

VETO 11

COYOTE TAGGING

VETO 11 – This proviso requires DNR to capture, tag, and release coyotes as an attempt to draw down the population using a lifetime hunting license as incentive for hunters.

Background: www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/coyote/

- Coyotes are not indigenous to South Carolina—they first appeared in our state 30 years ago when hunters illegally imported them here for hound running.
- Since then, coyotes have been a major threat to the White-tailed Deer population, preying heavily on fawns, and also on other small game.
- DNR has never released coyotes in the state for any reason, including for deer management, contrary to popular myth.

Argument to Sustain the Veto:

- This veto should be sustained, because this proviso creates a bounty program for hunting coyotes, and bounty programs are proven not to have a significant impact in reducing predator populations.
- **This proviso would make DNR officers capture and tag coyotes and then release them back into the woods and back into our communities—which is absurd.**
- We all have coyotes in our districts that kill young deer, small game, and even chickens or pets from people's homes, such as dogs and cats.
- Because coyotes have no natural predators in state, we do need to take action to reduce the coyote population in our rural and urban areas—however, a tagging and release program is not the best way to do it.
- **Let's be clear: we already have loose restrictions for hunting coyotes**—it is already legal to hunt coyotes year-round, and there is no hunting license or permit required to shoot coyotes on your own property.
- **If our officers can capture them, then they should just kill them, rather than putting these predators back into our communities where they might kill someone's pet or do harm.**
- This is an irresponsible way of reducing a predator population, and it's also a waste of resources.
- The time and money spent capturing these animals would be better spent exterminating these predators on the spot.
- I ask that you sustain this veto.

What can be done to control coyotes?

Hunting/Shooting	Trapping	Depredation Permits to Shoot at Night
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No closed season on private lands• No hunting license or permit is required to shoot coyotes on your property within 100 yards of your home*• Electronic calls are permitted• Night hunting is permitted with weapon restrictions <p>*Check local laws and firearms ordinances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trapping season is open from December 1 through March 1• Property owners with coyote damage are eligible for a depredation permit from SCDNR• No license or permit is required to trap a coyote within 100 yards of your home. However, trapped coyotes may not be relocated.	SCDNR Law Enforcement may issue a shoot at night permit with less stringent weapons restrictions under certain circumstances, such as damages to personal property. Please contact SCDNR for more information.

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