

Antoinette Broadhead
Cumberland Foreside
LD 1293

Thousands of coyotes are slaughtered every year in senseless killing contests, a cruel sport often touted as population control, when in fact these acts of cruelty serve no purpose but to provide entertainment for those involved. It's a well-known fact that coyotes respond to this slaughter by going on breeding binges, so their population rebounds easily.

Additionally, the knock-on effects to the ecosystem from wildlife-killing contests are profound. Coyotes, like other predatory canines like foxes play an integral role in maintaining our natural ecosystems. Coyotes help control the populations of smaller carnivores, like raccoons and skunks, which in turn preserves populations of native birds that would have otherwise been eaten by the smaller carnivores.

Unfortunately, in Maine anti-coyote sentiment runs deep. This, in large part is due to a consistent stream of misinformation, resistance to simple strategies that support rational co-existence with our wildlife and laws that perpetuate the view that other big predators must be viewed with fear and loathing.

We must get past these feelings about apex predators as our ecosystems and environment cannot do without them. If we are to consider ourselves civilized this blood lust must end.

It's time to stop coyote-killing contests. These archaic rituals are grounded in tradition and emotion rather than science. They do nothing to reduce the number of coyotes and causes incredible misery for these animals, which live in highly social, intensely bonded family units.

Please support LD 1293 which would prohibit these cruel and barbaric contests across the entire state.

Sincerely,
Antoinette and Stephen Broadhead
Cumberland