



For Immediate Release

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VERMONTERS OPPOSE THE WASTEFUL KILLING OF WILDLIFE

Stowe, VT - The University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies included the following question in their 2017 [Vermont Poll](#): *"Vermont wildlife policies allow certain species, including coyotes, crows, porcupines, skunks and weasels to be killed without limit even when there is no intent to consume or use the remains. This is called "wanton waste" killing. Should Vermont wildlife policies prohibit the "wanton waste" of wildlife, except when these animals are causing damage to property or agricultural products?"* **The result of the survey indicates that 70.5% of Vermonters who responded, opposed the intentional and wasteful destruction of Vermont's wildlife.**

"Killing wildlife for no reason other than target practice or "fun" is authorized by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board in a blatant disregard for the values that this state was built on," shares Lisa Jablow, POW Board member. Killing wildlife without purpose is referred to as 'wanton waste', since animals are often left to rot where they were killed. Both hunters and non-hunters alike should be able to come together on activities like these and condemn them. Vermont vegan turned hunter, Tovar Cerulli writes, "Across hunting traditions—in everything from traditional prayers to wanton waste laws—we hear the same idea: Life must be respected. Frivolous or wasteful killing is unacceptable." The current policies and regulations of the Fish & Wildlife Board do nothing to discourage wasteful killing of wildlife and actually may encourage it with open hunting seasons on many animals including opossums and coyotes, who both play vital roles in Vermont's ecosystems. "The violence inflicted upon coyotes in Vermont is immoral and disrespectful," states Brenna Galdenzi, POW President & Founder. She adds, "Gruesome photos of dead coyotes captioned with comments like, "kill 'em all" and "only good coyote is a dead coyote" are omnipresent on Facebook."

There is currently a petition in front of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board (sponsored by the Vermont Wildlife Coalition) to end the authorized, but indiscriminate killing of

crows who are shot by the thousands every year in Vermont. Crow season begins when other hunting seasons are closed as a way to provide hunters with shooting opportunities outside of the regular hunting season. Photos of hunters with piles of dead crows are readily shared on social media.

Vermont law requires “The State, through the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, [to] safeguard the fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing animals of the State for the people of the State.” Galdenzi states: “There is a growing contingency of people who want better protections for wildlife, yet feel as though their voices fall on deaf ears.” It remains to be seen whether the Fish & Wildlife Department and Board will embrace an evolved culture that seeks more humane wildlife management with a greater focus on compassionate conservation, and abundant populations of watchable wildlife that all can enjoy.

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