

From: Vermont Coyotes <vccc.inquiries@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 8:36 AM

Subject: [External] Re: Hounding hurts more than wildlife

Dear Commissioner Porter:

This has little to do with hunting and I'm not sure why you feel the need to try and classify us as antis? This is about using radio collared domestic hounds to run down, maul, and in some cases kill wild animals while the hunters are miles away in their pick ups. The hounds suffer injuries as well. This VT hunter posted this photo of his hound who was injured while hunting raccoons. This is pitting animals against each other for human recreation. This is blood lust and what's equally troubling is that it's not even proper wildlife "management."

If we may be honest, most issues that are brought to your attention are either dismissed or you provide slippery responses that are largely unhelpful.



Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2020, at 8:44 AM, Porter, Louis <Louis.Porter@vermont.gov> wrote:

Jane,

I understand that you and the rest of POW/VCCC oppose coyote hunting and various other types of hunting and trapping and respect your right to that opinion.

The use of shock collars to train dogs, from invisible fences to bark collars, is both a long-standing practice and common not only to hunting and other types of working dogs, but to the training of pet dogs as well.

Thanks,

Louis

From: Vermont Coyote Coalition <yccc.inquiries@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 12:37 PM

Subject: Fwd: Hounding hurts more than wildlife

Dear Commissioner Porter and Honorable Legislators:

I am writing to you today on behalf of our coalition members concerning an incident that happened on January 26th at Dead Creek. I've copied the below social media post from Protect Our Wildlife and I'd like the Commissioner to explain how his Department can support this cruel practice that is not even based in proper wildlife management.

These hounders are terrorizing coyotes in the woods, where we want them and killing coyotes does nothing to reduce coyote populations – your own biologists have gone on record stating that. In addition to the cruelty, people who live in the surrounding area can thank these coyote killers for killing coyotes who were causing no problems for anyone. Now, the remaining pack will disperse and become destabilized, younger pups will start breeding, and without the alphas in charge, may cause problems with humans.

Will any of the legislators on copy here take the initiative, since Vermont Fish & Wildlife will not, and put an end to this abusive practice?

From Protect Our Wildlife:

We were just notified of coyote hounders seen at the eastern side of Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison county who had no control over their hounds.

A hiker came across the hounds who were outfitted with radio collars. One of the hounders tried numerous times to retrieve the hounds by shouting verbal commands and applying low voltage zaps. When one hound wouldn't comply, the hounder must've shocked the dog at a high

voltage until the dog screamed, leapt (“levitated” is the word used) in the air, and bolted.

These hounders don’t just abuse coyotes, their hounds are also often abused.

How much longer will Vermont Fish & Wildlife endorse this legal form of dog fighting?

This attached photo was posted to Facebook by a different #Vermont coyote hounder.

<image001.png>

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Jane Fitzwilliam

VCCC Representative -Southern Vermont