

Judith Newman

From: Richard Maizell <rmaizell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 6:11 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H636 Amendments

Good morning,

I am writing in support of two amendments being proposed for H636 from Protect our Wildlife. One would require proof that an animal is actually causing damage before being deemed a nuisance and, therefore, fair game to trap with no restrictions. The second would require training for Nuisance Control Wildlife Operators. Both of these seem sensible in finding a reasonable compromise between no trapping and animal cruelty.

I find it bordering on the bizarre that our wildlife officials, commissions, and boards seem to feel that they exist almost solely to support the enjoyment of hunters and trappers, when the majority of Vermonters do neither and would enjoy observation our wildlife alive.

Thank you for the consideration of my support for the proposed amendments. I would appreciate you forwarding this along to involved legislators.

Very Truly Yours,

Dr. Richard Maizell

Richard Maizell, Psy.D.
973-903-9583
rmaizell@gmail.com

Judith Newman

From: warren mills <millswarren@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 4:15 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Amendments To H.636

Hello,

I'm writing to ask for your committees's support on two amendments to H.636.

The first would require that animals actually be causing damage to a property before a land owner or municipality are allowed to kill the animal. This works well for the state of Maine and it can work for Vermont as well.

The other amendment would require individuals who kill wildlife for compensation, known as Nuisance Wildlife Control Officers or NWCO's, to be trained and licensed and to report yearly the animals that they have killed for the year.

As a lifelong hunter and conservationist I feel strongly that these two amendments will not undermine anyone's ability eliminate truly troublesome animals nor will the amendments eliminate the livelihood of any NWCO's.

Training and licensing of these individuals will ensure that the state of Vermont is following the most humane practices and provide data as to how many animals are actually being taken each year.

Please take this into consideration when reviewing H.636.

Sincerely,

Warren Mills
Essex Junction, VT

Judith Newman

From: Linda Huebner <lh.coyote13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 3:44 PM
To: Judith Newman
Cc: Jeanette White; Becca Balint
Subject: Amendments to H.636 re: nuisance wildlife

I am writing to ask the members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to support amendments to H.636. The original language of this bill contained language that was removed and I hope you'll put it back.

Specifically, I'm asking you to support language that would require that "nuisance" animals are actually causing damage before people are allowed to kill them out of season. I understand that Maine has such a provision in their law, and expect that it could work equally well in Vermont. The "off season" for hunting and trapping is that way for a reason- this is the time of the year that wild animals are bearing and raising young. Killing them can orphan their young and doom them to death, too. Waiting for them to actually cause harm seems like the least that we can do, especially since *conflicts can be prevented and mediated non-lethally*.

Also, I'm asking you to support language that would require training for Nuisance Wildlife (Pest) Control Operators. These folks should have to have the same training that trappers do, and then some, as they deal with more species and the aforementioned issue of dependent young. Further, they charge money for their services and should be required to be trained to do them effectively and humanely. They should also report their "take" to Vt Fish and Wildlife, so that these deaths can be considered in management decisions. New Hampshire has such requirements - if they can work in the "Live Free or Die" state, they can work in Vermont.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Huebner
West Halifax

Judith Newman

From: Dr Claudia Welch <info@drclaudiawelch.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 11:41 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: please support Protect Our Wildlife's amendments to H.636

Dear Jude Newman,

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to ask your support for the two proposed amendments to bill H.636--an act relating to miscellaneous wildlife subjects, submitted by Protect Our Wildlife, that relate to wild animals, namely:

1.) Require that a wild animal be actually causing damage to property before a landowner or municipality is allowed to kill the animal. The state of Maine has similar language that we hope to use - if it works for Maine, it can work for Vermont.

2.) Require individuals who kill wildlife for compensation, known as Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCOs), to be trained and licensed and to report the animals they kill each year. At present, NWCO activity is completely unregulated and results in inhumane practices, such as drowning and leaving baby animals orphaned. The lack of regulations also presents both a public safety risk and consumer protection concerns. The state of NH has a NWCO training program that their Fish & Wildlife Department has found to be effective. Sadly, VT Fish & Wildlife opposes this and is once again letting down our wildlife in favor of trappers' interests.

Beneficial language was initially included in an earlier

version of H.636, but due to pressure from F&W Commissioner Louis Porter and the trappers, the House committee omitted the language from the bill before passing it out of the Committee. The way the statute is written now, essentially allows for a year round, open season on foxes, raccoons, bobcats and a host of other wildlife who may be considered a "nuisance."

PoW's proposed amendment would also stop the informal "open season" on furbearers, since landowners would no longer be able to preemptively kill wildlife that's *suspected* of causing damage. Last year a farmer allowed hunters with dogs to chase down and kill raccoons who the farmer feared *might* get into his feed bins. One of the hunters took a photo of two raccoon pups huddled at the base of a tree, fearing for their lives. Their mother was likely chased up a tree by the dogs and killed.

I also understand a Fish & Wildlife Hunter Education Instructor has set traps each May, through the end of summer, and drowns the trapped animals, including raccoons, opossums, skunks and others. He told PoW that he **drowned 23 skunks in one year for no apparent, legitimate reason.** Drowning is a terrifying and prolonged, painful method of killing an animal and is condemned by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Yet this man does it each year, with complete impunity. The Fish & Wildlife Department has taken no interest in these cases. **Until we change the law, this reckless, inhumane and wasteful killing will continue.**

Thank you in advance, so much, for your support,
warmly,
cw

--
Dr. Claudia Welch

Judith Newman

From: Katie Whittaker <kwklutz@stowe.nu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Support for amendments to bill H.636, an act relating to miscellaneous wildlife subjects.

Categories: Red Category

I am writing you today to ask you to *please* support the amendment to bill H.363 requiring **1)** that a wild animal be actually causing damage to property before a landowner or municipality is allowed to kill the animal. The state of Maine has similar language, so - if it works for Maine, it can work for Vermont.

And

2.) Require individuals who kill wildlife for compensation, known as Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCOs), be trained and licensed and to report the animals they kill each year. At present, NWCO activity is completely unregulated and results in inhumane practices, such as drowning and leaving baby animals orphaned.

In this time of an exhausted Earth, and loss of habitat, and changing climate, it would be the right thing to do to try and protect the remaining wild animals and wilderness of this our precious Vermont!

Please and thank you!
Katie Whittaker
Stowe VT.

From: Stephanie Bourdelle <stephanieb638@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 3:47 PM
To: Judith Newman; John Rodgers
Subject: Re: Omitted "nuisance" wildlife provision from H. 636

Re: Trapping and Killing Animals Out of Season Under Vermont's Dangerously Vague "Nuisance" Wildlife Provision

Vermont's official trapping season ended on Saturday, but trapping and killing continues throughout the year under Vermont statute 10 V.S.A. §4828 that allows property owners and their agents to kill animals in order to protect property, even when no actual damage has occurred. The way the statute is written now, essentially allows for a year round, open season on foxes, raccoons, bobcats and a host of other wildlife who may be considered a "nuisance." Protect Our Wildlife (POW) [Stowe, VT] has submitted a request for amendments to bill H.636, an act relating to miscellaneous wildlife subjects and need your support. You can read POW's verbal testimony to the House Committee on Fish & Wildlife here. Beneficial language was initially included in an earlier version of H.636, but **due to pressure from F&W' Commissioner Louis Porter and the trappers, the House committee omitted the language from the bill before passing it out of the Committee.**

POW's amendment seeks to fix two major problems that result in unnecessary and indiscriminate killing of animals. The amendments:

1.) Require that a wild animal be actually causing damage to property before a landowner or municipality is allowed

to kill the animal. The state of Maine has similar language that we hope to use - if it works for Maine, it can work for Vermont.

2.) Require individuals who kill wildlife for compensation, known as Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCOs), to be trained and licensed and to report the animals they kill each year. At present, NWCO activity is completely unregulated and results in inhumane practices, such as drowning and leaving baby animals orphaned. The lack of regulations also presents both a public safety risk and consumer protection concerns. The state of NH has a NWCO training program that their Fish & Wildlife Department has found to be effective. Sadly, VT Fish & Wildlife opposes this and is once again letting down our wildlife in favor of trappers' interests.

This is our chance to close a very dangerous loophole in the current statute.

Appreciatively,

Stephanie Bourdelle
Sheffield, VT

Judith Newman

From: HALE IRWIN <hale.irwin@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Christopher Bray; Brian Campion; Mark MacDonald; John Rodgers; Christopher Pearson; Judith Newman; Porter, Louis
Subject: Support Reporting Amendment in H636

Gentlemen,

I implore you to support the Amendment put forward by *Protect Our Wildlife* which will require trappers to be responsible and report all Dogs and Cats caught in their traps. The results of the reports must be maintained and be made available to the Public by Fish and Wildlife. Because the commissioner of F&W listens only to trappers and hunters, a fraction of the Vermonters he is supposed to serve, it will require you to make any intelligent change in the way Wildlife is managed in Vermont.

Thanks for your consideration; please do what is right for our animals and what the majority of Vermonters would expect!!

PS: Be advised that this group is not trying to end legitimate hunting in Vermont or take away your guns, as some people have professed.

Respectfully,
Hale Irwin
Middlesex

Judith Newman

From: kipross@kipross.com
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 12:16 PM
To: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov
Cc: Judith Newman
Subject: Wildlife and Death

Mr. Porter,

Another one of your brethren doing the good work of conserving wildlife (The Vermont Hunter "Education Instructor" from Rutland; skunks drowned) ?

You must be proud. You certainly are ill suited for the position you hold;and thousands of Vermonters are realizing this.

Coyotes, crows, varmints (wide net , there) are the "prey" things for a few of the less enlightened out there in the bush.

Destruction of wildlife is contrary to the mission of a state funded Wildlife conservation and stewardship agency.

So, it's safe to assume you will not address the unregulated, inhumane trapping and killing of wildlife for compensation. Nor you close dangerous loopholes in the current statute or even acknowledge them.

Please resign.

Kip Ross

Judith Newman

From: Heather Driscoll <heather.driscoll@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Judith Newman; Francis Brooks; Ann Cummings; Anthony Pollina; Christopher Bray; Brian Campion; Mark MacDonald; Christopher Pearson; John Rodgers
Subject: Re: Bill H.636

Dear Washington County Senators and Senators on the Natural Resources and Energy Committee:

As a Berlin, VT resident, I am writing to ask for your support of bill H.636, a wide-ranging wildlife act that includes new regulations on animal trapping and coyote killing contests

that

pass

ed

overwhelmingly out of the House in February

. Also,

please oppose any amendment, which would significantly weaken the ban by exempting particular hunts or trappings, e.g. coyote killing contests hosted by private groups.

The

VT Fish and Wildlife Dept. ha

s

demonstrated that they may be more committed to the interests of the few, specifically sport trappers and coyote-hunting enthusiasts,

than

to scientific data about wildlife and wildlife management. Wildlife management laws, in my mind, must be framed by science, not special interests. And, wildlife science does not demonstrate

any benefit to

the

ecological well-being of our state and

its residents

from an

open season and cruel animal trapping

. Quite the contrary, actually.

(

S

ee letter from Sue Morse

for more info)

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Since t

he legislative session is quickly coming to an end in the next few weeks
and
there is not much time for the Senate
to
enact this ban

'
I urge you to hold hearings and pass H.636 out of committee.

Thank you in advance for considering this issue and for all that you do for Vermonters and Vermont
wildlife.

Respectfully,
Heather Driscoll

Judith Newman

From: Dottie Nelson <dottienelson2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:45 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Request concerning H.636

Hello,

I'm writing to ask your committee to support Protect Our Wildlife's amendments to wildlife bill H.636 that seek to address the unregulated, inhumane trapping and killing of wildlife for compensation and to close dangerous loopholes in the current statute. Specifically this would mean training and licensing of "Nuisance" Wildlife Control Operators, who are untrained and present not only ethical concerns, but also public safety and consumer protection concerns; and a clearer definition of 10 V.S.A. §4828 that would prohibit landowners from killing wildlife, including bobcats, foxes, skunks and others for frivolous reasons, while still allowing them to protect their property from damage.

Thank you for considering this request.

Dottie Nelson
Middlebury

Judith Newman

From: Mary Post <marypost@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:44 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: The cruel and heartless killing of innocent animals..

Dear - OMG, I can't even bear to write your name...

I am so sick of all the wanton killing we do in this state, and the lack of compassion and lack of love we have for our animals and environment. Please do the right thing and stop all of this cruelty. I have no respect for any one who can go along with this taking of life. Vermont has become a microcosm of the United States. We have killed more people around the world than any other nation in all of history. Vermont should be ashamed.

Mary Post

Judith Newman

From: Janice Nadworny <jnadworny@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 12:21 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Drowning skunks?

Good morning,

I'm writing to ask you to share my email with the Senate Natural Resources Committee. I'm requesting that they support the amendments to wildlife bill, H.636, submitted by Protect Our Wildlife.

I also just read that Vermont Fish & Wildlife allows a Vermont Hunter Education instructor from Rutland to trap and drown skunks each year, who stated that he drowns skunks because he fears that they may have rabies and he doesn't like the smell. Those are not allowable reasons per Vermont statute, 10 V.S.A. §4828, but this Hunter Ed Instructor is allowed to continue such inhumane practices.

What can be done to stop this insane practice?

Thank you,
Janice Nadworny
Hinesburg

Judith Newman

From: Aupperlee, Jessica M. <Jessica.Aupperlee@jsc.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Testimony on H.636

April 23, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy
Re: Testimony on H.636

I, Jessica Aupperlee, registered voter in Morristown VT, fully support and agree with the statement below provided by Brenna Galdenzi. Please forward my concerns to the committee members.

"I'm Brenna Galdenzi, President and Co-Founder of Protect Our Wildlife, a Vermont all-volunteer, grassroots, nonprofit organization. I thank you for the opportunity to testify to your Committee regarding bill H.636. I would like to focus my testimony on three components of H.636: **the killing of wildlife for compensation performed by nuisance wildlife control operators (NWCOS); the reporting of trapped pets; and the ban on coyote killing contests.** We are only requesting an amendment on the reporting of trapped pets section.

We are grateful to the House Committee on Fish & Wildlife's Chair, and other Committee members, for including meaningful wildlife protection language in an earlier version of the bill. The bill included a section on the training and licensing of **Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (referred to as NWCOS)** and reporting of the animals they kill. Killing wildlife for compensation is completely unregulated in Vermont. It results in unnecessary and cruel methods of killing animals, including drowning and bludgeoning, often leaving young animals orphaned since the activity mainly occurs in the spring and summer months.

Some of you may have heard about a NWCO in Bennington who recently admitted to killing opossums because he thought that they were a rabies vector species - they are not. In fact, opossums rarely contract rabies due to their low body temperature. How a person operating in this capacity doesn't know this basic information is concerning. That's like a legislator not knowing where the Statehouse is. Another NWCO trapped a blue heron in a trap he set last year to trap "nuisance" beavers. Perhaps if these NWCOS had training, including non-lethal options, these unfortunate incidents could've been avoided. We understand that the House Committee on Fish & Wildlife felt that they did not have enough time to fully take up all of the items, so we are now left with the current version of H.636. The current version of the bill allows the Fish & Wildlife Board to promulgate rules on NWCO activities, if they choose to do so. We had hoped we could accomplish this via the legislature, mainly due to problems wildlife advocates have had in the past with the Board. We hope that the Board

will realize the urgency in addressing this activity, that not only presents ethical issues, but also public safety and consumer protection concerns.

Reporting of Trapped Dogs and Cats – *this is the only section of the bill where we’re seeking an amendment*

The current language on the reporting of trapped pets offers cats and dogs and pet owners very little and will result in incomplete reporting. If it cannot be amended, it should be omitted to avoid confusion.

The language currently reads:

Page 23, Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 4254c

§ 4254c. NOTICE OF TRAPPING; DOMESTIC PET

*A person who incidentally traps a **domestic pet** found to be **injured or killed** shall notify a fish and wildlife warden **if the contact identification for the owner of the domestic pet is readily available.***

Problems with this are as follows: “domestic pet” does not necessarily cover cats because it is impossible for a trapper to know if a cat is domesticated or a stray or feral. Senator Rodgers asked why should trappers report if they trap a feral cat – as someone who volunteers for a nonprofit dog and cat rescue in Lamoille county, I can attest to the fact that it is impossible to determine whether a frightened cat is indeed feral or a housecat. This is why all cats (and dogs) need to be reported.

Also, the way this is written only requires a trapper to report if the trapper believes the pet to be injured or killed AND if the animal has identification. Many animals don’t wear visible ID, especially if they are microchipped and determining whether a pet is injured is difficult since injuries may not be visible. Broken toes, broken teeth, dislocated joints, and other injuries are commonly sustained by animals caught in traps.

In order to ensure full reporting, and what was originally intended, it should be amended to read: **Any person who incidentally traps a cat, dog, or domestic animal, shall notify a fish and game warden or the Department within 24 hours. The owner of the animal shall be notified as soon as possible if the identity of the owner is known or easily determined. The Department shall maintain records of all animals reported pursuant to this section and shall include the disposition of each animal.**

This language ensures that all cats and dogs who are trapped, are reported to Fish & Wildlife and the owner is notified when possible. Since trapping is inherently indiscriminate and occurs on our public lands, with no required setbacks from trails or signage, the public has a right to know when dogs (and cats) are trapped so they can take necessary precautions. Commissioner Porter testified on April 20th stating that he does not feel that his Department should be responsible for maintaining records of trapped pets – we disagree. His Department oversees and manages trapping, and an unfortunate reality of trapping is that dogs and cats are caught. Therefore, reporting and recordkeeping of these non-target captures are indeed his responsibility.

Ban on Coyote Killing Contests

I won’t spend a lot of time on this issue, since there has been a lot of media attention, emails, letters and prior testimony as to the need to ban these contests. My organization has received emails from hunters, farmers, landowners and other stakeholders who oppose this activity that casts a dark shadow on Vermont. Since last fall, we’ve received emails from people across the state who

plan to post their land in protest if these contests aren't made illegal - we currently have a list of landowners totaling ~850 acres. They feel as though posting their land is the only way they'll be heard by Fish & Wildlife. Banning these killing contests is something we can all come together on in a bipartisan fashion and accomplish for Vermont.

In closing, we ask that the Committee move this bill out of Committee with our one requested amendment that will offer more clarity and mitigate confusion on trapped dogs and cats.

With gratitude,
Brenna Galdenzi"

Thank you,

Jessica Aupperlee
Administrative Assistant

Johnson State College
Public Safety Office
337 College Hill
Johnson, VT 05656

Jessica.Aupperlee@jsc.edu
802-635-1205 phone
802-635-1666 fax

"Live Long and Prosper" Mr. Spock



Please note that my email address is changing to Jessica.Aupperlee@NorthernVermont.edu. My old email address will no longer function as of July 1, 2018, when Lyndon State will join with Johnson State to become Northern Vermont University!

Judith Newman

From: MaryJane Sarvis <maryjane428@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 9:59 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Please forward to committee members

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets.

I am a very rural dog and cat owner. It is not acceptable to ignore this.

Thank you

MaryJane Sarvis

Judith Newman

From: Todd <toddjosephthomas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 9:29 AM
To: Judith Newman
Cc: Sarah (Home) Thomas
Subject: Support for POW amendment to H.636 regarding reporting of domesticated animal incidental trapping

Good morning Ms. Newman.

If you could please forward my below thoughts about H.636 to your committee members, I would be most appreciative.

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets by Fish & Wildlife.

For most Vermonters, our domesticated animals are family members. It seems wrong that one of my “family members” could be caught in an incidental leg-hold trap and no one has the responsibility to even tell me about it. It really seems outlandish. I do not think this notice requirement is too much to ask, especially in a day when most domesticated pets are micro-chipped and therefore easily identifiable.

Thank you again for your committee’s consideration.

*Kind regards,
Todd Thomas
100 Maple St.,
Morrisville*

Judith Newman

From: Colleen Schuster <caseyjonesvt1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 10:09 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H.636

Hi,
I wanted you to know that I am a firm supporter of wildlife bill H.636 that includes the ban on coyote killing contests and also language on the reporting of trapped domestic pets. I also support the proposed amendments requiring the training and licensing of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCOs).

It makes sense that bill H.636 **require trappers to report when they trap dogs or cats and to notify the animal's owner, regardless of the animal's condition.**

Trapping occurs on public lands, including our state forests where many people (both Vermonters and tourists) recreate with their dogs. Porter's answer to people's dogs getting trapped is to keep your dogs leashed. Personally I do leash my dogs, but I know some people don't. Is it too much to ask Fish & Wildlife to require trappers to report when they trap a dog or cat. If the general public were more aware of what is going on there would be a public outcry.

I appreciate the work you do and hope you will support these requirements.

Sincerely,

Colleen Schuster
Bristol, VT

Judith Newman

From: Lisa Jablow <lnjablow@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2018 2:02 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H. 636

Would you please forward to the members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

To the members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

I am writing to urge you to adopt the amendment put forward by Protect Our Wildlife to H. 636 that would require mandatory reporting to Fish & Wildlife by trappers who trap a dog or a cat. This amendment would further require notifying the pet owner and the keeping of records by Fish & Wildlife of trapped pets. Commissioner Porter's response to this request (that people walking in the woods with their pets should simply keep them leashed) is not only flippant, it clearly indicates his bias towards trappers. Of course pet owners should ensure that their animals are on voice command and that they do not run wild—but even an animal on a lead can potentially get caught in a trap; and not requiring the keeping of records in any event is flagrantly irresponsible.

Furthermore, I ask that the Committee support the ban on coyote killing contests in its current version, with no further amendments. As you have repeatedly heard, these contests are brutal and horrific. They bring out the worst behavior in many of the participants and they promote wanton waste in the extreme. It is shameful that they are still allowed. We should follow the example of our next door neighbor and put an end to a practice that the vast majority of the public finds abhorrent.

Please see that this bill becomes law in this current session.

Thank you,
Lisa Jablow
Brattleboro

Judith Newman

From: Lucinda Bernard <lsbernard342@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2018 12:17 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: amendment to bill H.636

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets.

Lucinda Benard
103 Stone House Road
Jacksonville, Windham County, VT

Judith Newman

From: jcriss@frontier.com
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 6:36 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Fw: Please Don't Sanction the Cruelty of a Sick Guy

I am a Vermont resident. Please share my email below with the Natural Resources Committee. Thank you.

Dear Senate Natural Resources Committee:

I was informed that a Hunting Education Instructor from Rutland (where I live) is being paid/endorsed by VT Fish & Wildlife to drown skunks & opossums?

So my state tax dollars are being used to facilitate a grown man's desire to trap and drown animals? I'm speechless.

PLEASE support the amendments to H.636 that will prevent this kind of sanctioned cruelty. Any animal spared from being gleefully drowned by a grown man is a good thing. Thank you.

Judith Newman

From: Gayle Pilat <gaylepilat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 11:41 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: To committee members, thank you

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets by Fish & Wildlife. This is appropriate public policy!

I also ask that the Committee support the ban on coyote killing contests in its current version, with no further amendments.

Thank you.

Gayle Pilat

108 Prospect St

Brandon, VT 05733

Judith Newman

From: WRAVEN68 <WRAVEN68@protonmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: wildlife bill H.636

Dear Ms. Newman:

I am writing you today as an extremely concerned Vermont resident regarding the wildlife bill H.636. As a pet owner and a woman who enjoys the outdoors by hiking and camping, I have to say I am appalled at the reluctance to pass this bill. I am ***especially appalled*** that Fish and Game Commissioner Louis Porter is against this common sense bill, which would **require trappers to report when they trap dogs or cats and to notify the animal's owner, regardless of the animal's condition. We also asked that Fish & Wildlife maintain records of trapped pets and Commissioner Porter didn't support that either. I cannot fathom the fact that NWCO (Nuisance Wildlife Control Officers) is completely unregulated and results in unnecessary killing and suffering of animals, including non-targeted species like the blue heron who was trapped last year.** Trapping takes place on public lands and anywhere that is not posted. Imagine how you might feel if your dog happened to wander off and end up in a trap which will then be tended by the trapper who has NO obligation to inform the owner of this dog's injuries or death. Or that of other species? Is it too much to ask Fish & Wildlife to require trappers to report when they trap a dog or cat? We don't think so. The reality is, Fish & Wildlife is in the business of protecting and promoting trapping and they realize that the reporting of trapped pets will not be good publicity for the activity.

I respectfully request that you forward my letter to the committee members. And I thank you for your time and attention to my concern.

Sincerely,
Wendy Ingraham
Brattleboro, Vermont

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Judith Newman

From: keri and bill <wkedmunds@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 11:26 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Trapping regulations/coyote contests

Could you please forward this letter to committee members.

When I was a teen one of our cats went missing. We found her 4 days later 3/4 of a mile away, while riding our horses. She was caught in a leg-hold trap. She had to cross a river to get to it. It was baited with calf carcasses. I was so excited to see her I jumped off my mare and ran over forgetting the dog following me in his excitement. He got trapped in another leg-hold. He screamed for 20 minutes in agony. It took 2 strong men; farmers, and the leather reins of my horse to restrain and muzzle him, but he still broke all his teeth biting the trap and chain and his own legs and the men trying to get the trap off his leg. He was covered with blood before it was over. Our cat was in shock and lost all her toes. Neither animal was ever the same after that, having never known pain and cruelty in their lives previously. If the trapper had found our cat first she never legally needed to be reported. She could have been killed by the trap or killed by the trapper when he found her or she could have been let loose and in her shocked state probably never would have made it home again and we would be left wondering our entire lives what happened to her. Baited traps draw all sorts of non-target animals and these particular traps were not even put out for "nuisance" animals, they were just there because the farm boy thought it would be "fun" to trap a coyote. Most animals that we call predators are not true predators and could be more accurately called scavengers, that is how they survive; coyotes, bear, raptors, foxes, minks, bobcats, ravens, etc. They are opportunists who survive by picking up scraps they find, which is much easier than risking getting injured trying to catch a deer. Just like a dog following you around your house when you are snacking, hoping for crumbs to fall. This behavior has allowed them to survive for thousands of years and it is a dangerous behavior when traps are set or when hunters think they are being stalked or farmers think they are being stalked when coyotes and foxes follow them during haying, but the scavengers are just looking for dead mice and insects. Traps are bad business all around. Time to evolve and get rid of them. If Commissioner Porter thinks traps are humane then he has never heard an animal crying while caught in one. We need some regulations protecting our wildlife and our pets. The idea that Fish and Wildlife's only job is to kill animals and never to help them is outdated and it is time we do some protection of wildlife and pets and landowners and add laws that should have been in place for hundreds of years, commonsense laws that would make sense to any thinking, feeling human being.

Kerry and William Edmunds
Greensboro, Vermont 05827
802-586-7590

Judith Newman

From: Karen Nielsen <knielsenmv@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H 636

Dear Ms. Newman,

Please forward this email to the Natural Resources Committee members. I appreciate your help with this matter.

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets by Fish & Wildlife.

I also ask that the Committee support the ban on coyote killing contests in its current version, with no further amendments.

I feel very strongly about this issue as a biologist with degrees from the University of Vermont and Cambridge University in England. In my mind, trapping should be outlawed completely. It is a thing of the past and involves an unacceptable amount of animal suffering. I can not believe that the legislature supports such an arcane and out of date practice. Louis Porter is also an arcane and out of date Commissioner - he clearly has interests in this subject that are in conflict with the matter at hand. Let's move into the 21st century with regard to how we treat our native wildlife - starting with H.636 is a step in the right direction.

Thank you,

Karen Nielsen

Judith Newman

From: Janice Losgar <jlosgar@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Please forward to Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Dear Ms. Newman:

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when the trap someone's dog or cat and notification to the pet owner

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice Losgar

Judith Newman

From: Abigail Hagler <baudetdepoitou@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Bill H 636

Please forward this message to other Natural Resources Committee members: Please support bill H636.

Thank you.

Judith Newman

From: Brian C Jones <1organicjones@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Wildlife

Jude Newman,

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets by Fish & Wildlife.

I also ask that the Committee support the ban on coyote killing contests in its current version, with no further amendments.

*Brian C Jones
Ludlow, VT*

Judith Newman

From: Ellen Powell <ellenpowell911@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 8:24 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Please forward this email to Committee on Natural Resources members

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets.

I can't believe leg hold traps are still even legal at all. I was signing petitions and writing letters to the VT Legislature 20 years ago. I am disgusted.

Sincerely,

Ellen Powell
S. Burlington VT

Judith Newman

From: Paula Tamburello <musebks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 7:12 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H.636 amendment

Dear Julie, Please forward this email to all the Senate Committee on Natural Resources members:

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in **H.636** that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets.

We live in Washington County, VT

Paula Tamburello & Chris Greene
South Woodbury, VT 05650

Judith Newman

From: Juniper Kozlowski <juniperkozlowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 4:50 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H. 636

I live in West Halifax, Vermont and am writing to request that you please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H. 636 that would require:

- mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a cat or dog
- notification to the trapped pet's owner
- and keeping record of all pets accidentally trapped.

a friend of mine's dog was caught in a leg-hold trap while out walking in the woods in Strafford Vt. this winter. Her dog was in so much pain that she was repeatedly biting her owner as her owner desperately tried to free her poor dog.

The woman barely had cell signal enough to call 911 or they both would have died, by the time rescue arrived she was covered in bites and they were both bleeding profusely.

The amendment's stipulations seem rather reasonable. Please forward this email to the committee members. Trapping is completely inhumane method of taking animals. The animal goes through unimaginable suffering as it waits to die.

The least we can do is attempt to protect humans and pets from also being trapped in these disgusting, archaic, tortuous devices.

thanks.

--

Juniper Kozlowski Fine Art and Photography

www.juniperkozlowski.com

<https://www.facebook.com/JuniperKozlowskiFineArt/?fref=ts>

Judith Newman

From: Christine DeMello <ckdcreative22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: I support H.636 in Orleans County



Jude,

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets.

—
Christine DeMello

Judith Newman

From: Rohit Sharma <roy_sharma@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 3:05 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Amendment to H.636

Dear Jude,

would you please forward my following message to all committee members? Thank you.

Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require:
a. mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap someone's dog or cat;
b. notification to the pet owner and record keeping of trapped pets.

Thank you for your invaluable work.

Sincerely,

Rohit Sharma, Ph.D.
Washington County, VT

Judith Newman

From: Jane Hoffman <jehoffman@earthlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 7:49 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H. 636

Importance: High

TO Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

As a pet owner I am asking you to ensure the adoption of the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets by Fish & Wildlife.

It is outrageous that a small group of people engaging in trapping is allowed to put people's pets to suffer and die in a trap with no notice required. This is not onerous.

I also ask that the Committee support the ban on coyote killing contests in its current version, with no further amendments. These contests are not hunting in the Vermont tradition...they are wanton waste.

Thank you for your attention and action on this very reasonable legislation.

Jane Hoffman
Greensboro, VT

Judith Newman

From: Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser <grbesser@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 6:10 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H. 636

Would you kindly forward the following message to the members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:--

Dear Senator,

When considering wildlife bill H. 636, please include the following amendment, put forth by Protect Our Wildlife, which would help save endangered pets and would ban coyote killing contests:

Require mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets by Fish & Wildlife.
Ban coyote killing contests in the bill's current version, with no further amendments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser
3679 Stagecoach Road
Morrisville, VT 05661
802-888-3967
grbesser@gmail.com

Judith Newman

From: Jeannine Seevers <luvgshepherds@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 3:04 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H.636

Please pass this on to the appropriate office, thank you!

Sincerely,
Jeannine E. Seevers
Grand Isle County

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets.

Judith Newman

From: Bernadette Hood <bernadette.hood@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 12:42 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: reporting and record keeping of trapped dogs or cats

Please forward this email to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources! Committee members:

Please adopt the amendment put forth by Protect Our Wildlife in H.636 that would require: mandatory reporting by trappers to Fish & Wildlife when they trap a dog or cat; notification to the pet owner; and record keeping of trapped pets.

Thank you!

Bernadette Hood
Montpelier, VT
Washington County

--

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace. Jimi Hendrix

Judith Newman

From: larkshield@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 12:35 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H636 with Amendment

Dear Ms. Newman,

Please forward the following message to all of the members on the Senate Committee of Natural Resources.

Dear Committee members,

It is unfortunate that Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter does not support the proposed amendment to bill H.636 that would **require trappers to report when they trap dogs or cats and to notify the animal's owner, regardless of the animal's condition. He also didn't support that Fish & Wildlife maintain records of trapped pets.**

Trapping occurs on public lands, including our state forests where many of us like to recreate with our dogs. Porter's answer to people's dogs getting trapped is to keep your dogs leashed! As most of you know there are times when accidents happen and this should be recorded.

Is it too much to ask Fish & Wildlife to require trappers to report when they trap a dog or cat? I don't think so.

Sincerely,

Lark Shields
Craftsbury, VT

Judith Newman

From: Bobby Sholan <sholanbobby@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6:19 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: H636

Please remove the doe permit and coyote contest parts out of H636.
These parts of the bill will not benefit us sportsman but only limit us and open the door for more legislation.
Thank you
Bob Sholan

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Judith Newman

From: Matt Breton <mattbreton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 5:55 AM
To: John Rodgers; Judith Newman
Subject: H636
Attachments: Matt Breton- H636 Comment.pdf

Good morning gentlemen. Attached are my comments in opposition to H.636, which is slated to come before the committee on Friday April 20th.

Thank you,
Matthew Breton
Charleston, VT

April 19, 2018

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Jude Newman, Committee Assistant
(802) 828-2296
jnewman@leg.state.vt.us

Re: H.636- An act relating to miscellaneous fish and wildlife subjects

Dear Senator Rodgers and Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose H.636.

My opposition to this legislation exists at several levels. While there are aspects of this bill that I support, an omnibus piece of legislation like this leaves me no recourse except to ask you to reject it in its entirety. I believe the topics contained within this bill more rightly fall under the purview of Vermont's Fish and Wildlife Board. In the future I feel that any rules established on these topics should originate with the Board rather than the legislature, which is influenced primarily by politics rather than science.

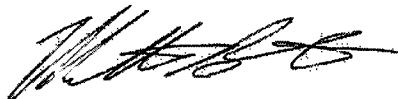
I specifically oppose the change to how antlerless permits are issued. By changing the current law to allow for 'Permission Only' posting to still be eligible for landowner permits, I feel that this will allow for de facto posting to occur and will limit the ability of non-landowners to draw permits as well as decrease hunting access for the general public.

I am also opposed to the specific prohibition of coyote hunting competition. This opposition takes two forms. One is that by targeting coyote contests, the scope of removing competition from the hunting/angling lifestyle is limited. If competition in this realm is bad, shouldn't we consider limiting many different competitive aspects from the hunting/angling way of life, i.e. fishing tournaments and rabbit hunting derbies? Secondly, this bill is management by emotion and special interest rather than science. By supporting it, I feel the door is opened to other unneeded and inappropriate changes in how coyotes are managed. I also think the definition of 'competition' is far too broad and ill-defined and the penalties too severe.

Lastly, I support the changes to trapping that are outlined within the bill because they were crafted in conjunction with the VT Trappers Association and the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife. We do feel that this change would be better managed through the Fish and Wildlife Board.

I urge you to reject H.636 and bring each of these topics up individually in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife board.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Breton
Charleston, VT
802-673-8981

Judith Newman

From: Colleen Schuster <caseyjonesvt1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 8:18 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: bill H.636

Hi,

I am writing to you to request that bill H.636 be amended in the following ways:

1.) Require that a wild animal be actually causing damage to property before a landowner or municipality is allowed to kill the animal. The state of Maine has similar language and if it works for Maine, it can work for Vermont.

2.) Require individuals who kill wildlife for compensation, known as Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCOs), to be trained and licensed and to report the animals they kill each year. At present, NWCO activity is completely unregulated and results in inhumane practices, such as drowning and leaving baby animals orphaned. The lack of regulations also presents both a public safety risk and consumer protection concerns. The state of NH has a NWCO training program that their Fish & Wildlife Department has found to be effective. If it works in NH it can work in Vermont.

Personally I would like to see all trapping banned. It is inhumane, barbaric and unethical and has no place in society today. I appreciate your consideration with regards to these amendments.

Sincerely,

Colleen Schuster
Bristol, Vermont

Judith Newman

From: David Kelley <davidkelley05602@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Re: H. 636

Judith-

This language in the bill is not good--

§ 4254c. NOTICE OF TRAPPING; DOMESTIC PET A person who incidentally traps a domestic pet found to be injured or killed shall notify a fish and wildlife warden if the contact identification for the owner of the domestic pet is readily available.

Frequently pets will be chipped--chips aren't readily identifiable. Bird dogs, rabbit dogs and other hunting dogs in particular are chipped. There is no reason not to require reporting of all domestic and non-target animals that are caught in these traps. First it insures that we have good data on what is happening. Second it insures that a pet that needs veterinary care is more likely to get the care it needs (as opposed to being killed) and most importantly it helps families who are searching for a missing pet have more likelihood of being able to find it. We have a neighbor whose dog was caught in one of these and another friend whose cat was caught--the cat came home after 3 days--dragging the trap. Our own dog is not wearing a collar right now because he has a skin rash around his ears.

It makes no sense not to report trapping non-target animals, unless there is something to hide. If we can go to the trouble to trap animals we should be able to go to the trouble of reporting the animals we didn't intend to trap.

Dave Kelley

...

On Tue, Apr 24, 2018 at 8:32 AM, Judith Newman <JNewman@leg.state.vt.us> wrote:

Hi David, The agenda is packed so at this time the chair recommends that you send me written testimony and I will pass it on the committee members. Jude

From: David Kelley [mailto:davidkelley05602@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 8:55 PM
To: Judith Newman
Subject: Re: H. 636

Thank you--Dave Kelley

On Mon, Apr 23, 2018 at 1:24 PM, Judith Newman <JNewman@leg.state.vt.us> wrote:

I'll check with the chair and get back to you. Jude

From: David Kelley [mailto:davidkelley05602@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 11:28 AM