

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

I am asking you to oppose renewing the contract with *Wildlife Services*. In my opinion, servicing wildlife would mean assisting animals in avoiding problems with humans. I do not believe that inhumanely trapping, maiming and destroying animals is a service to the animals or to or for me. The stories I have been told about the treatment of wildlife by *Wildlife Services* is barbaric and cruel and may involve the killing of companion dogs as well. This is not "service;" this is destruction, destroying part of our ecosystem. I do not want my taxes to go toward the maiming and killing of wildlife. There are less destructive means to protect property and livestock.

Country living was my dream as a child, and I was lucky to have realized that dream in 1965 when I moved to Laytonville, CA. A large part of my dream and my fascination with rural living is the opportunity to live in concert with wildlife. Some of my favorite stories are about those times when we observed large and small birds, bears, raccoons, coyotes, skunks, the small "skunks", porcupines, mountain lion, snakes, even rattlesnakes; I love telling the story of the last rattler we saw who moved on and didn't come back.

We live on 50 acres, surrounded by pasture and woodlands; nevertheless I have successfully operated a chicken business (80 hens) where my chickens ran free during the day, and lights kept the critters away at night. The only hens I lost were (2) to hawks (during the day) who I determined were worth more than my chickens. We have also had cows the entire 56 years without problems from wildlife. I understand there are other non-lethal means to keep wild animals from disturbing people and domestic animals. That would be real wildlife service. Rural living would not be rural living without the color and joy that animals provide to those of us who have this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you.

Susan Bradley
Laytonville