# Bobcat Hunting and Trapping: Bad for Colorado

*By Dr. Christine Capaldo, DVM May 9, 2019*

# Prohibiting bobcat hunting and trapping would benefit Colorado

- Economically
- Ecologically
- Ethically

…it's really a no brainer

# Revenue generated INADEQUATE to regulate the industry

# 2017-2018 season

- 751 hunters/trappers
- **$24,016 generated in license fees and habitat stamps**

# Financial Disaster!

- Wildlife Manager = $84,000
- **Revenue < 1/3rd the salary of ONE wildlife manager**

# Colorado doesn’t make any money from killing bobcats!

- 500 – 700 bobcat hunters and trappers
- > 23,000 bobcats killed since 2002

# Bobcat hunting and trapping is NOT conservation

- CONSERVATION IS SUPPORTING WILDLIFE HABITAT

- CO Taxpayer $ → public lands = CONSERVATION

# Tourists want to see bobcats ALIVE

- **Tourism generates over $1.2 BILLION** in taxes in CO!
- People buying park passes want to see bobcats alive.

# Bobcats are worth more alive than dead

- A bobcat can be viewed numerous times but only killed once.
- Allowing a cruel, outdated ‘tradition’ to continue gives CO a bad reputation.

# Ecological benefits

- Bobcats eat rodents!

- Rodenticide Report: 55% of **non-target animals** had TOXINS IN THEIR LIVER

**Non-target species caught in bobcat traps**

2016 season:

**> 2700** traps set

2017 season:

**> 4000** traps set

Photo: courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

# Hounding with dogs *harms* nontarget wildlife

- **Flushing out** and chronic stress
- **Dog attacks** = injury or death
- Death of bobcat kittens or lynx kittens

**Bobcat kittens orphaned**

- ❖Breed in early winter – April or later
- ❖Kittens born 63 days later
- ❖Extended parental care

- Bobcats will not “overpopulate” or “eat everyone’s pets” if they are not hunted/trapped.
- Bobcats are **not** a threat to humans.

# Self-regulating population

- Science: ↓ **pregnancy rates** when prey sources decline.

- Hunters/trappers preferentially select larger, older bobcats NOT the sick or the weak.

**Bobcats are strangled to death**

- Inflicts prolonged **pain** and **suffering**
- **Amendment 14**

a Bobcat

# Summary:

Bobcat hunting and trapping = bad for Colorado:

- ❖Financially
- ❖Ecologically
- ❖Ethically

# Resources

- Government salary: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado/classspecs?sort=ClassTitle%7CDescending
- Tourism Revenue: https://www.colorado.com/news/colorado-tourism-sets-all-time-records-eighth-consecutive-year
- Yellowstone Study: https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/jhnewsandguide.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/b/8b/b8b99625-159d-57bc-af2e-9c3088cf6d80/5965c7d183321.pdf.pdf
- Rodenticide Study: https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/jvms/advpub/0/advpub_17-0717/_pdf
- Trap information: https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Hunting/SmallGame/Statistics/2016-2017_Furbearer_Report.pdf
- Stress from Dogs: https://bioone.org/journals/natural-areas-journal/volume-28/issue-3/0885-8608(2008)28%5b218%3aTEODOW%5d2.0.CO%3b2/The-Effects-of-Dogs-on-Wildlife-Communities/10.3375/0885-8608(2008)28%5B218:TEODOW%5D2.0.CO;2.short
- https://www.thenatureinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-impact-of-dogs-on-wildlife.pdf
- Livestock Study: https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/Cougar-Livestock-6.Mar_.19-Final.pdf
- Bobcat Reproduction: https://academic.oup.com/jmammal/article-abstract/56/1/177/839015
- Bobcat Fertility and kitten mortality: https://www.jstor.org/stable/3830671?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents