Coyote Hunting in Vermont

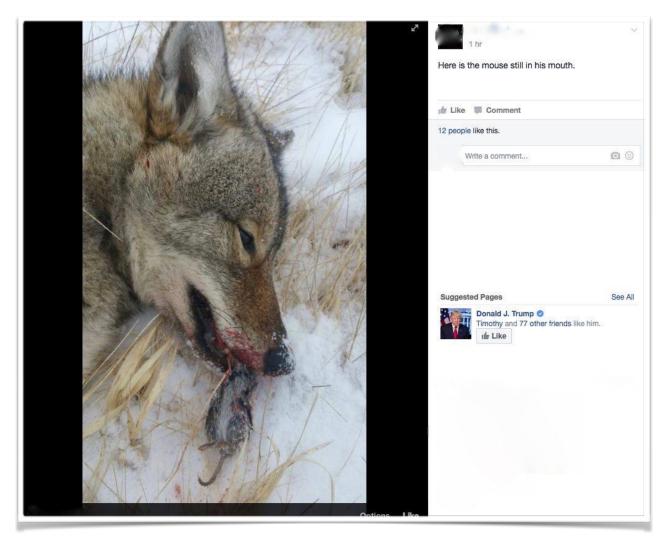


A brief view of the public face of coyote hunting in Vermont

All photos are from local coyote hunters*

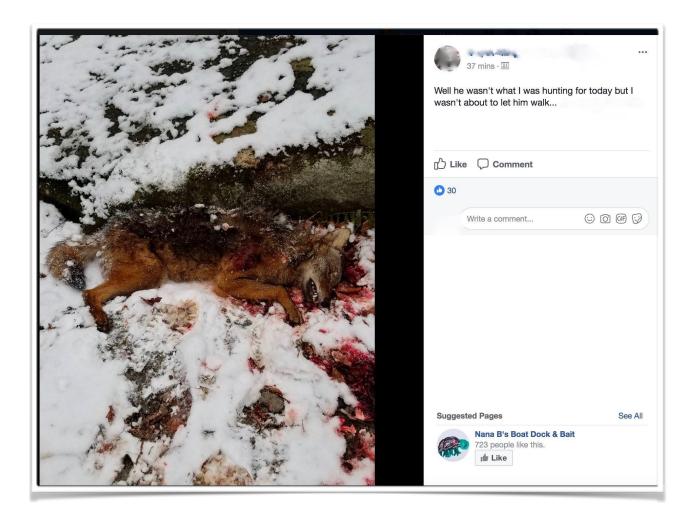


*We blurred names and faces in this document. The pages here represent only a small sample of the graphic images that are online. We do have source files and images with visible names of the Vermont coyote hunters who posted them.



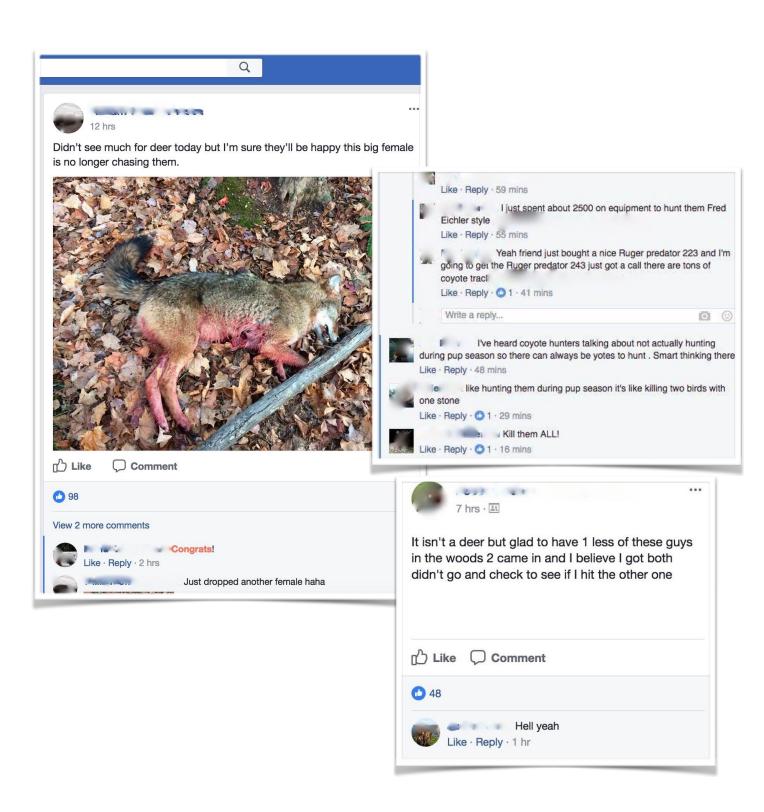
This coyote was hunting mice when it was killed for entertainment.







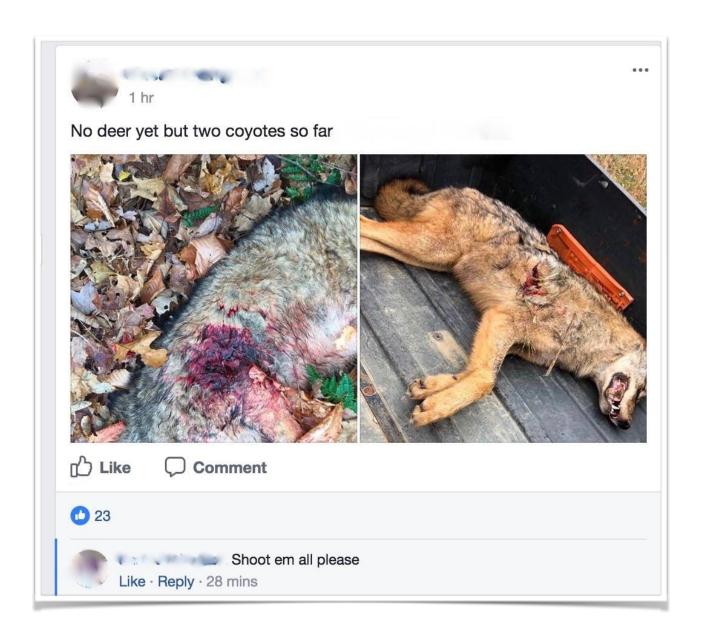


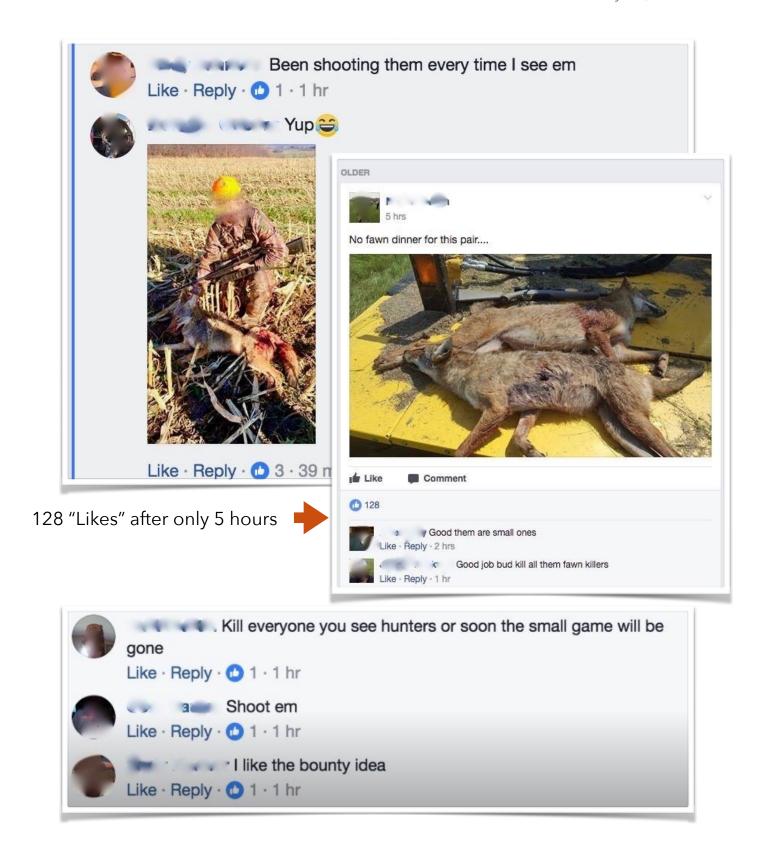


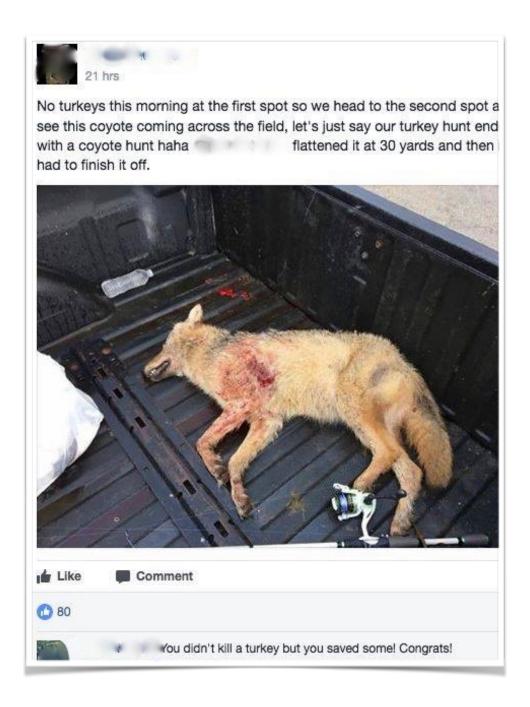


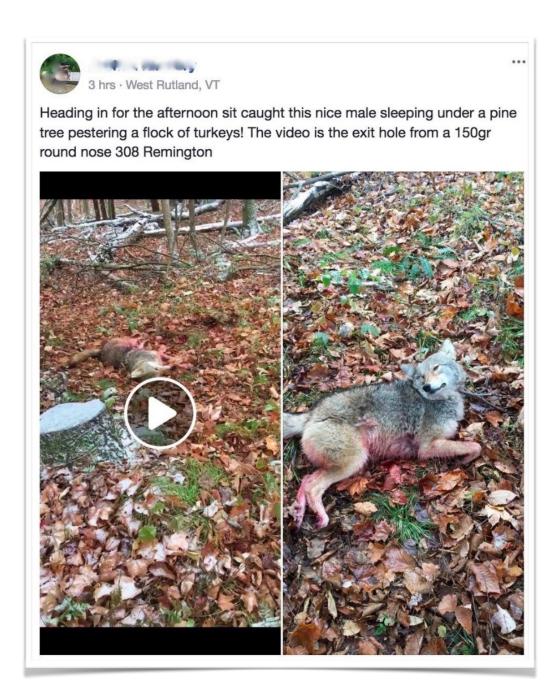


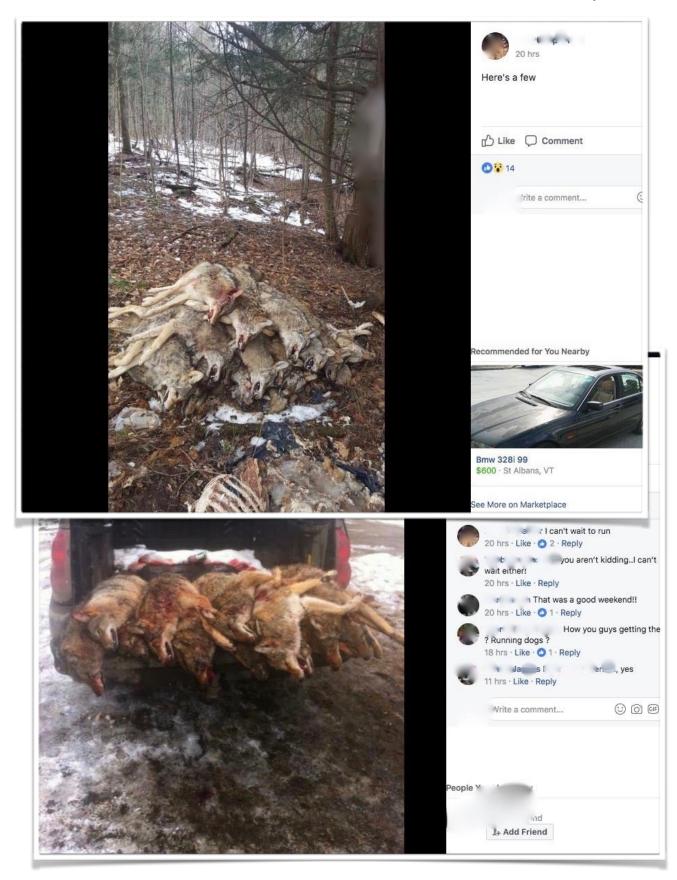
Notice the time of day on this photo (11:10 pm).

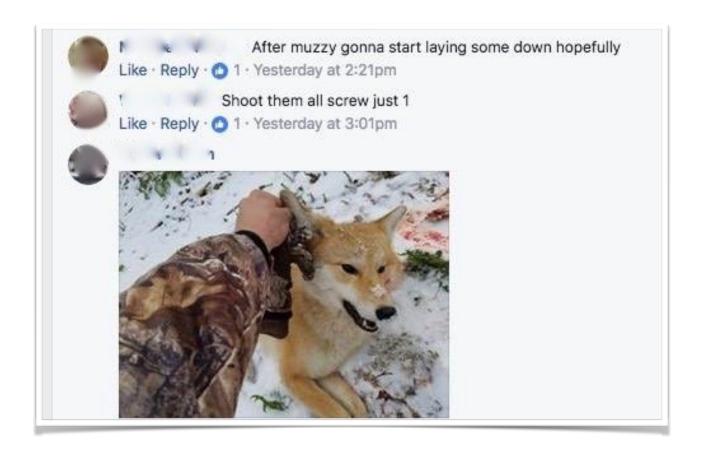








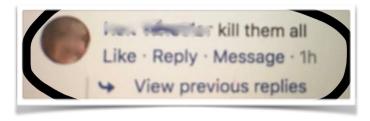


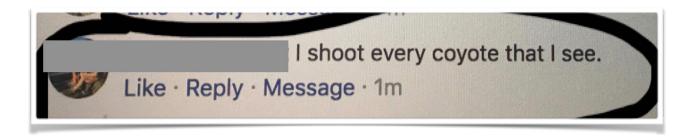


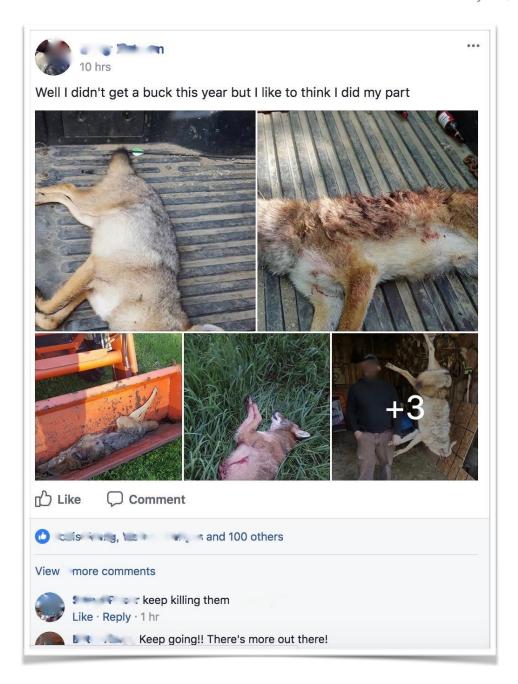






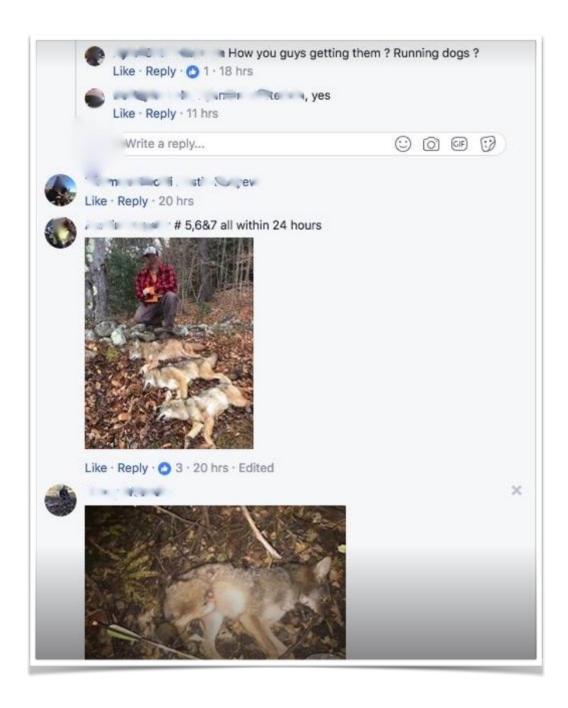












What the Experts Say

"We kill approximately 500,000 coyotes every year (worldwide).

Considering that one coyote eats at least five rodents per day that could amount to an additional 9 billion rodents per year."

Dr. Paquet, University of Calgary, 2016

Coyotes form strong family bonds. Evidence suggests that most mated pairs are monogamous. Scientists with Ohio State University took genetic samples of 236 coyotes over a period of six years, and found no evidence that any coyote was unfaithful to a mate. "The male spends just as much time helping to raise those pups as the female does." - Stan Geht

Although people suspect coyotes kill lots of deer, recent research conducted by SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry biologists has shown that the majority of adult deer coyotes eat are scavenged.

"Most deer consumed in the winter by eastern coyotes are winter kill or roadkill" - Will Staats, a New Hampshire Fish and Game wildlife biologist

"A program of constant persecution of this species fails consistently to have any impact other than to destabilize packs and increase breeding, which feeds the myth that coyotes are out of control. The most effective control of coyotes is no control." - Christine Schadler, Concord Monitor

http://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2017/03/boost-livestockon-farms-leave-predators-in-peace/

Comments from Vermonters

"Isn't dog fighting illegal in VT? Isn't this dog fighting dressed up as hunting? These dogs are trained to kill." - Question posed by a Vermonter on the VCCC page

"I farm and hunt and cannot find a logical reason to shoot a predator. Hunting is to acquire meat and hide, bones, sinew, etc, to use the whole animal. These people aren't hunters they're disgusting." -Vermonter who reached out to VCCC

"I am so frustrated with the coyote stuff. I don't know what we can do about it. Have you been getting responses by anyone? Do you think if we showed this video (which I can't bring myself to watch) to a psychiatrist we could issue a press release? You know....this is a sign of sadism, psychopathic behavior? Obviously hide the guys identity. Maybe send it as an open letter to the FWD and the state legislature asking them why no one does anything about this?" Question posed by a Vermonter on the VCCC page

"ALL is does is enable the worst human impulses." - a Vermonter who wrote to VCCC

"Two years after Peter Damone was shot while standing on his porch, a coyote hunter shot near Damone's neighbor's house and the bullet entered the second-floor office. Damone was shocked at having another close call that could have killed his neighbor. He said he was told by Vermont State Police and Vermont Fish & Game officials that there was little they could do except stress that hunters must shoot safely and responsibly. There is no off-season for coyote shooting. There is no off-

season for the average Vermont citizen." - a Vermonter who wrote to VCCC

"...hunting season is not just deer season, bear season, turkey season, etc. it's also coyote season, which is year-round. Any one of us can be shot at any time of the year. THAT is extremely frightening. We are held captive in our own state." - a Vermonter who wrote to VCCC

Final Words from Vermont Coyote Coexistence Coalition (VCCC)

VCCC is in no way anti-hunting. We are not an anti-hunter group. We are against this kind of hunting of coyotes 1) due to its cruelty 2) due to its lack of necessity and 3) due to its damage. There is no greater myth than the myth that coyotes are taking deer to the point that there won't be enough for hunters who choose to hunt for food--thus justifying the misplaced bloodlust toward coyotes. Coyotes kill some deer. But not enough to put a dent in the deer population. Even hunting magazines dispel this myth. Here's one example: http://www.northamericanwhitetail.com/.../deermanagement.../

We aim for social group stability, which lowers birthrates and adjusts populations according to available wild prey. We aim for non-target lethal measures, which means avoiding just shooting any random coyote who may not be causing an issue at all (this due to the fact that shooting them enables greater instability and erratic behavior). We advocate for widespread coexistence education (proven to be more successful than lethal methods), and lethal control only when and if absolutely necessary. Many other factors contribute to coexistence, such as maintaining habitat for prey species, and not feeding them with carrion, livestock carcasses, or pet food.