

SECTION: AG SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL

Original Resolution No.: 97-04-05
Revised Resolution No.: 99-09-11
Revised Resolution No.: 04-07-37

VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL

A. Nuisance Skunks

1. The County of Warner No. 5 is not responsible for removal of nuisance skunks within the County unless rabies is suspected.
2. Landowners within the County of Warner No. 5 may borrow traps free of charge once a \$50 deposit has been paid to the County along with a signed and dated skunk trap deposit slip.
3. The deposit will be refunded if the trap is returned in good condition within 30 days.
4. There will be a charge of \$10 per month for any traps kept longer than 30 days.
5. If the trap is not returned within two months, the deposit will be considered payment in full for the purchase of the trap.
6. Anyone may purchase a trap for \$50 before a deposit slip is signed and implemented.

B. Skunk Rabies Vector Control

1. The role of the County of Warner's Agricultural Service Board will be to assist in removal of rabies suspect animals and submission to the ADRI for testing.
2. All human or domestic animal contact cases are to immediately reported to the Federal Veterinary Inspection Directorate in Lethbridge at 382-3120 for further direction.
3. All skunks along the Montana border will be routinely depopulated by Alberta Agriculture staff to prevent the ingress of rabies.
4. The Agricultural Fieldman, at his discretion, may respond to any nuisance skunk complaints within a three mile radius of where the skunk rabies was confirmed within the County of Warner No. 5 in the last five years.

C. Nuisance Racoons

1. Currently racoons are not a named nuisance under the Agricultural Pest Act, but fall under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Act. All landowners within the County of Warner No. 5 suffering racoon damage are to be referred to the nearest Fish and Wildlife District office.
2. The County of Warner No. 5 offers live traps and egg traps for nuisance racoon complaints under the same conditions as nuisance skunk complaints. (see Nuisance Skunks)

D. Fox

1. Currently foxes are not a named nuisance under the Agricultural Pest Act but fall under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Act. All landowners within the County of Warner No. 5 suffering fox damage are to be referred to the nearest Fish and Wildlife District office.

E. Coyote Control

1. The Agricultural Fieldman will coordinate investigations or investigate all complaints.
2. Cyanide guns or other toxicants for coyote control are only to be used by the Agricultural Fieldman or licensed employees.
3. The Agricultural Fieldman will take annual training set up by Alberta Agriculture in the area of Vertebrate Pest Control (Form B).
4. The Provincial Problem Wildlife Specialist will assist in routine predator investigations when the Agricultural Fieldman is unavailable and report all the work carried out to the Agricultural Fieldman.
5. The Agricultural Service Board will follow the guidelines as outlined in the attached Coyote and Predation Management Program, Operations Policy and Procedure as distributed by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and it is attached to this policy as Appendix A.

COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5

Agriculture Service Board

RACCOON/SKUNK TRAP DEPOSIT SLIP

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: _____

\$50.00 RECEIVED: TRAP NO.: _____ CASH _____ CHEQUE _____

TRAP PURCHASED: YES _____ NO _____

Nuisance Skunks

1. The County of Warner No. 5 is not responsible for removal of nuisance skunks or racoons within the County unless rabies is suspected.
2. Landowners within the County of Warner No. 5 may borrow traps free of charge once a \$50 deposit has been paid to the County along with a signed and dated skunk trap deposit slip.
3. The deposit will be refunded if the trap is returned in good condition within 30 days.
4. There will be a charge of \$10 per month for any traps kept longer than 30 days.
5. If the trap is not returned within two months, the deposit will be considered payment in full for the purchase of the trap.
6. Anyone may purchase a trap for \$50 before a deposit slip is signed and implemented.

Signature

County of Warner No. 5
Agriculture Service Board

Date Returned

Deposit Refunded (Borrower's Signature)

Alberta Agriculture , Food and Rural Development

COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Introduction

The purpose of the Coyote Predation Management Program (CPMP) is to provide training, technical assistance and materials to designated municipal Agricultural Service Board staff so they can assist livestock producers in their municipality to manage coyote predation of livestock. Each rural municipality has staff that are trained and equipped to investigate and provide advice and assist with coyote predation complaints.

Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development (AAFRD) provides provincial administration of the CPMP through the Inspection Services Section. Rural municipalities provide local administration and program services through their Agricultural Services Board (ASB).

Today, coyote predation is generally recognized by the livestock industry and the Department as a potential, yet manageable risk to livestock production. Livestock producers should consider this risk and use management methods and procedures aimed at preventing predation.

General Background

Conflict between coyotes and farmers began with the arrival of European settlers and livestock. Despite early attempts to eliminate the coyote, farmers and ranchers learned to co-exist with the coyote.

The coyote is an important and valuable wildlife species and an ally of agriculture, eating harmful rodents, insects and carrion. Unfortunately, the coyote also can cause problems by preying on livestock.

The Department advocates that livestock producers use pro-active measures to prevent and manage coyote predation. Close supervision of stock, proper carrion disposal, predator-proof fences, use of guard animals, scaring devices, shooting and other legal means of removing coyotes are accepted methods which can limit coyote predation. The Department also supports selective removal of problem coyotes when necessary rather than indiscriminate coyote removal.

At the request of AAFRD, the Federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency has approved the use of several predacides in Alberta to control coyotes responsible for livestock predation. These registered poisons may be used where coyote predation has been confirmed by a municipal inspector on :

- > poultry > swine > sheep
- > goats > cattle > farmed elk and deer

These poisons are not authorized to control coyote predation of pets or hobby animals. Predation of pets, hobby animals and unconfined poultry can be corrected with management changes or other methods.

Pest Control Products Act (Canada)

Since 1985, all pesticides used in Canada must be registered by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada. Of the three pesticide registration categories, the "restricted" class is the most scrutinized; requiring close monitoring, supervision and accountability of use. All Department poisons are regulated by the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA) and are registered until the year 2003. The Department poisons must always be used in accordance with the PCP label for each toxicant.

Agricultural Pests Act (Alberta)

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development realizes the need of landholders (farmers and ranchers) to act, where coyotes are the cause of injury or death to their livestock.

The Agricultural Pests Act declares the coyote a "nuisance". This designation allows a landholder to use snares, firearms and registered coyote poisons on his property, where lawful to prevent or terminate coyote predation.

Management of coyote predation on livestock is regulated by the Agricultural Pests Act and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation. The Act allows landholders and others authorized by him, to destroy coyotes on land which the landholder owns or controls. Control options include:

- shooting coyotes
- destroying coyote dens
- use of authorized poisons, under requirements of the Agricultural Pests Act and the Pest Control Products Act

- use of Department-approved neck snares in compliance with the Agricultural Pests Act

AAFRD does not use or supply leg hold traps for coyote predation control. A landholder who wants to trap coyotes or authorize someone else to trap coyotes on his property may inquire at a local Natural Resources Service office for authorization under a Damage Permit or the appropriate fur management license.

AAFRD trains and provides FORM 6 Permits to authorized municipal ASB inspectors. FORM 6 training requires one-on-one predation management instruction and attendance at a predation management course for municipal inspectors. No more than two FORM 6 Permits are to be issued to a municipality.

A municipal inspector who holds a FORM 6 Permit is authorized to use, within his municipal jurisdiction, the coyote control materials specified on the permit. The Form 6 Permit also authorizes the inspector to issue these same materials to a livestock producer within his municipality after the inspector has trained the producer and provided him with a Form 7 Permit.

Municipal inspectors are required to promptly submit completed reports (Form 8) to AAFRD four times a year, summarizing the use of municipal control materials.

Poison Use Policy

The Department is aware of the hazards and controversy associated with using poisons. However, the Department also recognizes the value and effectiveness of poisons to

alleviate coyote predation when other approaches of predation management have failed to prevent or stop livestock losses.

Poisons are viewed by the Department as a specialized tool that should be used selectively in support of other predation management approaches and to temporarily relieve livestock predation while more permanent methods of livestock protection are incorporated. The use of poisons must not be seen as the first and only way to manage coyote predation. The minimum amount of poison necessary to stop livestock predation should be used.

To maintain the availability of poison for livestock predation management, it must be used in a safe, appropriate and controlled manner. Persons using poisons who violate legislation or policy may be prosecuted or be prohibited from using these materials.

Livestock producers who routinely over use poisons will be closely scrutinized. Access to poisons may become restricted where producers do not develop alternative actions to manage coyote predation. Unnecessary and excessive use of poisons will only compromise the good standing of the program and jeopardize the future availability of poisons.

Municipal requirements and requests for coyote control materials and supplies, municipal staff training, and coyote control and management advice will be directed to Bob Acorn at the Edmonton Agriculture Office (780) 427-4567 or John Bourne at the Vermilion Regional Agriculture Office (780)853-8225.

Coyote Control Materials

Only Department-supplied poisons and devices may be used for coyote predation management. These are:

- Compound 1080 tablets (5 mg)
- Compound 1080 collars (600 mg)
- Sodium cyanide capsules (840 mg)
- Fumigant cartridges (240 mg)
- Neck snares

Municipal inspectors must store and transport these materials in a locked, properly labeled box. When not in use, the box must be kept in a locked storage facility.

Livestock producers must not be issued more than:

- 3 M-44 cyanide ejectors,**
- 6 M-44 cyanide cartridges,**
- 9 tablets of compound 1080 or**
- 6 neck snares**

at one time.

A request for repeat issuance of poison must be closely examined by the municipal inspector to ensure continued poison use is justified.

All poisons and devices remain the property of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Complaint Response Procedure

1. All coyote predation complaints will be directed to and handled by the local municipal Agricultural Fieldman or other authorized municipal inspector.
2. Each coyote predation complaint will be investigated by an authorized municipal

inspector to verify coyote predation. This requires a visit to the site, a physical examination of evidence and a discussion with the landholder. Livestock die for various reasons and scavenging by coyotes and other animals can mask or confuse the true cause of death. Only after all physical and circumstantial evidence is considered can the municipal inspector determine if coyote predation occurred and the course of action required.

3. While investigating the complaint, the municipal inspector will note which livestock protection measures are in place to prevent predation such as barrier or electric fencing, carrion disposal, close supervision of stock, guardian animals and shooting, etc. These are crucial to long term, permanent protection of livestock from coyote predation.

The municipal inspectors will identify ways to manage predation and discuss the possible changes with the landholder to help prevent or reduce coyote predation. Recommendations should be based on an overall assessment that best serves the interests of all, including the coyote.

4. The municipal inspector will be forthright in his judgement and discussions with the landholder about what is best for his livestock operation. Poison may be used where livestock predation is confirmed and is part of an overall plan including other strategies of livestock protection.

Coyote control materials are not be used to remove or depopulate coyotes to prevent potential predation. The purpose of poisons and snares is to protect

livestock and poultry from current, confirmed coyote predation.

Using poison without a long term plan for protection will only result in increased reliance and use of poisons without an appreciable reduction in predation losses. Poisons alone are not the answer to coyote control, but are integral to the overall management plan for protection from coyote predation.

Landholders are expected to provide adequate protection for their livestock (see "Codes of Practice" of livestock) and for that reason AAFRD views poison use as a temporary measure; giving the landholder some time to develop more permanent livestock protection measures.

5. Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development staff will only become directly involved where:

(a) **predation control attempts by both the complainant and municipal inspector have not been successful and predation is ongoing,**

(b) **complexities in the case are beyond the skills of either the complainant or municipal inspector, or**

(c) **overlapping authorities or other complications of jurisdiction or legislation complicate or hinder control efforts. In this case, the Head of the Inspection Services Section or his designate will be consulted by the municipality before taking any further action.**

Requests for Department involvement must come directly from an authorized municipal inspector.

6. Where coyote predation has been confirmed and the municipal inspector decides to set poison or authorize and issue poison, all parts of the Pest Control Products Act label for the poison used must be reviewed with the producer. This includes a review of restricted uses, use limitations, precautions, disposal, first aid instructions and toxicological information. The inspector must emphasize to the landholder the potential hazards of the poison to all other animals, including people and pets. Dogs must be tied or confined during poison use. Poison should not be used where a landholder is unwilling to take measures to prevent poisoning of his pets.
7. When issuing poison to a landholder, the municipal inspector will explain proper poison storage and associated poison hazards and ensure the poison is stored under lock and key. The inspector should visually inspect and OK the storage site. Poison will only be issued in a labeled Department supplied safety vial.
8. The municipal inspector will provide the landholder with a copy of the PCP Act label when poison is to be used on the farmer's land. The landholder will be instructed to read all parts of the label carefully, as a follow-up to your review, and to notify other family members in his household of the poison and the associated hazards.
9. The livestock producer is responsible for informing close neighbors when poisons

are used.

10. When Department snares are used, the municipal inspector must provide a neck snare information sheet to the FORM 7 recipient.
11. The municipal inspector will instruct the landholder on the proper and safe method of setting snares and handling poisons, including the preparation, setting and disposal of poisoned baits.

The municipal inspector will initially be involved in setting out poison or snares in the presence of the landholder as part of the Form 7 permit training, so the landholder better understands the setting procedures and requirements. Warning signs must be posted when poison or snares are set.

The Department recommends that livestock producers should be trained to use 1080 tablets in single dose drop baits only. Refer to "Coyote Predation of Livestock" - Agdex 684-19 for more information.

12. The municipal inspector must provide the landholder with a FORM 7 permit before the landholder receives poison for coyote control. The inspector must have a FORM 7 authority from the livestock producer before setting poison on the producers' land. Only the person named on the permit to use poison (FORM 7) shall handle or use the poison provided.

FORM 7 permits are issued for a specific period of time to allow for the effective control of coyote predation to a maximum of thirty (30) days. If

predation persists after this time, a municipal inspector should review the situation and consider other options. This may involve additional efforts by the landholder or municipal inspector, use of alternative poisons and control techniques. (See section 5)

13. The municipal inspector will always provide and instruct the landholder to use the minimum amount of poison to resolve a coyote predation problem. The amount of poison issued to a landholder should relate to the inspector's assessment of how many coyotes are involved. When using 1080 tablets, the inspector will explain to the landholder that one tablet is sufficient to kill one coyote.
14. Unused tablets, cyanide capsules and devices, and snares will be returned to the issuing municipal inspector by the expiry date of the FORM 7 permit. The municipal inspector is to collect information from landholders who were issued poison and report this, as well as poison the inspector used, to the Department on quarterly FORM 8 reports. Incomplete or inaccurate FORM 8 reports will be returned for correction.

JUNE 30, 1999

COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

LANDHOLDER COMPLAINT: RESPONSE PROCEDURE

1. **All complaints of livestock predation by coyotes are to be directed to the local municipal Agricultural Service Board office.** Complaints of predation of livestock by all other wild predators, such as wolves, foxes, bears and cougars, are to be directed to the local office of Alberta Environment, Natural Resources Service. Coyote concerns or problems unrelated to predation of livestock are also to be directed to the Natural Resources Service office. Complaints of livestock predation and other problems by domestic dogs are to be directed to the local RCMP office.

publications AGDEX 684-19 "Coyote Predation of Livestock". AGDEX 684-14 "Methods of Investigating Predation of Livestock" provides information on identifying predation and other causes of livestock death and steps to take in obtaining government assistance. These publications are available at your district Alberta Agriculture office.
2. When predation occurs or is suspected, the landholder should contact the appropriate investigator immediately.
3. The landholder should take prompt action to protect evidence at the site of predation until the investigator arrives, including covering the carcass and kill site with a tarp. The investigator must be able to determine if predation actually occurred, which may not be possible if the carcass is consumed and other predation evidence is destroyed.
4. The landholder should take immediate remedial action to protect his livestock from further predation. Landholders are expected to provide adequate protection for their livestock. (see Livestock "Codes of Practice"- available from the district Alberta Agriculture office) For information on appropriate preventive action, refer to Alberta Agriculture
5. Coyotes can kill healthy, sick and injured livestock, and commonly scavenge dead livestock. Each coyote predation complaint must be investigated by an authorized municipal inspector to determine cause of death and if predation by coyotes has occurred. This involves:
 - a municipal inspector visit to the complaint site
 - an examination by the inspector of carcass remains and death site, livestock injuries and other physical evidence, and
 - on-farm discussions between the inspector and the livestock owner.
6. The course of action recommended or taken by the municipal inspector will be based on his overall assessment. Corrective action may require changes in livestock management, fence improvements and other on-site changes, veterinary care, use of livestock guard animals, etc. as well as shooting, use of poisons and other coyote control methods.

7. When poisons are used, they must fit into a plan that includes a more permanent, long-term farm management strategy of livestock protection from coyotes.

Coyote poisons are not to be used to remove or depopulate coyotes to prevent potential predation. Poison may be used only to protect livestock from current, confirmed coyote predation.

Poisons alone are not the answer to coyote control, but they may serve as part of an overall on-farm plan to protect livestock from coyote predation.

Coyote Problems in Urban Centers

Alberta Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Service is responsible for complaints of sick, injured and aggressive coyotes in non-rural areas of Alberta.

Coyotes can adapt to a wide variety of environments, including the larger urban centers in Alberta. Here they take advantage of pet food, pets, garbage and other human related things. Coyote populations fluctuate from year to year based on various factors, including weather, disease, food sources, etc.

Coyotes are territorial in nature. In years of high coyote numbers, complaints in urban areas tend to increase as more coyotes enter these marginal territorial environments. Removal of coyotes from an area when coyote numbers are high, usually results in other coyotes quickly repopulating the area.

Coyotes breed from about mid-January to mid-March. During this period, they generally become more visible and interact more with domestic dogs.

Mice are a main food source for coyotes. In years when mice populations are low or in winters where crusted snow conditions prohibit access to mice, coyotes must turn to alternative food sources. To prevent problems with coyotes from developing, people should:

- ◆ not set food for coyotes
- ◆ not leave garbage unprotected. Store garbage in a secure container and place out for pickup in the morning
- ◆ not leave pet food, bones or other food items accessible to coyotes and other wild animals
- ◆ use proper composting equipment and procedures to reduce access to materials and reduce odors. Keep the area around composting bins clean. Place a mesh wire fence around the composting area to discourage access by coyotes and other wild animals.
- ◆ keep yard fences and gates in good repair and locked at all times to prevent coyotes from entering yards.
- ◆ keep pets indoors when coyotes are in the area, especially dogs in estrus and during the night.
- ◆ discourage children from approaching coyotes.
- ◆ remove any food source (ie. carrion) found in a urban area that is attracting coyotes or contact the municipal authorities to do so.
- ◆ report any aggressive coyote behavior to pets or people to Natural Resources Service.

ALBERTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION - LOCAL SECRETARIES 1998-1999

Athabasca Local 1010

Calvin Chernish
Box 1552, Athabasca AB T9S 2B3
Tel (780) 675-2783

Buffalo Lake Local 1022

Ed Spruyt
Box 157
Erskine AB T0C 1G0
Tel (403) 742-0404

Bonnyville/Cold Lake Local 1021

Evelyn Bordeleau
4301 - 43 Avenue
Bonnyville AB T9N 1R7
Tel (780) 826-5245

Coleman Local 1030

Lil Hildebrand
Box 921
Coleman AB T0K 0M0
Tel (403) 563-3154

Edson Local 1050

Wilma Behrens
Box 6123
Edson AB T7E 1T6
Tel (780) 723-2209

Eureka River Local 1053

Rachael Lekisch
Box 1600
Fairview AB T0H 1L0
Tel (780) 494-2377

Fort Assiniboine Local 1061

Babe Hudson
Box 35
Blue Ridge AB T0E 0B0
Tel (780) 648-2243

Fort McMurray Local 1063

Rick Tremblay
317 Gregoire Crescent
Fort McMurray AB T9H 2L6
Tel (780) 791-6644

Grande Cache Local 1066

Pat Tilbury
Box 366
Grande Cache AB T0E 0Y0
Tel (780) 827-2569

Greater Edmonton Local 1054

Kathy Hougham
PO Box 325
Tofield AB T0B 4J0
Tel (780) 662-3513

High Level Local 1080

Mitch Brown
Box 3041
High Level AB T0H 1Z0
Tel (780) 927-3824

Hinton Local 1082

Colette Walker
Box 5131
Hinton AB T7V 1X3
Tel (780) 865-2025

Hoadley Local 1081

Brian Gathercole
5011 - 47 Street
DraytonValley AB T7A 1C7
Tel (780) 542-7169

Lac La Biche Local 1120

Madeleine Rizzoli
Box 303
Lac La Biche AB T0A 2C0
Tel (780) 623-4298

Manning Local 1020

Ralph Cowie
Box 507
Manning AB T0H 2M0
Tel (780) 836-3239

Moonshine Local 1140

Kirk Rude
RR 1, Site 2, Box 9
Spirit River AB T0H 3G0
Tel (780) 351-2237

Rocky Mountain House Local 1180

Debbie Schroderus
Box 186
Leslieville AB T0M 1H0
Tel (403) 729-2424

Sundre Local 1193

Brenda Johnston
Box 2, Site 18, RRI
Sundre AB T0M 1X0
Tel (403) 638-2540

Sunset House Local 1192

Dennis Wohlgenuth
RRI, Site 6, Box 2
Crooked Creek AB T0H 0Y0
Tel (780) 957-2096

Wabash River Local 1210

John Linville
10559 - 103 Street
Westlock AB T7P 1K9
Tel (780) 349-4108

Whitecourt Local 1231

Ron Hellekson
RRI
Peers AB T0G 1W0
Tel (780) 693-2262.