



March 29, 2018

To: The Honorable Ben Cahoon, Mayor of Nags Head
Nags Head Board of Commissioners
Chief Kevin Brinkley, Nags Head Police Department
From: Kent Stein, Senior Cruelty Caseworker, PETA
Re: Coyote-Control Initiative

Via e-mail: allmayorcomm@nagsheadnc.gov; kevin.brinkley@nagsheadnc.gov

Dear Mayor Cahoon, Board Members, and Chief Brinkley,

PETA has received complaints that Nags Head officials reportedly hired a contractor this past winter to trap as many as 17 coyotes who were then killed. Trapping of any kind is extraordinarily stressful for wildlife, and steel-jaw devices (including the rubber-coated variety and snares) are particularly inhumane. Desperate victims often sustain horrific injuries in their frantic attempts to escape, and some have even attempted to chew or twist off their own limbs. Such traps are also notoriously indiscriminate, posing definite risks to companion animals and "nontarget" wildlife, including protected species. And killing or otherwise removing coyotes tears wild families apart, leaving orphaned young to starve. Finally, removing this species will *not* solve perceived issues. As environmental historian Dan Flores explains in a 2016 [National Geographic article](#), "[W]henver their populations are pressured, [coyote] litter sizes go up. The normal size is five to six pups. When their populations are suppressed, their litters get up as high as 12 to 16 pups. You can reduce the numbers of coyotes in a given area by 70 percent but the next summer their population will be back to the original number."

Making areas unappealing through the use of deterrents and by curtailing food sources will encourage coyotes to move on to other locations naturally. Ammonia-soaked rags placed in dens will successfully "evict" coyotes, as they loathe the smell. Area residents should be advised to feed animal companions only indoors and closely supervise them when outside. Trimming vegetation away from buildings, trails, and fence lines will reduce hiding places for coyotes as well as their prey. Sonic deterrents—such as [YardGard](#)—motion-activated sprinklers, flashing lights, and outdoor radios (all available at garden stores) also work effectively to deter coyotes and their prey. The [Bird-X Transonic Mole Chaser](#) will deter burrowing animals, which are a food source for coyotes, and the presence of rodents can be further mitigated by keeping dumpsters locked, trash and compost securely contained, and grass cut shorter. Finally, a wildlife-feeding prohibition should be strictly enforced within town limits.

This integrative approach is the **only effective means of coyote control**, and its nonlethal nature makes it favorable to the public. May we please hear that Nags Head will choose humane measures moving forward? Thank you for your time and consideration.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington, D.C.
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

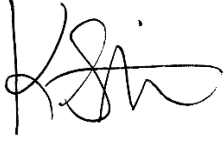
Oakland
554 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
510-763-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Stein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent Stein
Senior Cruelty Caseworker
Cruelty Investigations Department
757-962-8378

The logo for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), consisting of the word 'PETA' in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font.