

I am urging our Oregon Senators to ban coyote killing contests by supporting HB4075A. This wanton, indiscriminate killing of wildlife is cruel, inhumane, and completely unethical to me as a veterinarian. Please view the photo below of the results of just one of these contests. The majority of the public in Oregon thinks this is an outrageous and disgusting display of slaughter of our wildlife.

My reasons to have you support the ban are:

(1). Oregon's wildlife agency's mission statement declares they manage our wildlife under the public trust doctrine which is to protect our wildlife for the current and future generations to enjoy. An example of our enjoyment is our spending almost an hour photographing a coyote hunting rodents in a large meadow a few miles from our home.

(2). Wildlife biologists' research (i.e. R. Wielgus PhD , J. Laundre PhD , R. Hopkins PhD, W. Rippel PhD , et. al.) have long ago proven that indiscriminate coyote killing actually increases their population by disrupting the pack's social order with more breeding and increased survival of litters, with resulting increases in conflicts with livestock. Therefore, coyote killing contests are counterproductive in these participants' belief that they are "managing" and diminishing populations of coyotes. This is just not happening!

(3) I had practiced veterinary medicine for several decades and now live in a rural area of southern Deschutes Co. Our area is being over -run these last few years by rodents (voles and ground squirrels) and I appreciate seeing coyotes running through our property which will help control these populations. I once was married into a ranching family in Klamath Co. who ran a cow-calf operation. The current family owner of the ranch will NOT kill coyotes because of all the good they do in controlling rodents that damage and destroy his cattle pastures.

(4) Oregon does not want to be known as a state where the photo below is representative of what our state allows! The public, whether rural or urban, does not condone wanton wildlife killing. Let's join other states like N.M., AZ, CA, Massachusetts, and VT which have banned coyote killing contests, and show that we appreciate our wildlife and their benefits.

Sincerely,

Donna Harris D.V.M.

Killed Coyotes at a coyote hunting contest

