

Dear Supervisors:

It is very important that the Board of Supervisors revise Mendocino County's wildlife policies to reflect voter preference and recent research. Mendocino is a place of great natural beauty, and our native animals, including predators, deserve to continue to live where they have lived long before man arrived here. I have seen bears, mountain lions, coyotes, foxes...and it is always a breath-taking experience. Going hiking at Spring Ranch and seeing a coyote always adds to the hike. Seeing a mountain lion crossing a road or trail is amazing - they are so beautiful and graceful. I'm so glad that I have a diverse range of animals on my small ranch, including predators, and I will continue to make my property more animal friendly, providing diverse habitat and water sources.

In case you have not seen this list of the harm lethal methods cause, I am including a summary from Project Coyote:

#### THE COST OF LETHAL METHODS

- Reactive — generally used after livestock is killed
- Rarely target offending animal
- Disrupt predator social structures, which can lead to increased conflicts with livestock
- Can lead to an increase in rodent/rabbit populations
- Often inhumane, causing pain and suffering
- Labor intensive — requires ongoing killing as predator populations rebound
- Snare, poisons and body-gripping traps can injure or kill non target animals, including pets and livestock
- Can negatively impact ecosystems

THE VALUE OF NONLETHAL METHODS

- Proactive — prevent losses before they occur
- More humane
- Offer long term cost effectiveness
- Less harmful to ecosystems
- Allow predators to control rodent/rabbit populations
- Depending on types used, can provide long term 24/7 protection
- Often more cost-effective

Please consider these points as you make your decision. Lives depend on it. Mendocino County should be in the forefront of the effort to find ways for wildlife to coexist with people and farm animals.

Sincerely,

Linda Mercurio