



voicesofwildlifeinnh.org

voicesofwildlifeinnh@gmail.com

Voices of Wildlife in NH (VOW), a registered non-profit 501c4 in NH, works legislatively and educationally for the wild animals of NH.

VOW attends NH Fish and Game (NHFG) meetings and advocates for NHFG rule changes to protect coyotes, beavers, bears, foxes, snowshoe hares, and many more.

Join us by supporting our legislation, attending our meetings, volunteering, contacting lawmakers, writing letters and doing other armchair activism. All help is appreciated. Thanks!

Voices of Wildlife in NH
PO Box 5802
Manchester, NH 03108

Recipient Name
Address
City, ST ZIP Code

Support HB 442

Coyote Pup Protection Legislation

HB 442 will Close Coyote Hunting
During the Months of April 1 -
August 31 when Coyotes are
Raising Their Pups



In January of 2018 the biologists at NH Fish and Game (NHFG) proposed closing the coyote hunting season for pup raising. The NHFG Commission voted against their own experts and kept the season open. HB 442 will close the season as suggested by NHFG biologists.

Did You Know?

Coyotes are hunted year-round, including three months of night hunting, with no kill limits. They are shot, hounded, trapped, and killed over bait. Coyote "killing contests" occur during their mating season and hunters can earn prizes for the largest, smallest or most coyotes killed. No other wild animal in America suffers the kind of deliberate and casual persecution coyotes do.

Year-round Hunting Does Not Reduce the Coyote Population - Only the alpha female breeds which maintains a stable population. If she is killed, other females begin to breed, often producing larger litters. This is 'responsive reproduction'. The more coyotes are hunted, the faster they reproduce. Relentless killing only results in more coyotes, so pack stability, particularly during denning, is crucial in order to stabilize their population. Because of responsive breeding, coyotes have increased their population and expanded their range.

Western coyotes migrated through Canada and mated with the eastern wolf and became the larger eastern coyote, carrying wolf DNA, and filling the space left by the wolf after it was killed off. Eastern coyotes are valued by scientists as a top predator that helps regulate the population of prey animals, culls weak and sick animals, and thus maintains the health of the ecosystem.

Studies - When the NY legislature considered a bill to allow year-round hunting, protests forced the withdrawal of the legislation, pending a study by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The study showed that year-round hunting is not needed, does not reduce the coyote population or predation on livestock, and would not increase deer density. Because of these results the legislation never went forward.

This study, and other studies, can be found on VOW's website.

Why Close the Hunting Season?

Every other hunted animal has the protection of a closed season while raising young. Coyotes deserve the same and that protection during pup raising has added benefits. Coyotes are monogamous and mate for life; both parents care for pups and the pups depend entirely on them for food and care. Without them, pups may starve or be killed by other predators. A coyote that manages to survive without parental guidance on what to hunt and to stay away from humans, may come into conflict with humans.

More Reasons to Close the Season:

Safety - Hikers, dog walkers, wildlife watchers and others deserve time to enjoy the peace of the woods without hunting and safety concerns.

Wanton Waste - Coyotes killed during the warmer months have a thinner coat with no commercial value. Their bodies are often left in the woods to rot. This is what NHFG calls 'wanton waste of a resource' -- discouraged by the Department and generally frowned upon by hunters.