

From: Maroni, Carol A. [mailto:Carol.Maroni@ccv.edu]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2018 9:11 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: request for F&W Committee

Dear Ms. Ketchel,

I understand that you are the Fish and Wildlife Committee's assistant. Please forward this request to
stop the open season on coyote hunting and ban coyote killing contests to your committee.

I live in Craftsbury, Vermont and have been a resident here for nearly 35 years. During that time I've seen many coyote bodies hanging in trees and garage doorways and have heard gun shots during the late evening hours at times other than the regular hunting season. One evening last spring I saw lights in a field about 1/4 mile from my house. I wasn't sure what was happening but after a short time I heard gun shots. The next day I heard (rumor mill) that my neighbor had been baiting coyotes to kill them. This was very upsetting to me.

Additionally I have learned through a Public Broadcast show on VPBS that killing coyotes does NOT reduce the population. That the coyote population grows based on the amount of food available in an area. If a number of coyotes are murdered and the environment can sustain more, than Mother Nature just produces larger litters. It seems we might make more headway in reducing the coyote population if we were to educate people regarding food waste disposal and the like. Or maybe there is no way to reduce the coyote population in this evolutionary world we live in. But an open season on coyotes is not the answer.

Please stop the open season on coyote hunting and ban coyote killing contests.

Thank you for your consideration,
Carol Maroni
2426 Collinsville Road
Craftsbury, VT

From: Rosalind Finn [mailto:rosalind.e.finn@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2018 9:13 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote slaughter

Once again, I write to ask you to reconsider your decision on coyote killing. Please introduce a proper hunting season for coyotes and please, please ban the mass coyote hunts. Coyotes are a necessary part of wildlife health and are very good at regulating their population themselves.

Almost 100% of people I have asked about your decisions are against them, please listen to your public - who you are, after all, here to serve and who pay for your job.

Thank you, Rosalind Finn

From: Joan McMahan [mailto:jnm1174@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2018 10:36 AM

To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Hello,

I would like to ask if your committee can introduce a regulated hunting coyote season and put a ban on killing coyotes as a contest.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Joan McMahon

From: BarnCatFarm [mailto:barncatfarm@hushmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

Hi,

As a farmer and hunter I wanted to ask from some sanity from the state in the form of a ban on tormenting and killing predators. The term 'hunting' used to mean providing meat for your family, I've found it means torturing wildlife and creating wanton waste here in VT. There is no point to taking an animal with no intent to eat it. I've been waiting to hear wolves in New England for 41 years now, half my life, and I'm really getting impatient for my birthright. I don't see how wolves can possibly safely return to their rightful home with mad men of European descent murdering everything that resembles these sacred animals year-round, out of ignorant, sick hatred. Chronic Wasting disease is spreading, VT's moose are going extinct, and Fish & Wildlife ignores this, and keeps the same twisted mindset that a handful of men know better than nature how things should be.

-Samantha Nickerson
Farmer and hunter who leaves predators be.

From: Ellen Powell [mailto:ellenpowell911@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2018 6:16 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: No animal killing contests, please!!!

Not just coyote-killing contests. These are unregulated and disgusting in that the animals are not being killed for food. PLEASE MAKE IT STOP.

Sincerely

Ellen Powell
911 Dorset #31
S. Burlington 05403

From: J Win [mailto:jcwsteen@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 8:24 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Season

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my strong support for a designated coyote hunting season in Vermont and to ban coyote killing contests.

Thank You,

Jeremy C. Wintersteen
968 Centebar Road
Albany VT

From: Dunja Moeller [mailto:dunja@workshopsforabetterlife.com]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 8:38 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote Killing contests

Dear state of VT. I just moved here 1 year ago from Boston. I am mortified as a naturalist and doctor that there are these attacks and game like structures provided for killing necessary wildlife. Coyotes are so important to out shrinking wildlife habitat and my father, also a hobby hunter in Germany that took care of hundreds of acres of forest for the Baron of Munchhausen would be turning in his grave at such a profane practice. In Germany hunting has designated seasons that are very strict and there are absolutely no killing contests for foxes, or other wild animals. Please stop this gruesome practice and rather encourage a short hunting season. Dr. Dunja Moeller

From: barbara felitti [mailto:bfvermont@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 9:02 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov
Cc: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Ban open season and killing contests

Dear Mr. Porter,

I urge you to support bans on open seasons and killing contests of coyotes. There is no sound wildlife management purpose for these events.

Sincerely,
Barbara Felitti
Huntington, VT

From: Joanna Cummings [mailto:joanna@yellowladyslipper.org]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 10:29 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Unregulated coyote killing in Vermont

Hello,

I was unable to attend the committee meeting last week with testimony from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife (VF&W) commissioner, regarding the open season on coyote hunting and killing contests in our state. I want to start out by saying that whatever vendetta this agency has against

coyotes is unfortunate for Vermont, and is reminiscent of the uninformed mentality that has extirpated other predatory species including our state's catamounts and wolves.

I ask that you forward this email to the VF&W commissioner and the legislature's Fish and Wildlife Committee making decisions about managing our state's wildlife. It includes my own story about the impacts of allowing a 365 day-per-year, open season on coyotes:

I was visiting Craftsbury last winter and while driving along a dirt road I had to stop because a pick-up truck was stopped in the middle of the road, engine still running and doors wide open. After a minute of waiting I saw a man emerge from brush along the road with a rifle, he gets into the truck and starts driving like a maniac. Unfortunately I had to follow him while he swerved and drove too fast for the conditions. When I caught up with him, he had pulled his truck over to the left side of the road and with the rifle was shooting at something in the woods along the road. He then got out and starting shooting again, then ran into the woods. I was stunned at what I was seeing and drove up along side the truck's passenger side, asked a man sitting in the passenger seat what was going on, and he said they were shooting coyotes. These two people were not the owners of the land they were hunting on. Again stunned, I asked why and he said because they can. When I was able to get cell service I pulled my car over, looked up the phone number for the local game warden and called. They said to call the state police, which I did, and then explained to a dispatcher that I just saw a man shooting at coyotes with a rifle from the side of a road. She said it is "open season" on coyotes in Vermont and people can hunt them any time. Guess what my reaction was after a state police dispatcher brushed off my report of witnessing a man shooting a gun into the woods from the side of a public road.

My story is just one example of the results of an unregulated, open season on a predatory and beneficial wild animal species: Crazy people shooting at wild animals along public roads because they think they have a right to. I can only imagine the harassment and horrible treatment these animals are experiencing when no one else is watching.

There are many ways that predators can be excluded from domestic animal stock (it is being done successfully in African countries where the predators are much larger and dangerous). I did a Google search and found several legitimate sources: here is a link to one of them - http://www.projectcoyote.org/programs/ranching_with_wildlife/nonlethal-solutions-reduce-conflicts/

Between open season coyote hunting and the torture being inflicted upon our states' animal species (wild and domestic) from trapping, I am losing confidence in VF&W's ability to manage our state's wildlife intelligently. Vermont is better than this and our state government agencies that oversee agriculture and wildlife should provide more information and support to livestock owners about nonlethal solutions to control coyotes and other predators.

Also, is the department considering that as areas of Vermont become more suburbanized, and climate change makes our state less habitable for species moose but more habitable for deer, that a healthy population of predators is going to be critical in controlling the deer herd population?

Therefore, I am recommending that the Fish and Wildlife Committee introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests. And while I potentially have someone's attention, I also want to recommend that Vermont prohibit the absolutely cruel and inhumane practice of animal trapping.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanna Cummings

From: Joanne Hekkers [mailto:joanne106@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 10:31 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes

I'd like to urge the Fish & Wildlife Committee to introduce legislation that ends the open season and contest to kill coyotes. The commissioner admits that this does nothing to protect deer. It is clearly sport killing and its disgusting.

They are a valuable part of the ecosystem. They control rodent populations, which has the effect of reducing Lyme disease.

Thanks,
Joanne Hekkers
Vergenens

From: BRIAN GOODWIN [mailto:bgdwin@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:25 AM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyote contests

Hi there,

Please institute a closed season on coyotes and ban coyote killing contests that serve no purpose and are disrespectful to animals.

brian goodwin
middlesex

From: Virginia Elliott [mailto:vgelliott6@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 11:13 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: coyotes "control"

As usual, it seems that when it comes to basic compassion and understanding of the need to preserve biodiversity, Fish and Wildlife is failing miserably, along with the Vermonters who apparently enjoy killing wildlife. Perhaps it is too late to comment, but Commissioner Porter's failure to adequately respond to questions makes me wonder about his position. There needs to

be a regulated hunting season (if hunting is a "must") and definitely a ban on coyote killing contests. Do the right thing!

Virginia Elliott
626-8265

From: Amber Chambers [mailto:brindleridge14@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:14 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyote

Why do we have a fish and game board?? Well for them to manage ALL wildlife right, I feel the legislature should not be making laws that the fish and game board should be able to manage first of all! Second I feel the management of the coyote population should be left in their (f&w) hands and there is no reason for a closed season on them. We have had animals in our own yard attacked and killed by coyotes I do not see any reason for a closed season as coyotes are not hunted much in the summer because the fur is not prime. Please leave fish and wildlife management to the fish and wildlife experts stop tying there hands and DO NOT TRY TO DO THERE JOB!!

Thank you for your time.
Amber Chambers
Lowell, Vt. Resident

From: Linda Di Sante [mailto:disantelinda598@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:31 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Legislation

I am extremely concerned about barbaric trapping and needless hunting. Please pass H.636 successfully out of Committee. Thank you!

Linda Di Sante

From: Bob [mailto:rdea13@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Ban coyote killing in Vermont

Please ban ALL coyote killing in Vermont: open season, killing contests, and all other such cruelties.

These deaths are not only cruel and hateful, they are needless and pointless. Vermont is a great state with a healthy balance of wildlife, and it shames the state to allow this merciless slaughter. Coyotes are an important part of the balance and are not a threat to humans or other animals, wild or livestock. Please ban this senseless expression of hatred for the wild.

Sincerely,

Bob Dea
rdea13@comcast.net
978 462 3985

From: annehamilton12@aol.com [mailto:annehamilton12@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 11:56 AM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Please ban the open coyote killing season

Dear Fish & Wildlife Committee,

I would like you to introduce legislation to ban the open coyote killing season. I am also completely against wildlife killing contests.

Coyotes each eat about 2,000 mice and other rodents every year, which is of huge concern to Vermont as the mice they eat are the ones that spread Lyme disease through the ticks they carry. Lyme disease is a huge public health concern and is spreading throughout VT. We have one of the highest per capita rates of Lyme disease in the country.

Allowing anybody with a gun to kill any coyote they see any time of the year is irresponsible. They are not killing the coyotes to eat, as nobody eats coyotes. Most of the time they just leave the bodies to rot in the woods. And killing contests just leave piles of dead coyotes to rot in the aftermath. Another problem is that we do not know how many coyotes live in Vermont or how many coyotes hunters and trappers kill each year.

Coyotes are family oriented animals and form close bonds with their mates and their offspring. Killing a coyote during breeding season leaves the pups to starve to death. When the family has been disrupted by the death of the adults in the family, the breeding rate of juveniles increases to make up for this threat. So killing coyotes increases the number of young to take their place.

Coyotes do not pose any threat to humans. The hatred against them by hunters is completely irrational. Some hunters like to kill coyotes because they think they are competition for deer which the hunters would prefer to kill themselves. Coyotes do not ordinarily kill deer because they are too big.

There are many non-lethal ways to discourage coyotes and protect livestock. But most coyote killers are not trying to protect livestock or anything else.

As a long time resident I want the Fish and Wildlife Department to protect our wildlife in Vermont, not let anybody with a gun or trap exterminate our animals.

Thank you, Anne Hamilton