

# H.132

**An act relating to the taking of furbearers**

# H.132 is focused on Coyote Hunting

- All Furbearer populations are VERY healthy
  - Coyote is prevalent and is well established with a growing population
- Co-existence?
  - **We have no choice**: Whether we like it or not, they are here to stay
- Invasive Species? Yes, but...
  - They are now part of the Vermont ecosystem
    - They eat just about anything and everything
    - They can thrive in both rural and urban environments
- We understand Wanton Waste
  - We **DO NOT** suggest extermination (it's likely impossible)
  - We **DO** strongly suggest and support control

# Why try to Control Coyote?

- Coyotes displace bobcat and fox
  - They (mostly) share the same habitat
  - They (mostly) prey on the same food sources
- Want to see more deer, rabbit, nesting birds, squirrel and turkey?
  - These are favorite food sources for Coyote
- Coyote have developed “compensatory reproduction”
  - Their population rises and falls with the availability of food (and population)
  - More Food = More Coyotes; 6-8 pups per year
  - Less Food = Less Coyotes: 1-2 pups per year
- Coyote theoretically will not exceed carrying capacity of the land
  - Problem is: ***WE DO NOT WANT THAT MANY!!!***
    - They will likely survive anything we do – but we cannot do nothing
- Coyote is a disease vector for pets and humans
  - Mange, rabies, canine distemper, worms, ticks and other parasites



# Why try to Control Coyote?

- Let's understand that Coyote is a **Predator**

**Predator:** *An organism that lives by preying on other organisms*

- “Traditional” hunting of coyote is exceedingly hard
  - These animals have an excellent sense of sight, smell and hearing
  - You just don't walk in the woods and see coyote
    - They typically avoid humans
    - You have to consider your position, noise, clothing, upwind or downwind...
  - They are considered among the most challenging animal to hunt
- Baiting Coyote does ***NOT*** insure kills
  - They are generally wily, wary and smart...
  - They also *LEARN*....
- They are incredibly adaptable
  - They are now found in every contiguous US state
  - They are found in both rural and urban settings

## Why try to Control Coyote?

- **10 VSA 4833 Coyote Control Program**

*The Commissioner shall develop a Coyote Control Program for implementation in those areas of the State where he or she has determined that predation by coyotes is posing a threat to domesticated animals, deer and other wildlife. In no event shall the Program use poison.*

- Why was that Statute created 40 years ago?
  - We suggest that at that time, there were more Legislators with a direct understanding of the negative aspects of coyotes.
- What would a Coyote Control Program likely look like?
  - IT WOULD BE BAITING

# Why try to Control Coyote?

- **PUBLIC SAFETY**


- Coyote's attack on toddler caught on camera
- Coyote attacks toddler on Hunting Beach
- Dad saves daughter from coyote attack





# Why try to Control Coyote?

- **PUBLIC SAFETY**



Date	State	Article
2009	Can	<a href="#">What drove coyotes to kill a hiker in a Canadian park?</a>
2017-07-18	VT	<a href="#">Farmers fight coyote problem</a>
2017-08-16	NY	<a href="#">Woman attacked by coyote while walking on upstate NY trail</a>
2017-12-15	IL	<a href="#">Video shows coyote attacking family's dog</a>
2018-12-13	TX	<a href="#">Coyotes killing pets, terrorizing residents</a>
2019-04-03	VT	<a href="#">Salisbury couple attacked by rapid coyote</a>
2019-04-12	VT	<a href="#">Wildlife, Health officials warn against rabies</a>
2019-09-12	VT	<a href="#">Mystery predator kills goats at Rutland County farm</a>
2019-10-15	FL	<a href="#">Coyote caught on home security camera attacking, killing cat</a>

# Why try to Control Coyote?



- **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Date	State	Article
2020-01-09	IL	<a href="#">Experts weigh in on recent coyote attacks...</a>
2020-01-21	NH	<a href="#">NH dad kills coyote with bare hands</a>
2020-02-14	AZ	<a href="#">Coyote Attack in Tucson, AZ</a>
2020-04-01	CA	<a href="#">Coyote attacks 5-year-old girl</a>
2020-00-00	MA	<a href="#">Video capture coyote attacking dog in MA neighborhood</a>
2021-02-05	Man/Can	<a href="#">Coyotes cause big livestock damage</a>
2021-04-29	RI	<a href="#">Scary coyote encounter at park caught on camera in RI</a>
2021-06-20	Cal/Can	<a href="#">3 coyote attacks on people in NW Calgary...</a>
2021-07-24	Tor/Can	<a href="#">Brave Yorkie fights off coyote to save her 10-year-old owner</a>
2021-07-30	Tor/Can	<a href="#">Experts blame humans for recent coyote attacks</a>
2021-07-31	MA	<a href="#">Woman uses stick to fend off coyote chasing her</a>
2021-08-14	MA	<a href="#">Coyote attacked a child in Massachusetts</a>
2021-08-21	BC/Can	<a href="#">Wildlife experts investigate why coyotes have attacked dozens...</a>



# Why try to Control Coyote?



- **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Date	State	Article
2022-04-29	CA	<a href="#">New video shows moment coyote attacks toddler</a>
2022-05-07	TX	<a href="#">3 coyotes killed in Dallas after attack on 2-year-old boy</a>
2022-06-24	VT	<a href="#">VT Woman, dog attacked by coyote during walk</a>
2022-06-25	CA	<a href="#">A coyote attacked a 2-year-old girl in Orange County, CA</a>
2022-09-17	CA	<a href="#">ultramarathoner-attacked-by-coyote...</a>
2022-08-26	MA	<a href="#">Coyotes kill dogs in multiple Massachusetts towns</a>
2022-09-01	MA	<a href="#">Pack of 7 coyotes kill dog, man walking with pets injured in separate attacks</a>
2022-10-03	CT	<a href="#">Two dogs attacked by coyotes in Burlington</a>
2022-10-19	MA	<a href="#">Massachusetts dog walker surrounded by pack of coyotes</a>
2022-11-11	AL	<a href="#">Residents want city of Mobile to remove coyotes</a>
2022-11-25	WV	<a href="#">Coyote attacks reported on Nitro dogs</a>
2022-12-03	GA	<a href="#">Georgia dog kills 8 coyotes to save sheep</a>
2022-12-04	CA	<a href="#">Father springs into action after coyote attacks toddler outside LA home</a>
2022-12-30	CA	<a href="#">Coyote Jumps Fence and Goes Head-To-Head With a Pitbull</a>

# Why try to Control Coyote?



- **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Date	State	Article
2023-01-01	MA	<a href="#">A New England Town Invaded by Coyotes Calls in the Sharpshooters</a>
2023-03-25	AZ	<a href="#">Coyote attack on toddler caught on camera</a>
2023-04-04	AZ	<a href="#">Scottsdale's Most Wanted: Coyote attacks toddlers</a>
2023-05-10	AZ	<a href="#">Recent coyote attacks 24th in Metro Phoenix</a>
2023-07-03	Man Can	<a href="#">2 coyotes attacks on Winnipeg kids...</a>
2023-09-24	OH	<a href="#">Coyote attacks in OH are rare, but recent attack on a 3-year-old...</a>
2023-10-24	MA	<a href="#">Will a coyote attack a human? One in Soughton just did</a>
2023-12-28	MA	<a href="#">Dalmations help fight off pack of coyotes</a>
2024-01-08	Can	<a href="#">coyote-attacks-young-girl-at-a-highway-rest-stop</a>
2024-02-08	RI	<a href="#">hiker-kills-rabid-coyote-with-his-bare-hands-after-attack...</a>
2024-02-14	TX	<a href="#">Witness shares story after seeing coyote attack boy</a>
2024-02-14	RI	<a href="#">Rapid coyote likely attacked 3 Rhode Islanders just a day apart</a>
2024-02-16	TX	<a href="#">Coyote suspected of attacking three children tests negative for rabies</a>
2024-08-27	MA	<a href="#">Coyote believed to have attacked woman in Marblehead</a>
2024-10-08	CA	<a href="#">Coyotes are Killing San Fransico Pets</a>
2024-11-11	MA	<a href="#">Residents urged not to feed coyotes after attack on Dartmouth woman</a>
2024-12-19	CO	<a href="#">CO Officials say coyote that attacked a 4-year-old has been captured</a>
2024-12-19	MA	<a href="#">Woman attacked by coyote in the middle of the day in Weymouth</a>

# Why try to Control Coyote?

- **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Date	State	Article
2025-01-13	MI	<a href="#">Coyote attacks young girl in MI</a>
2025-01-07	CA	<a href="#">Dog taken by coyote while out for a walk</a>
2025-02-14	NY	<a href="#">82-Year Old Survives Coyote Attack</a>

- Check out this Facebook page: [Nahant Coyote Victims](#)
  - These are people ***living in fear of coyotes***
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote\\_attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote_attack)



# Why try to Control Coyote?

- **PUBLIC SAFETY – You Tube Videos – Graphic - Pets**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWXPWL6NfBQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYxjVY3MJs0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2y1WugZ0slo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmhvAg3l2wl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tezJsZrvP3o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK2pEfDvtvQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvqUj8iJAHo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0qpJtMskyA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqmkSaUw4DA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfoE8B5nObo>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Wzld8HyAnS4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFNQUE3Kw64>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rSWLQMK\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rSWLQMK_w)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTgThcUEIII>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ljcLx5AVgTk>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhme\\_PPVerU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhme_PPVerU)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_\\_NM-U8Q4OE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__NM-U8Q4OE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Cm0roqfUc0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1pUz8yJYBk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4wWL1VFBXE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYQNF9Gy7Gc>

# We HAVE to control Coyote

- Farmers
  - Farmers **REQUIRE** effective and direct means of dealing with coyote
    - Calves, chickens, goats, pigs, bee-hives, crops...
  - We need to discourage poison use
- Hazing and Education have a place, but...
  - Hazing requires persistent manpower
    - Haze at 6AM – they'll learn to show up at 5AM
- Hunting has its place – and Baiting **WORKS**
  - Even with baiting – killing coyote is NOT guaranteed

# Certain Species REQUIRE Control

- Wild Hog Infestations
- Rodent infestations
- Insect infestations
- Coyote...?





## Why is H.132 even here?

- This is a Fish & Wildlife / Fish & Wildlife Board issue
  - This bill is “back-dooring” their expertise
  - IF this has been petitioned, and the answer was NO, why are we here?
- F&W Department and F&W Board is who we **TRUST**
  - They have done, and are doing, an exceptional job at wildlife management
  - Virtually all Game Species are Abundant & Flourishing
    - Moose is an exception due to Tick Infestations (with nod to Chair Sheldon)
- This bill is nothing more than a Ban on Coyote Hunting
  - If that is the intent, then let’s have that discussion
  - No perpetual whittling at methods of control based on emotion
- After careful consideration: **NO TO H.132**