

PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G C O E X I S T E N C E



Talking Points about Wildlife Killing Contests:

- **Killing contests are a bloodsport.** Killing coyotes, foxes, rabbits and racoons for thrills and prizes—with no respect for their intrinsic or ecological value—perpetuates senseless violence and wanton waste.
- **Coyotes—the most common target of killing contests— play an important ecological role in healthy ecosystems.** For example, coyotes reduce rabbit and rodent populations, scavenge animal carcasses and increase biodiversity. These contests disregard ecological health and sound management.
- **There is [no scientific evidence](#) that indiscriminately killing coyotes reduces their populations, protects livestock or increases populations of “game” animals like deer.** Randomly killing coyotes disrupts their pack structure, which can increase their populations and increase conflicts between coyotes, humans, and domestic animals. Preventing conflicts by utilizing humane, non-lethal solutions is more effective.
- **Eight states have prohibited wildlife killing contests and several more are considering bans.** As awareness of these barbaric events spreads, Americans are increasingly demanding an end to this bloodsport.
- **Killing contests damage the reputation of responsible hunters by violating fundamental hunting ethics.** These contests operate entirely unregulated by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and take advantage of the lack of bag limits and regulations for hunting these species. Countless animals are injured or orphaned during killing contests. The events also put non-target species at risk.
- **Banning wildlife killing contests would not impact regular hunting seasons.** Individuals will still be allowed to hunt coyotes, foxes and other wildlife according to state laws. It is not the lawful hunting of wildlife that is at issue here, but rather the competitive killing of wildlife in a game for cash and prizes.
- **New York’s wildlife must be managed in trust for all New Yorkers.** Allowing individuals to wantonly kill wildlife as part of a cruel bloodsport is a grave violation of the state’s obligations to hold wildlife as a public trust for all citizens.