



November 12, 2015

Mark Scott  
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

Dear Mr. Scott:

It has been recently brought to our attention that a Vermont resident in the Brattleboro area was advised by a game warden, whom he reached via the Central office at 802-828-1529, to drown a skunk who was caught in a live trap. The resident was disturbed by this advice and rejected it, as he was looking for a humane way to deal with the situation.

As we discussed back in September, this inhumane and antiquated method of killing an animal is not condoned by either the American Veterinary Medical Association, or the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. Vermont residents expect and deserve to be offered humane solutions to wildlife conflicts from those who are charged with the management of our wildlife.

To POW's knowledge, the citizen with the skunk was not provided with information about effective, humane alternatives for the removal of "nuisance" skunks, rather when he refused to drown the skunk, he was advised to call a trapper who would provide guidance on to kill the animal. Apparently, the skunk could not be shot since this occurred within city limits.

This incident serves as a timely opportunity to follow up with you on your conversation with Jason Batchelder. The people of Vermont rely on your Department to provide effective, humane options to deal with human-wildlife conflicts. Resorting to cruel, lethal means as the Department's recommendation to the public is not compatible with the Department's role as steward of Vermont's wildlife.

Protect Our Wildlife  
PO BOX 3024  
Stowe, VT 05672  
[www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org](http://www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org)

As offered previously, POW stands ready to assist the Department in efforts to update its response to the public with regard to human-wildlife conflicts, and hopes that this may be one area in which all parties agree that reform is urgently needed.

A response by November 20<sup>th</sup> would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenna Galdenzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brenna Galdenzi, POW Executive Director

Cc: Jason Batchelder  
Catherine Gjessing  
Louis Porter