

Charlene Dindo

From: Melissa Jordan <Melissa.Jordan@advocacy.humanesociety.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 8:34 PM
To: Charlene Dindo
Subject: [External] Please protect wildlife from cruel trapping and hounding

[External]

Dear LCAR Committee Members,

As a Vermont resident who cares deeply about animals and our natural ecosystem, I urge you to oppose the proposed regulations from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife board regarding trapping and coyote hounding. Instead, please support existing legislation to end these practices in Vermont.

In early 2022, two bills were introduced in the Vermont legislature to prohibit the use of leghold traps and the hunting of coyotes using packs of radio-collared hounds. But those bills were gutted to instead establish trapping “best management practices” and to create regulations for the hounding of coyotes. Both changes were largely symbolic and would put into place ineffectual guidelines that create an illusion of “humaneness.” Nothing could be further from the truth.

These proposed rules allow for horrifically cruel and indiscriminate trapping and hounding methods to be used, endorse cruel body-crushing traps that risk non-target species and sanction inhumane killing methods. In Vermont, trappers and hounders make up only a small portion of the only 10% of state residents who hold a hunting license. The actions of an extremely small—and shrinking—segment of our state’s population should not jeopardize the safety and well-being of Vermont’s wildlife, companion animals, non-target species and public land users.

Thank you for your consideration.

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