

While coyote hunting "contests" may seem odd or cruel to some, they are a necessary part of predation control for Oregon's livestock farmers. Sheep, newborn calves and our wildlife depend on these control efforts. Most coyotes killed outside of contests are just wasted unless the hunter has a furbearers permit. During contests the hides are salvaged so that the animal is not completely lost in vain. I also assists in controlling the population of coyotes in the rural/urban interface where children and pets may be put at risk. Without population control, these predators will be forced to advance into semi-rural and suburban areas to feed themselves causing negative interactions with the human population and their domestic animals. We must remember that as the human population increases, there is more space required for both housing and agriculture to keep everyone healthy and fed. Coyotes are a smart and formidable foe when hunting the, they are even smarter when they are hunting. If we fail to train the next generation of coyote hunters, the damage that they cause to Oregon's ranching interests may be irreparable.