



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Honourable Shannon Phillips,
Minister of Environment and Parks
208 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Re: The use of toxins for the control of wolves

Dear Minister Phillips,

via regular mail and e-mail: aep.minister@gov.ab.ca

On behalf of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), I am writing to you to strongly consider a ban on the use of toxic chemical such as strychnine, compound 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) and sodium cyanide for the control of wolves or other nuisance species in the province of Alberta. These compounds are known to lead to variably prolonged inhumane death by their mechanisms of action in the target species, as well as in non-target species that ingest them. Sub-lethal doses may result in permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain, heart, lungs, kidneys, and liver. The accidental lethal poisoning of peoples' pets and livestock, and of children, has been documented with the use of these toxic chemicals.

Wolf control in the province of Alberta is a complex issue. The CVMA recognizes that lethal and non-lethal pest control measures may need to be used against nuisance animals to reduce damage or conflict, promote sustainable agricultural production, control diseases, and/or to ensure the conservation of biodiversity. However, such measures should be humane, scientifically-based, and have minimal environmental and human health impact. The use of the aforementioned chemicals does not meet these parameters. In addition, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Declaration of Principles for Wolf Conservation recognizes that wolf control is sometimes necessary for imbalanced predator-prey ratios adversely affecting prey species, however such reduction measures should be imposed under strict scientific management, and the methods must be selective, specific to the problem, highly discriminatory, and have minimal adverse side effects on the ecosystem.

It is our hope that more humane and suitable forms (including non-lethal forms) of wolf control will be explored. In addition, the CVMA supports the implementation of increased protection against habitat loss and disturbance of prey species such as caribou.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Troye McPherson
CVMA President

SR:TMcP/ds

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