

PLEASE READ FROM BOTTOM UP

From: Protect Our Wildlife VT

[mailto:info@protectourwildlifevt.org]

Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2017 4:59 PM

To: Batchelder, Jason; Barry Londeree; Lori; Gjessing, Catherine

Subject: Re: "Nuisance" statute

It seems that the law is being interpreted to allow a landowner to preemptively kill any animal out of season under a claim of the nuisance exemption, regardless of any actual damage done by the animal or observed threat of damage. This is ridiculous and would seem to allow any landowner to essentially declare an open season on their land for any furbearer that *might*, possibly, one day cause damage.

Why aren't you looking into this? I've given you the name of someone who has admitted to killing raccoons out of season. I apologize for my frustration here, but I look to you, Jason, as someone I can trust. I am deeply concerned at your interpretation of this situation, especially since you told me that you would expect a landowner to have proof of damage if they were caught killing animals out of season. You are not doing that in this case. This is unacceptable and an unethical abuse of what this statute was intended to do.

On Thu, Jun 8, 2017 at 4:42 PM, Batchelder, Jason
<Jason.Batchelder@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Brenna,

I take these situations very seriously, and I imagine that farmers take their livelihoods just as seriously. If a raccoon is eating a farmer's crops, in bunkers or in fields, that is damage and 4828 applies.

I believe this is what the statute was intended to do.

Colonel Jason M. Batchelder, *Chief Warden*

[email] jason.batchelder@vermont.gov
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From: Protect Our Wildlife VT
<info@protectourwildlifevt.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2017 3:48:50 PM
To: Batchelder, Jason
Cc: Gjessing, Catherine; Lori; Barry Londeree
Subject: Re: "Nuisance" statute

Hi Jason,
I am apoplectic over this – you advised me in previous communications that you take the statute seriously and that a property owner couldn't kill an animal without proof of damage. Here we have a situation where a farmer is allowing hunting – not targeting a specific "nuisance" animal - but hounding on his land. If a farmer were to catch raccoons within the feed bunker that's one thing, but that is not the case.

How is this not a complete abuse of what the statute was intended to do?

Brenna Galdenzi
President
Protect Our Wildlife
www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org

On Jun 8, 2017, at 3:31 PM, Batchelder, Jason
<Jason.Batchelder@vermont.gov> wrote:
Hi Brenna,
It appears the hunter is referencing feed. It is very common for raccoons to enter feed bunkers to eat the contents and also defecate therein.

This is damage.

Colonel Jason M. Batchelder, *Chief Warden*

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6/8/17

to Jason, Catherine, Lori, Barry

Hi Jason,

We recently came across a situation where a houndsman, Todd Laplant, claims that he has permission from a farmer to hunt raccoons out of season. See attached.

I recall that you specifically told me that no one should be able to "take" a wild animal out of season unless the animal was causing damage. According to Leplant the warden knows about this out of season hunting on this particular farm. People cannot kill wild animals on their property because the animals may cause damage.

Can someone please look into this.



Todd Laplant

If the animal is healthy the dogs wont catch it. If it's sick it's obviously going to die anyways so the dogs dispatching it is a hell of a lot more humane than it laying under a log for a week with no food or water. Where we hunt is almost all farm property anyways where we have full permission to kill them from the farmer to keep them out of their feed, so I've never had to worry about it.

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