falls under the category of zoosadism but it's legal and thriving in the state of Vermont."

"You're the minority who enjoys trapping (a.k.a. torturing) animals and then post for selfies – it's not normal. In your circles, you may think so, but I promise you, it's unacceptable to normal people."

"What happened to you in your childhood that made you such a sick individual?"

-Brenna Galdenzi-Angelillo (Angel on social media)
President of Protect Our Wildlife (POW)
(personal quotes and statements from her organization)



Brenna Angel

Member of Vermont Birding

04/29/2012, 5:18 PM

What are you holding in
your FB photo???

Conservationist huh?

What a shame. I hope
you don't have children.

This is disgusting.



"Plus they suck. I was really trying to look at this in an intelligent, rational way but basically people like this trigger happy moron just suck."

"You are saving the Lake by killing and eating wildlife? And giving the money to fish and wildlife who already get our tax dollars? What is wrong with you people? Conservation at its worse." (Regarding the annual LCI/VTF&W fund raiser.)

Pat Montafarrante-Koolen
Vice President-POW

"Why should killing animals be connected to helping kids fight cancer?" (Criticizing the Hunt of a Lifetime program.)

"Desensitizing kids by having them kill animals should be considered a criminal offense in my opinion."

"This page depicts the life and culture of a psychopath. Clearly you possess no moral or ethical compass and no comprehension of the environment and how it must function in order for the species to inhabit it to survive. It is incomprehensible that a human can commit and enjoy such extreme abuse and sadistic cruelty and claim to be a responsible person. You're entitled lack of respect for life and for wildlife is disgraceful and disturbing. Your ignorance is as staggering as is the fact that it is legal for you to commit these offenses against nature and your fellow humans. You are one repulsive person." (On a page promoting Vermont's outdoor lifestyle)

"Hunting coyotes is Satanism."

-Jennifer Lovett , VCCC/POW advocate

"In some homes, children are being taught it is okay, it is acceptable and fun to trap, kill animals for fur, for fun and for no other reason but sadistic ignorance and uneducated falsehoods about wildlife and the role they play. What does that even say about the capacity for empathy among people? A good post to comment on. Jennifer Lovett -- this is the kind of thing we should attach to..."

"They are simply carrying on a disgusting tradition that I would bet they can't even explain the origins of."

"Precursor to sociopathic behavior! Precursor seems inaccurate. I would suggest it is evidence of socio or psychopathic behavior."

-Melissa Hoffman, VCCC President (statements from her organization)

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"This is how the Fish and Wildlife Board do conservation. Let's eat the wildlife at an annual dinner. Disgusting." (Again, attacking the LCI/VTF&W dinner.)

-Vermont Wildlife Coalition



"These knuckledraggers are always so proud to display their immense cruelty and stupidity... Like a baby reaching into the full diaper and smearing it all over their face and then laughing about it!"

-Klad Alles Bechtel
POW/VCCC supporter

"I would enjoy a photo of that trappers toddler grandchild in the trap with both bare feet. Then I would LOL. With blood running out of its mouth then I would LMAO. "

-Anne Hamilton
POW/VCCC supporter

"@ eroc you're one sick fat F*ck. I bet you were really sad that you couldn't kill this beautiful animal." (To a hunter who posted a video of a bobcat he saw with no mention whatsoever of an intent to harvest it.)

-Holly Heille POW/VCCC supporter

From: larkshield@aol.com [mailto:larkshield@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 11:50 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please put into written testimony for Jan 25th meeting

January 23, 2018

To Members of the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources,

First I would like to thank the Fish and Wildlife Department for compiling the Coyote Report for 2018. Initially after reading this report I found it to be very factual and even a compellingly honest evaluation of the coyote population in general. It appears the Department does agree that coyotes are valuable to the ecosystem and are not the cause of the loss of most of the deer like many hunters believe. The Department even acknowledged that coyote populations do a very good job of managing their own populations and by killing them you are only increasing their numbers. The Department even admits that they do not condone coyote killing contests yet admits there are no laws against having them. Having said all of these positive remarks about coyotes it is confusing at best how the Department could come to the conclusion that they don't see any reason to have a season for coyotes. Their reasoning is that having 365 days 24 hours a day 7 days a week of hunting has not had any significant effect on their population so this is why they don't need a season.

Where are the ethics in this reasoning? I venture to say there aren't any. With reasoning like that why don't we have an open season on all species where there hasn't been any significant effect on their population. Basically because it wouldn't be ethical and the Department really doesn't have accurate numbers of each species because they rely on kill numbers and this coyote study was compiled from 1980's studies. In order to have a correct report they would need to have more recent studies to rely on.

I am also confused why the Department continues to decry that they do not support or condone coyote killing contests yet they have never encouraged the legislature to support a bill or pass a law to make sure they are illegal in the state of Vermont. This is way over due. Luckily a recent coyote contest was canceled but there are others that will continue and go underground. It seems strange that the Department doesn't take the lead on this.

Many hunters have a very negative image of coyotes and believe the only good one is a dead one. I have seen too many hunters on Facebook showing gruesome images of their kills and even leaving the bodies just to rot in the woods. How is this supporting conservation? This is wanton waste and has nothing to do with ethical hunting. Where is the Fish and Wildlife Department or Board on these issues? Silent! These unethical coyote hunters need to be educated on the value of coyotes and the Department should be pro active with making sure they educate them and the public at large. I actually sent an email to Louis Porter requesting dates and times of the Cohabiting with Coyotes educational seminars that he told me that he has conducted. I have never received an answer. Therefore, I don't think he has had any of these classes. This is another reason I don't think the report or the Department's response to an open season are based on anything but catering to special interests and not to what is best for ALL like they said in their report.

I am deeply disappointed that the Department couldn't find some middle ground and not continue the open season on coyotes by granting a closed season. I feel my and others voices are not being heard or respected and our only recourse will be to appeal to the legislature to change things.

Sincerely,

Lark Shields
Craftsbury, VT

From: **Dorothy Dahm** <ddahmvermont@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 9:13 AM

Subject: Coyotes' Status in Vermont

To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov

Dear Mr. Porter:

Please use your authority to advocate for a more humane approach to coyote management in Vermont. The state's present tactics - a 365-day open season and coyote-killing contests - are both inhumane and ineffective. They also undermine your department's mission.

As the Commissioner of Vermont's Fish and Wildlife department, you have a natural interest in promoting hunting and fishing as wholesome leisure activities that are integral to our state's rural character. However, the wanton disregard for life exhibited by coyote-killing contests, some of which offer prizes for the smallest, largest, and "ugliest" coyote, have nothing to do with environmental stewardship or old-fashioned sportsmanship. Citizens need not identify as animal rights activists to object to such bloodthirsty spectacles. By implicitly allowing these contests to continue, your department implicitly condones this violence. These contests will only turn more and more Vermonters against hunting, further precipitating the sport's decline in our state.

In addition, the open season on coyotes has not curbed the species' growth in our state. Research suggests that coyotes breed more in response to declines in their population. With the subsequent influx in coyote pups, adults have greater incentive to kill larger domestic animals, such as sheep, instead of the small and medium-sized wild animals they would normally pursue. Finally, even if hunters were to eradicate all the coyotes in the state, animals from neighboring states would swiftly occupy the vacuum.

Your department exists to protect Vermont's wildlife and ecosystems and to ensure a future for outdoor pursuits. The state's present coyote management system undermines both parts of your mission. For these reasons, I urge you to condemn both the open season on coyotes and coyote-killing contests in the strongest terms.

Thank you for your time.

All the best,
Dorothy A. Dahm
Hubbardton, VT

From: Shelly Desjardin [mailto:sdesjardin45@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 7:41 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

As a Life long resident of Middlesex VT I must say I disagree with protecting the coyote. I grew up seeing what they can do to our local deer and pets. I must say that in the past few years they seem more aggressive towards humans. They run in packs and I have been circled while hiking in the woods more than once. Last year on our local front porch forum I sent multiple clippings of damage that coyotes have done concerning children and pets. I don't feel that they should be protected in any way as they are dangerous to our wellbeing.

Thank you,
Shelly Desjardin