

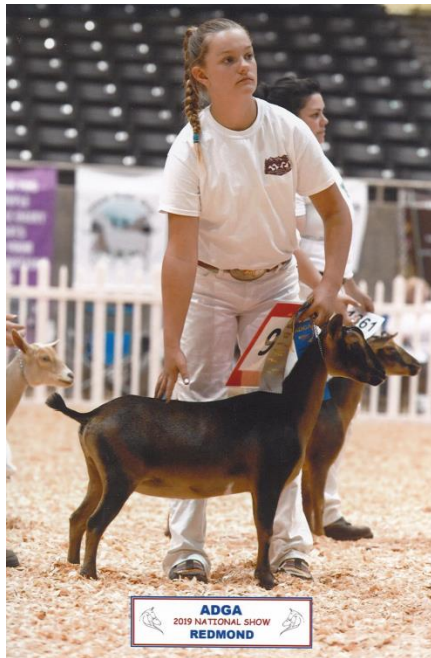
July 14, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Rm. 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Mendocino County's Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program

Dear Supervisors,

I want to introduce you to my daughter Kaylie Foster. She is 13 years old, an active member of the Redwood Valley/Calpella 4-H Club and manages her own herd of 20 goats. Her goats consist of Registered Nigerian Dwarf Goats which are raised for milk and competition and Boer goats which she raises for meat and competition. This last year Kaylie and her best Nigerian goats attended the American Dairy Goat Associations National competition in Redmond, Oregon. It was amazing watching her compete at the National level as a 12 year old and so exciting when her homegrown goat WhiteOak Farms Peppermint received 9th place in the dry yearling category (see photo 1).



(photo 1)



(photo 2)

My daughter has been raising Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats since she was 5 years old and is very passionate about her “babies”. So when her herd was viciously attacked by a mountain lion on November 26th, 2019 it was extremely devastating to her both emotionally and financially.

Our farm is located on Central Avenue in Calpella, CA. It is a one acre parcel with six foot high no-climb fencing surrounding the entire acre. We installed this fence shortly after we moved in to protect her herd from various predators. Unfortunately the Mountain lion decided to climb the fence (see photo 3) in the middle of the night in which it viciously attacked and killed two Boer goats and injured a third (see photos 4, 5, and 6). One of her Boer goats was pregnant and due to deliver in February. Kaylie had hoped to take one of its offspring to the Redwood Empire Fair because it has always been her dream to show and auction a homegrown Boer goat at her local fair. In order for her to replace the lost goats (both adults and kids) she will have to buy four new goats. Financially we estimate this was about a \$4000 loss for Kaylie plus she had to pay a local trapper \$300 to set up a live trap after the depredation permit was acquired from Fish and Wildlife.

Unfortunately the lion was not trapped and now we all live in fear of the lion returning. Many neighbors on Uva Drive and Central Avenue have also reported sightings and attacks by this lion. Our neighbors who own about 500 acres behind us have reported that the lion has killed 12+ deer since August. It does not eat the deer, it just kills them and leaves the carcass like it did with the goats. This makes me believe that this lion is not killing for food or substance but instead it is killing for fun and has become a major public safety issue.

In the meantime we have hung motion lights and a hot wire to the top of our fence but the trapper is doubtful that these measures will be effective. This is why we urge you all to please support the renewal the USDA Wildlife Services Contract!! I do not want my daughter to find her goats dead again nor do I believe that I should have to worry about the safety of my children when they are in the backyard. Please approve and reinstate this vital service for the people of Mendocino County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Foster



(photo 3 lion tracks on the fence)



(photo 4 pregnant doe with drag marks)



(photo 5 second dead boer doe)



(photo 6 injured Boer goat)



(photo 7 setting up the trap)



(photo 8 my husband's hand next to the lion track)