

From: Sophie Bowater [mailto:protectanimals26@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 10:23 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject:

Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing to you in regards to the open season and killing contests in Vermont on Coyotes . I ask you to please make an ethical and scientific decision to ban these horrendous and inhumane contests that are allowed in Vermont. It makes me so sad that a beautiful and, I thought, very progressive state still allows this to happen. I am not a hunter but I am not against hunting if it is done in an ethical way and for a reason, like food, clothing , tools etc. These hunting contests are all for sport and blood and are not defined as hunting in my eyes. They have hounds, lots of trucks, probably some drinking, and lots of guns. It is very disturbing. And what do they do with these Coyotes when they kill them? Weigh them and discard them. Then to allow open season all year? Really? I just was at the hearing at the state house. It is amazing to hear how many Vermont residents feel unsafe to go for a nice walk in their woods with their dogs as they have ongoing Coyote hunters around even when they have it posted! Why do we have no limits on hunting Coyotes but every other animal has a season? Even during breeding season where there are pregnant Mums and pups. Coyotes are not vicious killers that don't deserve to be here. They are a natural predator that mainly lives on rodents as their source of food. They are an important part of the balance in our ecosystem. Also having an open season while they have pups is just so cruel! Do you really think this is all humane?

Please look at the science and find it in your hearts to stop these contests from happening, have a closed season or even a short season for hunting Coyotes, and think about your Vermont residents that want to enjoy and feel safe when outside.

Sincerely,
Sophie Bowater

From: Rachael Shaw [mailto:rachaels@vermontel.net]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 12:23 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Comments on Coyote Policy in VT

January 26, 2018

Dear David Deen and the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife:

My name is Rachael Shaw and I am a lifelong Vermont resident writing to register my comments on the current question before your committee on whether to draft legislation on coyote hunting rules. I am a member of the Westminster Conservation Commission and the Living Earth Action Group (of Westminster West) but I write today representing myself. I have only recently become aware of the policies that Vermont has on coyotes. I attended the hearing in Montpelier on Thursday January 25 with interest.

Although I do not hunt, I come from a family of hunters and respect the tradition of respectfully and legally hunting game animals.

Coyotes are an important part of the natural ecosystem and food chain and do not deserve the vermin label that they have been targeted with in the past. It is time for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to bring their policies in line with the current science regarding this important keystone species. Since they are apparently not willing to be proactive in this regard, I ask the legislators to step forward and legally

protect coyotes from 1. wanton wasteful killing 365 days a year including while they are raising their young, with no reporting required, and 2. coyote killing contests and derbies. Because a dead coyote is not a useful resource, I would ask that the committee eliminate a hunting season on coyotes. I understand that it is probably too radical to shift from a completely open season to no season at all (with exceptions for the killing of "nuisance" animals), and thus I would be satisfied with some kind of compromise which protected coyotes while pregnant and raising pups. It is a start.

The new legislation, as I see it, would not impact the right of landowners to kill coyotes, in any season, who they perceive as a threat to their livestock. Though I would like to see increased "predator friendly farming" (employing sheep dogs, etc) I understand that not all farmers can undertake these methods and I do not dispute the right of landowners to kill animals that are a threat. I view it similarly to having skunks move into your barn, or woodchucks eating your garden. While I view co-existence as a constant goal, if landowners see no other option, they can shoot these animals.

Anyone who has nursed a child or viewed a helpless animal infant, cannot fail to see the cruelty in allowing parents to be killed in any season, and the pups, if present, thus abandoned to starve.

I would like to see more research done on the coyote population, and also more education of the important role that coyotes play within the natural ecosystem. Because we all play a part in the ecosystem of the planet, it follows that we take responsibility for respectful stewardship.

Thank you for taking action on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,
Rachael E. Shaw
Westminster West, VT

From: Terry Cecchini [mailto:terrcecc@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 12:36 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: Jessica Brumsted; Tim Ashe; Philip Baruth; Debbie Ingram; Virginia Lyons; Christopher Pearson; Michael Sirotkin
Subject: Coyote Conservation

Christy,

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has an open season on coyote that has led to coyote killing contests. The killing contests are consistent with an extermination program, whether or not that is the intention. There needs to be a closed season on coyotes and a ban on coyote killing contests.

I am a Vermonter for whom the state manages wildlife and I would like to see that wildlife managed to maintain the dynamics and health of our ecosystems that is consistent with Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department research. See quotes from Vermont Fish & Wildlife links below.

Best Regards,

Terry G. Cecchini
Shelburne, Vermont

From: Daniel Foster [mailto:fosterbalance@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 1:07 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: pro-hunting AND anti open season on coyotes

I object to open season on coyotes and the legality of coyote killing contests.

Thank you for your attention to wiser wildlife management policies.

--

Daniel Foster
Mindfulness Made Easy

From: Cathryn Lykes [mailto:cathryn.lykes@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:26 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Dear David Deen and the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife,

I object to open season on coyotes and the legality of coyote killing contests.

Sincerely yours,

Cathryn Lykes
Brattleboro, VT

From: ashley prout [mailto:ashleyprout@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:58 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: PLEASE.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE. Put a stop to coyote killing contests. Please stand up for wildlife. THANK YOU.

Ashley Prout McAvey
144 Shelburne-Hinesburg Road
Shelburne, VT 05482
Home Office: 802-264-9640
Cell Phone: 802-598-9428
www.ivoryfreevermont.org
[#ivoryfreevermont](https://www.instagram.com/ivoryfreevermont)

From: J Hall [mailto:janisgardens@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:15 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: A request of the Committee

Hello, I am writing because I'm concerned about the lack of regulation on killing coyotes. I want to see a season instituted for these canines, based on logical factors such as the actual value of their pelts and their presence in the ecosystem. I am disturbed to hear about unregulated coyote killing contests, and I hope your committee will take prompt action on this.

Thank you,
Janis Hall
Brattleboro, VT

From: Richard Maizell [mailto:rmaizell@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:20 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Killing Coyotes

I have followed with interest the testimony concerning the indiscriminate killing of coyotes for sport. It would seem that the Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Department was completely inflexible regarding the consideration of changing the status quo and is also turning a deaf ear to public opinion. As he is a public official who is allegedly representing the will of the electorate, this is very disturbing.

It is time for common sense regulatory change. Killing contests are the antithesis of what we stand for as Vermonters. As for when they are hunted, there is no reason why a specific season should not be established.

I look forward to hearing from you in the immediate future what new, reasonable and appropriate regulations you will be proposing.

Very Truly Yours,

Dr. Richard Maizell
973-903-9583
rmaizell@gmail.com

From: Glenn Callahan [mailto:gfraserc@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:24 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Vermont's Coyotes.

Fish & Wildlife Committee,

I am adding my voice to the multitude of Vermonters who have become discouraged with the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife's anachronistic approach to wildlife management, particularly as it relates to coyotes. Killing coyotes for the sole purpose of satisfying a lust to kill is barbaric and reflects poorly on our state's reputation. Coyote killing competitions, and an open season to kill at one's pleasure are activities that do nothing to promote animal welfare, despite Commissioner Porter's assertions.

I believe the Commissioner, and the Department as well, are less concerned with the preservation and welfare of Vermont's wildlife and more concerned with the preservation of Vermont's hunting seasons.

Please support legislation to end coyote killing contests and to establish a regulated hunting season for coyotes, preferably a season which does not include the pup season.

Sincerely,
Glenn Callahan
Johnson

From: Anne Dillon [mailto:clerestory@gmavt.net]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:43 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please introduce a regulated coyote hunting season

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Waitsfield resident deeply concerned about the situation with the legislation involving coyote hunting in our state. I am upset that at the hearing on Thursday Commissioner Porter did not properly address the sincere questions that were put to him, instead dodging and weaving with his evasive answers, which are tantamount to lying.

What is with you people? Change is long overdue here as regards the coyote hunting legislation. You have fallen down on the job with the Vermont cougar, not adequately representing that animal's status to a concerned public.

Are you going to let us down with the coyote as well, by not updating antiquated laws that needed to be changed years ago? Or will you let the current illogical laws stand so that the coyote goes extinct as well?

I implore you to introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests, which are the height of ignorance and depravity.

Please stand up for what is right and humane here, and fair to the hunters as well as to their prey. You are paid good money from our taxes to do just that.

Sincerely,

Anne Dillon

From: Ellen Walter [mailto:ewalter75@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:47 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Hello,

I am writing to request that the Fish & Wildlife committee please introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests. We own 65 acres in Salisbury, Vt. We have never experienced (in 14 years) a loss of our farm animals to coyote attacks. Although we know from their beautiful singing at night, that they are a constant presence here on Morgan Rd. We have also never witnessed coyotes taking deer on our land, but if they were to, it would be the weak and the sick animals (thereby strengthening the herd). Human hunters, of course, prefer to take the big and the strong deer (thus weakening the herd). Please, let's put an end to the crazy, meaningless slaughter of wild animals. They are important and they matter.

Thank you, Ellen Rohrbaugh Walter 1036 Morgan Rd., Salisbury, Vt.

From: kate izar [mailto:kateizor@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:56 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: VT Coyotes

Dear Fish & Wildlife Committee:

Gratuitous violence for sport is unacceptable in our great state of Vermont- Coyotes who are killed during the open season are often left to rot in the woods, it's wasteful, cruel, and shameful. Please act responsibly and help limit Vermont's open killing season on coyotes and ban killing contests. Responsibility and accountability has to come from legislation, Vermont defining what we stand for- killing animals in wasteful sport is not one of them.

Thank you,

Kate Izor
kate@kateizor.com
802-598-4925

From: June Cook [mailto:jpichelcook@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 6:04 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Hi,

Can you explain the justification for killing coyotes 24/7 and indiscriminately please?

Thanks,

June

802-586-2212

From: Lisa Jablow [mailto:lnjablow@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 6:49 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Testimony

Hello.

I would like to add this to the testimony taken yesterday (Jan. 25) by the Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee.

I was present at the session yesterday (Thurs. Jan. 25) in which the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife took testimony regarding the current situation of coyotes in the state. Like so many other issues around wildlife, this one is highly charged. I think it is important for the committee to note that the testimony entered by those who wish to see some restrictions placed on the open season and killing contests was measured, rational, and offered in a spirit of compromise. Those who spoke in favor of these restrictions represented a wide spectrum of points of view on hunting, from those who wish that none would occur to those who engage in hunting on a regular basis. What every one of those individuals recognized is that, to a certain segment of Vermont's population, hunting is extremely important. The proposals offered took that into account and even embraced it. Asking for clear data and some restrictions on what is currently a free-for-all is not extreme or out of line; it is simply reasonable. There were good ideas offered in a respectful spirit of compromise. It was occasionally pointed out that the Fish & Wildlife Department is heavily skewed towards hunters and trappers. If you are truly interested in dealing with this situation in an open and honest manner, then you have to acknowledge that that is how it is. Sometimes the truth is not what we want to hear—but if you are interested in the truth, then it must be acknowledged, in spite of the fact that it may be extremely displeasing to some constituents. The final two speakers came from that particular constituent base and it was disappointing to hear them resort to the same tired rhetoric around the “anti's” who want to take all their guns and traps away, who have no understanding of how nature works, and who only seek to deprive them of those activities that make their lives worthwhile. Judging by their remarks, it seemed that they heard little of what was actually said yesterday by those whose testimony preceded theirs. I hope that you will take your responsibility seriously enough not to fall into that same trap (pun not really intended). If you are truly committed to moving Vermont forward, then it *is* time for change. We are not asking for the moon—we are only asking for some balance in how our wildlife is treated and in how the citizens of Vermont, and those who enjoy its natural beauty, are represented.

Thank you.

Lisa Jablow
Brattleboro

From: Kris Allen [mailto:kdeppman@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 7:10 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote hunting policy

I object to open season on coyotes and the legality of coyote killing contests.

Kristin D. Allen
PO Box 274
Putney, VT. 05345

From: Jan [mailto:jan@thouron.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 7:25 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the cruel practice of coyote killing contests in our state as well as an open hunting season all year which scientifically makes no sense. Please look into these inhumane practices and work to make them illegal.

Thank you,
Janet Thouron
Middlesex, VT

From: Kathleen Wilson [mailto:kittywilson@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 7:26 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Good evening,

I am writing in hopes that the Vermont Legislature set strict parameters around "coyote hunting season" which, if I had my way, would be illegal altogether. Since the Department of Fish and Wildlife refuses to ban coyote killing contests, or protect coyotes in any way, I fully support the Legislature banning both contests and open season. Vermonters like myself are horrified and embarrassed by what goes on in our woodlands and waterways seven days a week, sanctioned by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. They turn a deaf ear to Vermonters, and I don't take kindly to it.

In my opinion, Vermont needs to carefully examine the performance of its Fish and Wildlife Commissioner. It appears that he leads the charge as a strong lobbyist for coyote killers, hounders and trappers. I've lived in Vermont my entire life, 68 years, and I'm tired of being ignored by the Fish and Wildlife Commissioner and its totally unbalanced Board - trappers, hunters and a taxidermist.

I sincerely hope that the Vermont Legislature will right these wrongs. There are just too many, and as a concerned citizen my only recourse is to ask that the Legislature step up to the plate and do the right thing.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Wilson
East Montpelier, VT

From: marc beaudette [mailto:marcbeaudette@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 8:21 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyotes

I'm writing to support ending the open season on coyotes--and crows, too. The department's position is weak. It's time to become better stewards of the land and the creatures living with us.

Thank you,
Best Wishes

Marc Beaudette

From: Evelyn Frey [mailto:evelyn.wermer@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 8:23 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyotes - please be kind and INTELLIGENT....

UNLIKE PORTER... and his testimony (based on what, exactly??)

I personally believe in "Thou shalt not kill" - and Jesus - and his Father - who said that ...

I believe they both thought that man would listen and know that nature would balance itself ...

without human interference.

I wish the coyotes could kill humans who try to kill them, their wives, their BABIES! - it would only be fair.

I don't think there should be a hunting season - why should there be?

But coyote killing contests should be banned immediately. It is inhumane and cruel and not necessary.

Nature balances itself if humans stop interfering.

EVELYN WERMER FREY
STOWE, VERMONT

From: polly hill [mailto:rosemerefarm@me.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 8:37 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: Jon Woodhull
Subject: COYOTE

As a resident of Vermont, I have always found one of the most incredible things that made me continue to live here and have a business here, is the wildlife. Unfortunately I find many of the states policies unfounded in basic science and archaic.

To have an open season on our only predator species stands on no valid science and is causing unbalance in our ecosystems. Coyotes are hunters of mice, for this reason alone they are especially important to our ecology because of the widespread increased of Lyme and other tick born disease.

I have had a farm for many many years, raised a variety of things mainly chickens and horses. Coyotes are only a nuisance to people who farm who just are not careful. Cats and small dogs should be brought inside before dusk as should small livestock. For people raising sheep or goats the addition of a couple of llamas or medium to large donkeys does the trick. Chickens by nature want to be in their coops by dusk so really they are not threatened by coyotes who generally are nocturnal hunters. I have never had to resort to shooting a coyote.

I am appalled by the slaughter that goes on with coyotes. The biology is known, being a canine species if their pack is disrupted, the females go into estrus. Vermont draws tourists due to its incredible natural beauty. If the hunting and trapping policies that this state has continue, it is going to start to change the tourist industry that relies on one of the major draws here: wildlife and the environment. I have witnessed many friends who upon learning of the trapping policies Vermont has, have chosen to go elsewhere to states that have banned the archaic trapping practices. The fact that in this day of nearly every person on the planet has contact with some sort of social media, this is going to eventually destroy the tourism industry in our state. The coyote slaughtering contests are widely broadcast on Facebook and Instagram. This killing for contest is horrifying to many, and is this really what we want our state to be portrayed as? Personally I don't and neither do any of my friends or family or people in come in contact with on a daily basis.

Please represent our states residents fairly and stop the coyote killing contests and the year round open season. This is not sound practice nor does it portray Vermont in a good light. In this day of mass shootings and school shootings, very few people nationwide feel that the indiscriminate slaughter that takes places in these so called contests is a positive thing. It is time that Vermont is forward thinking in its dealings with wildlife and not bending to a few. Our wildlife is vanishing plain and simple, housing in encroaching limiting the habitat. The presence of ticks carrying Lyme, Babesia Microti, and Erlichiosis are becoming widespread. These diseases are dangerous as well as many times life threatening to man and animals alike. Their diet is made up of mice and voles, piece being a **prime vector** for these tick borne diseases. Why the health and wellbeing of the general population is not being considered for the enjoyment of a select few is disconcerting.

I am a sixty four year old taxpayer, whose adult children and grandchildren live in the state and non of our family or friends are in agreement with the coyote treatment in the state. Please take my email under serious consideration before the damage caused by the indiscriminate hunting of coyote is too late. Please if for no reason other than to help control the increase of ticks in the state.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Polly Hill
Bethel, Vermont

From: Jane Hoffman [mailto:jehoffman@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 8:42 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: egulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests.
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Ketchel:

Please urge the Fish & Wildlife Committee Members to introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests.

The advocates and residents of VT made a convincing and science based presentation yesterday (as opposed to the F&W Department) for a commonsense policy that would ban Vermont's open killing season on coyotes and also ban killing contests.

It is beyond time for this to happen in VT. This wanton waste must stop.

Thank you.

**Jane Hoffman
Greensboro, VT**

From: robertasum@aol.com [mailto:robertasum@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 9:08 PM
To: Christy Ketchel; Michael Yantachka
Cc: robertasum@aol.com
Subject: Re: Request to consider legislation to regulate coyote hunting and to prohibit coyote "killing contests"

On January 24, 2018 I sent the letter below, which is now also attached, to you. I see that it was not included in the email responses at your website regarding Bill H-60. This bill addresses the need to regulate coyote hunting and to prohibit coyote killing contests. I can see the last email in that list was sent around 7:00 p.m., so assume the list of created just before my email was sent at 10:28 pm. My understanding was that any messages sent before January 25th would be passed on to the House Committee on Natural Resources. I feel that those Vermonters who took the time to express their concerns before the deadline should be heard. I am sending my message again, with the hope that it can be added to the many responses that were emailed and recorded, and apparently given to the committee.

I think many Vermonters will continue to argue the case for regulation of coyote hunting and prohibition of coyote killing contests, despite the views and assessments of Louis Porter. Many of these Vermonters are hunters and other wildlife advocates who speak with knowledge and respect for all of Vermont's wildlife.

Respectfully,
Roberta Summers
RobertaSum@aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: robertasum <robertasum@aol.com>
To: cketchel <cketchel@leg.state.vt.us>; myantachka <myantachka@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: robertasum <robertasum@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Jan 24, 2018 10:28 pm
Subject: Request to consider legislation to regulate coyote hunting and to prohibit coyote "killing contests"

Please forward my message to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, with my gratitude:

My interest in wildlife, and the habitat they require for sustained survival, has always been a great concern to me, even as a child. My education is in wildlife biology, and I credit my Father with developing a strong love of nature. My Father was a hunter, but I considered him to be the kind of hunter who respected the animals he harvested for food. He would spend more time observing and learning about wildlife than hunting wildlife. As a hunter, he also respected predators. The wolf and mountain lion were eliminated in New England, making room for another predator, the coyote, to arrive and partially fill the niche left behind. The diet of the coyote is varied and is often smaller animals. Coyotes, as well as foxes, help to reduce the numbers of small rodents that sometimes carry disease (such as Lyme's disease), and also insects that can be harmful to crops.

I ask the Vermont House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, our legislators, our hunting community, and all of Vermont's citizens to work in partnership to establish guidelines for regulating hunting of coyotes, focusing on how they benefit our ecosystem, rather than as undesirable vermin. They are not vermin, but instead are efficient and intelligent predators with complex family structures. We have no proof that hunting coyotes every day of the year, by any means, is an efficient way to control their numbers. There is a need to learn more about the effect of the coyote's presence in Vermont, and this should not include wholesale and recreational massacres, such as "killing contests".

In summation, I am not opposed to responsible hunting, but am opposed to unregulated hunting of coyotes without proof that it achieves some sort of coyote population control. I ask that you consider regulating hunting of coyotes and prohibit coyote killing contests, which are cruel and in no way represent ethical hunting practices.

Respectfully sent by,

Roberta A. Summers
West Bolton, Vermont

From: susan johnson [mailto:susan.johnson@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 10:19 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing

To Ms. Ketchel and the Fish & Wildlife Committee,

As fellow Vermonters, we urge the Committee to institute a **closed season on coyotes** and support a **ban of coyote killing contests**.

Thank you,

Susan and David Johnson
Duxbury, Vermont

From: peggy willey [mailto:peggywilley@mytopsmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 10:30 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: request

Just writing to ask the Fish and Wildlife Committee to introduce a *regulated* coyote hunting season. I also urge they put a stop to coyote killing contests. Otherwise you are stating that you condone treating wildlife with disrespect as acceptable practice, which is disturbing. And that being educated about their intrinsic value as a species is irrelevant. Thanks for your consideration.-Peggy Willey, West Fairlee

“As coyotes are killed, it reduces competition for those who remain or move in,” Chris Mowry, associate professor of biology at Berry College says. “This means there is now more food to go around, and litter sizes increase, and more pups survive. You end up with a larger population than when you started.” Moreover, coyotes eat roadkill and mice. Rodents can carry ticks bearing Lyme Disease, and the disease could increase in humans if the canines are removed, Mowry says. “There are ripples across the ecosystem when we try to tinker with it.”

From: Dottie Nelson [mailto:dottienelson2@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 10:38 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote contests and open season

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that your committee ban coyote killing contests and introduce a regulated hunting season rather than the current open season. The current situation where coyotes may be killed in any season plus the fact that "killing contests" are legal makes no sense. It does nothing to help or enhance nature and only hurts animals who are an integral part of their environment. Just the term "killing contest" evokes an image of the Dark Ages. Vermont can do better than that. We are better than that. Most Vermonters are opposed to hurting wildlife just for the thrill of it. Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Dottie Nelson
Middlebury

From: erica bowman [mailto:ericalbowman@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 6:58 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: I object to coyote killing contests

Dear Ms. Ketchel,

In short, I STRONGLY OBJECT TO COYOTE KILLING CONTESTS.

Erica Bowman

From: Tanya Carter [mailto:tcarter253@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 7:02 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Good Morning,

Coyotes are no different than any other animals, They should be able to exist have families and raise them . I feel like unnecessary killing is not acceptable anytime. If you want to have a hunting season as with deer I can understand that Please reconsider the current laws around the coyotes.

Thank you
Tanya Carter

From: Maureen Cooper [mailto:mcooper1253@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 7:33 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing

Dear Fish and Wildlife Committee:

I beg you to forbid the killing of coyotes in the state of Vermont for sport or income. Please! Have a heart. Please!

Maureen Cooper
Montpelier, VT

From: Linda Jackson [mailto:lwjax48@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 7:35 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: senseless coyote killing

Thank you for considering our appeal to the State on legislation against coyote contests....in particular. I am not against a regulated hunting season. I am vehemently opposed to a "contest" where this senseless act promotes craziness in the woods....for what?? According to Louis Porter and his report it is not only not necessary, but against the theory of maintaining a good relationship with both humans and wildlife. Why can't this be understood??

While I assume you have read his report already, I have attached it for your review. It is comprehensive andunless I'm missing something....he supports a "managed" coyote program!!

Thank you for listening and **please** consider this as a plea from someone who loves where I live and with whom I share the beauty of this state!

Linda Jackson, Middlesex

From: Chris and Lesley Huston [mailto:thehustonfive@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 8:33 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes in Vermont

Ms. Ketchel:

I write to ask that the Vermont House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and a ban on coyote killing contests. This irresponsible "wildlife management" is a disgrace to all Vermonters.

My family has hunted for generations but kills only what they eat and considers killing wantonly or for sport to be unethical.

The majority of Vermont's citizens want this change.

**Best,
Chris and Lesley Huston
3689 Maple Street
Waltham, VT 05491**

House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife

and ask that their Committee introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests. It is not too late to act.

From: Rachel Kampus [mailto:rachel.kampus@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 9:30 AM

To: Christy Ketchel; info@protectourwildlifevt.org

Subject: Request for legislative committee action - balanced policies and regulations for Vermont Coyotes

Seeking commonsense policies and compromise are part of democracy and citizens rights.

As a taxpayer and voter I do not see evidence of these principles in the Fish and Wildlife Department's approach in failing to ban 'killing contests'- abhorrent for any animal and now, specifically, for coyotes.

The job of government officials is to seek balance and help represent the interests of many citizens, through considered policy, regulations, and implementation of them.

The evidence and testimony presented by the department, and the current right to shoot and kill coyotes interfering with livestock by farmers would seem to be enough. What is going on here?

It is perfectly possible to coexist with wildlife. We have coyote packs living a stone's throw from our property, animals, and other farms. No issues, ever.

Having protected and contiguous conservation lands and corridors are a part of this.

I ask that: your **Committee introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests.**

Rachel Kampus
PO Box 662
Morrisville, Vermont
05661

From: Brandy Borello [mailto:brandyborello@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:24 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote

I'm writing this email in behalf of animals (coyotes) who have a victim of unnecessary, inhumane killing. Everything that has a life has the right to share this land and coexist with humans. They help control pest such as rats and Canadian goose who leave behind bacteria in the water. It is with a deep respect for all living things that I ask you to ban coyote killing contest and place righteous regulations to support the safety and life of these precious animals who have the right to share with us and thrive just as we do. It is time for education and understanding of how much of an important role these animals play by helping maintain control issues that we as humans take for granted.

With gratitude,

Brandy Borello

From: Patricia Kennedy [mailto:bioknee@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote killing contests in VT

I was very disturbed to read about the upcoming Coyote contest that will start in Feb. It seems to be an event that serves no other purpose than to allow hunters to kill coyotes indiscriminantly, without regard to age, sex or value of pelt. and which serves no Legitimate purpose and is

at odds with the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation.

As Commissioner Porter has acknowledged that hunting does nothing to reduce the population or protect the "deer" herd.

Allowing hunting for a purpose , such as for food is one thing, hunting just to kill as many animals (of any kind) as possible for sport is not a good policy.

Since farmers have the right to kill coyotes that prey on their livestock, why do we need to allow hunters to actively go in search of them to kill? These contests especially seem

to bring out the cruelty in some who call themselves hunters, and that gives the whole group a bad name.

I urge they Fish and Wildlife Committee to **ban coyote killing contests** and adopt a regulated coyote hunting season. Following our neighbors next door in NH. Please act quickly.

In the meantime I will be posting NO hunting or Trapping signs all around my property to protect my domestic animals against careless and cruel hunters and trappers.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kennedy
2404 Vt Rt 65
Brookfield, VT 05036

From: Kathy Kingston
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 7:52 AM
To: ddeen@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: Statement for Committee for Nat Res, Fish and Wildlife

To the Chair of the Committee for Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife,
David Deer

This statement is addressed to the Committee for Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife.

My name is Katherine Kingston, I live in Westminster, Vermont.

I am speaking for myself and several neighbors who would like to see an end to open season on coyotes and killing contests.

I oppose the open season on coyotes for many of the reasons voiced today at the hearing which I attended. Vermont wants to encourage a healthy ecosystem, the open season does nothing to improve the health of wildlife populations or forests. While I support hunting of deer, turkeys and other prey animals I do not want people hunting or trapping predators on my land. The open season, and killing contests, have made me, and some neighbors, consider posting our land. This does not help people who are hunting in order to feed themselves or the deer overpopulation problem.

Vermont needs to come into the 21st century and stop killing contests in the state. I am shocked that a state that is progressive in so many ways would allow such blatant disregard for the lives and wellbeing of animals.

Thank you for reading and recording my statement. Thank you for your time.

From: Robin Davison [mailto:davison.robin@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:49 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing Contests

Good morning,

I am writing to request that your committee introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests. These barbaric contests do not foster responsible hunting practices and are not in the best interest of the great state of Vermont.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Regards,
Robin Davison

From: Laura Yanne [mailto:laura_yanne@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 11:20 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please! Two Things.

Greetings:

Could you please encourage the Fish & Wildlife Committee to introduce a regulated coyote hunting season. Coyotes are part of the fabric of the environment, contributing to the balance of other species' populations. Condoning an open season that disrupts and imperils all other animals is insupportable and inhumane.

I also ask that the Committee introduce a ban coyote killing contests, which are an abomination--cruel, unnecessary, and abhorred by animal lovers and decent people, who recognize the frivolity of the callous, wanton killing of these intelligent animals. This is not the shoot-'em up wild west--it's Vermont, where the vast majority of citizens love and respect wildlife and the environment, and wish to protect them.

Thank you.

Laura R. Yanne
3833 Route 30
Dorset, VT 05251
802/867-5326

From: Lydie Bomblies [mailto:bomblieslydie@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 11:34 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote killing

Dear Sir,

My husband and I are dismayed that the Fish and Wildlife Committee upheld the legality of the open season on coyotes and the killing contests of these beautiful, interesting and important members of the ecosystem.

It is senseless and terribly cruel.

We live in the country and we value the little wildlife that is left, as do our neighbors, including the farmers who are wise enough to take precautions against the possibility of coyotes (and other animals, such as fishers, bobcats and bear) preying on their livestock. We see fewer and fewer deer, but the hunters have not diminished. Could that be the reason why the deer population is dwindling? And how about the many dogs that roam around freely? Almost daily we see on Front Porch Forum postings of people looking for their lost dogs. In spring they are a real danger to fawns.

The only thing people need to do is change their attitudes and stop regarding trapping and other means of killing as "necessary" or even as a "sport". Simple precautions will for the most part take care of the problem - if there is one at all.

Coyotes are a necessary component of the ecosystem, as you well know. They take care of a lot of "nuisance animals" like mice, voles and rats.

We would think that it is not in Vermont's advantage to be viewed as a backward state. Intact nature is hard to find in our country. Vermont has the possibility to offer that. A healthy environment will attract more people and companies (think tax dollars!) to our state.

We do hope that the Committee will take sensible measures and prohibit trapping, open season on coyotes and killing contests.

Thank you for your attention.

Karl and Lydie Bombliès
Huntington

From: Isa Oehry [mailto:akashalink@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 12:21 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Koyote killing

Please - in short - ban the koyote killing contests. Contests are inhumane. No animal deserves to be killed based on a contest. Hunting animals for food is a long and old tradition in VT. There is a place for it.

Killing contests of koyote are not a part of our history and reflects a poor judgement and lack of understanding of the interconnectednes of all creatures.

Sincerely,
Isa Oehry

Sent from my iPhone
Isa Oehry
www.isaoehry.com
www.oldclaryfarm.com

From: Susie Peters [mailto:speters@vermontacademy.org]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 2:21 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote hunting policy

Dear Christy Ketchel,

I've recently been alerted, by my daughter Rachael Shaw, to the plight of coyotes in Vermont, and I would like to add my voice to this discussion: I object to open season on coyotes and legality of coyote killing contests.

Thank you for adding my views to the public record.

Sincerely,
Susan Peters

From: Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser [mailto:grbesser@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 2:23 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote hunting in Vermont

In support of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Report, submitted by Commissioner Louis Potter, on January 15, I write as a private citizen and also as the owner of a conserved farm, Valley View Farm in Morrisville, where coyotes have lived and reproduced for the past five decades that I have been here.

I urge that coyote be treated like other predators--not like "vermin" to be exterminated--and hunted during a regular hunting season--in other words, that there be no "open season" for hunting coyote. I also urge strongly against "killing contests," which are brutal and inhumane. Coyotes are part of the normal Vermont ecosystem and should be treated as such.

I urge that the VT Fish & Wildlife Committee, following a large consensus of public opinion, introduce a regular hunting season for coyote, as for other game, and **ban** killing contests.

Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser
3679 Stagecoach Road
Morrisville, VT 05661
[802-888-3967](tel:802-888-3967)
grbesser@gmail.com

From: Dorian Sarris [mailto:dorian.sarris@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 5:33 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Hello There:

Coyotes are living beings just like all others. We need a REGULATED season to keep these yahoos in line.

Thanks
Dorian Sarris
Craftsbury

From: Anne Charles [mailto:nyanne51@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 5:35 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing

Please ban coyote killing contests.
Anne Charles

Montpelier

From: Denise O'Connor [mailto:dorent3@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 6:08 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote

I support a regulated hunting season for coyotes and a ban on coyote killing contests.

Sincerely,

Denise O'Connor
Craftsbury, Vermont

From: Elinor Osborn [mailto:elinor91@me.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 6:56 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote hunting

I would like to send this comment to the Fish & Wildlife Committee—

Please change coyote hunting from an open season to a short season and ban coyote killing contests. Testimony to the Committee gave several reasons for doing this which I agree with but won't take the time to add here.

Thank you,
Elinor

Elinor Osborn Photography
1286 Lost Nation Rd
Craftsbury Common VT 05827

From: Kerri Hansen [mailto:khansen71@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 7:09 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: BAN Coyote & other Wild game killing "contests"
Importance: High

To All that this would concern:

I am writing to implore you to help with the institution of legislation that would ban coyote killing contests as well as other wild game. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Kerri Hansen
Wolcott, VT

From: Rhonda Jensen [mailto:marquette@lizzy.com.au]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 7:28 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote hunting

Dear Christy,

I have been closely following the debate about the open coyote hunting season and killing contests. For the sake of the wellbeing of these lovely animals, and their right to live, I kindly ask that they are no longer hunted and that all killing contests stop. Failing that, I request that a regulated season be implemented immediately (without these cruel contests.)

Thank you for your time and support,

Rhonda Jensen

Colchester