

Coyote-killing contests show a lack of appreciation, respect and compassion for wildlife. They glorify killing for the sake of killing. Hunters who believe in accepted standards of ethical hunting also oppose coyote-killing contests because they are inconsistent with the ethical hunting principles of respect and appreciation for wildlife. Studies show that the indiscriminate killing of native carnivores such as coyotes will not protect farm animals and other wildlife. It can even lead to an increase in coyote numbers by disrupting stable family packs, causing more reproduction. This not an urban vs. rural issue. This is about the state of Oregon and how Oregonians value and treat the public's wildlife. Conscientious rural residents and ethical hunters agree that coyote-killing contests are cruel and unsporting. Oregon's wildlife belong to all of us, including the majority of Oregonians (90 percent) who do not hunt. Seven other states have already banned wildlife and/or coyote-killing contests: Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Vermont and Washington. These states have recognized that the contests are cruel and unethical and that they serve no useful purpose.

Mahatma Gandhi observed that "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated".