



**Animal Alliance
of Canada**



**Ontario Wildlife
Coalition**

Hunters and trappers conduct illegal coyote killing contests.

Lawyer for animal protection groups says contests violate the Act

January 11, 2011 – For Immediate Release: Two illegal coyote killing contests (see attached poster) have begun in the Ottawa area. This is the second year the contests have been held despite the fact that the hunts violate the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

In confirmation that these hunts are illegal, Ms. Deb Stetson, Director, Wildlife Policy Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources wrote in a May 28, 2010 letter, "...[S]ection 11 of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, states that it is an offence to hunt for gain, or to induce another person to hunt for gain."

Those taking part in the contest are either hunting for gain or inducing others to hunt for gain because the three prizes, including a Mossberg Model 535 shotgun, are being offered as part of the contest.

"The illegal nature of this activity is disturbing," said Barry MacKay, Canadian Representative of Born Free USA and spokesperson for the Ontario Wildlife Coalition. "But even more disturbing is the fact that the MNR allows coyotes to be demonized and destroyed without intervention. If illegal activities won't move the Minister (the Honourable Linda Jeffrey) to action, what will?"

"There is a clear admission on the part of the MNR that these coyote killing contests are illegal. But these illegal acts are simply not important enough for the Minister to take action," said Donna DuBreuil, President of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and a spokesperson for the Ontario Wildlife Coalition. "We brought this issue to the attention of the MNR early last year. We did so again in November 2010. To date we have had no response to our November letter."

"As a result of the Minister's lack of legal action regarding the contest, our lawyer, Peter Copeland of DiLuca Copeland Davies, Barristers, reviewed the legislation," said Liz White, Director of Animal Alliance of Canada and spokesperson for the Ontario Wildlife Coalition. "In his letter (see attached) to the Minister, he wrote that the offering of a prize to encourage a coyote cull is contrary to the prohibitions on bounties and on hunting for the expectation of gain. This letter was sent to the

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Minister on December 16, 2010 with no response to date," White stated.

Two coyote contests have started, Al's Coyote Contest run by Al's Corner Store in West Carleton and the Osgoode Township Fish, Game and Conservation Club's Coyote Contest.

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For further information:

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