

Laura Bozarth

From: Laura Bozarth
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 10:59 AM
To: Laura Bozarth
Cc: HOUSE_NATURAL_FISH_WILDLIFE
Subject: FW: Fwd: Re: Coyote Hunting in Vermont - please help

Dear Members,

Please see email below.

Laura Bozarth
Committee Assistant
House Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife

From: Carol Vallett
Date: Feb 7, 2017 9:52 AM
Subject: Re: Coyote Hunting in Vermont - please help

Dear Friends,

I need your help.

You know Dave and I love to "quietly enjoy" our slice of Vermont. Unfortunately, this has been about the 4th weekend in 2017 that we've been over-run with a group of hunters, using dogs, chasing through our fields and woods hunting coyotes.

I was surprised to learn that there is **no season and there are no regulations about hunting coyotes in Vermont**. Coyote hunting is legal 365 days and nights of the year (yes, coyote hunting is permitted during the night). There are even contests and derbies that reward hunters for the greatest number of coyotes killed. Again, there are no regulations of numbers, age, or size when it comes to killing coyotes.

Although I don't hunt, we have hunters in the family (umm, truth be told I have venison in the freezer) and we've always allowed hunters to use our land. I still venture out in the woods during deer season but I'm always sure to wear blaze orange and I know when the gun season starts and ends. But this coyote issue is causing us to post our land as soon as we are able to get the signs up. We spend time skiing, walking, snowshoeing and now with a new generation joining us, it is just too dangerous to be out when we don't know who is about to sweep through the fields and woods with a pack of dogs and loaded guns.

Coyotes are an important part of our ecosystem and as predators, serve to clear the woods of carrion and keep populations in check, including mice that carry ticks (think Lyme disease).

Could you please take a few minutes to click on the link below and add your name to a petition to get this in front of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board. The Board has so far refused to address this issue and is steadfast with a policy that seems to imply that the only good coyote is a dead coyote. Also, please forward this to any Vermonters in your circles who could lend their voice - or at least their names-to the petition.

Thank you in advance for your help -
take care,
Carol

https://www.change.org/p/vermont-fish-and-wildlife-commissioner-louis-porter-and-the-vermont-fish-and-wildlife-board-vermonters-for-ethical-coexistence-with-coyotes-3c9ff0c8-5fef-4814-a651-9cedb3c9d6e3?recruiter=676726250&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink