

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors –

In the last decade I have seen a frightening increase in brutality and disregard for animals. It's shocking as I grew up being taught to be kind to all living beings. I was falsely led to believe that Wildlife Services cared about animals and were in place to protect animals from abusive humans. I am deeply disappointed to know that In 2020 alone, California Wildlife Services killed 24,264 wild native animals statewide, including 56 black bears, 39 mountain lions ~ and 3,252 coyotes! Shocking! I once looked up to Wildlife Services. I now see them as cold hearted butchers and an enemy to living beings. What message are we sending out to people when we allow trusted agents to slaughter and abuse the innocent? It is long past time to respect all life and make plans and arrangements to live together peacefully. Animals lives matter, too.

It is my hope that there are compassionate and feeling board members that will protect the innocent and allow other compassionate humans to manage animal care moving forward. I am asking the board to:

1. Terminate Mendocino County's contract with the USDA Wildlife Services and its lethal Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) Program
2. Establish a Non-lethal Wildlife Damage Management (NWDM) Program to be administered locally

If we want to live in a peaceful beautiful kind loving compassion world we must stop allowing the abuse of the innocent.

Thank you for considering the wellbeing of all of life.

Sincerely,
Donna Zoll
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