

Killing coyotes is counterproductive and simply wrong. Having a "contest" to see who can kill the most of any living creature is also wrong -- in fact immoral as I see it. How different is a fence line hung with coyotes carcasses from the indelible pictures taken of human corpses stacked at Dachau? Just thinking about killing contests makes me sick.

I'm not a hunter, but endeavor to understand the mystique of self-sufficiency about putting food on the table. I see no reason to understand or encourage killing simply for killing's sake. There's far too much of that in our society as well. Call an animal a varmint and it's OK to kill it; call a human being a slave or a Jew and it's OK to consider them as lesser beings, to abuse them or sell them or kill them.

My children grew up riding their horses and ponies up the hills behind our ranch, often in the company of one large male coyote who would lope along beside them, about 50' away. On sunny days in winter, we'd see him lying in the sunshine on a downed log up the hill. He didn't bother our kids, our dogs, our livestock. I guarantee that if we had shot him, more coyotes would have taken his place.

Please take the ethical high road. Support SB 723-2.