

What is a Fox Pen?

The appalling practice of wildlife penning begins when coyotes are caught in the steel jaws of a leghold trap and suffer excruciating pain. The traps can tear flesh, cut tendons and ligaments and break bones. A trapped animal often chews or twists the limb caught in the trap in an effort to escape.

The coyotes are removed from the traps and packed into a cage with other injured animals. Coyote trappers ship coyotes all over the state, sometimes up to hundreds of miles, in cramped cages with no access to food or water. Some animals die on the trip. Those that survive are bought by wildlife enclosure owners.

In these enclosures, packs of hunting dogs chase the fenced wildlife for scored trials that sometimes last for days. The dogs terrorize and kill many of the coyotes. Although this practice is both cruel and inhumane, it unfortunately is legal in the state of Florida as well as many other states. There is a very fine line between fox pens and dog fighting.

Who are we?

For over a year our family has had to witness these events firsthand. Originally, there were 30 coyotes present on a 107-acre tract just west of downtown Holt. Personally, we have seen up to 15 coyotes at one time. Hunters were dropping their dogs off at the site, usually unattended, at all hours of the day and night. The dogs continually chased and hunted the coyotes non-stop. On a recent occasion, we watched as a pack of several dogs maim and appear to kill a coyote. To prevent this from occurring not only here but in other backyards, we are fighting to have fox pens prohibited throughout the state. We know this is going to be an uphill battle, but we feel it is worth the fight!

We are petitioning FWC to outright abolish this practice in the state of Florida. We feel it is cruel and inhumane and should not be tolerated and want everyone to know what happens on the other side of the fence!



Fox Pen Facts

- ◆ Six (6) permitted pens in Florida
- ◆ Average rate of pen inspection is once every 3.9 years
- ◆ Shady Oaks pen has a rate of inspection of once every 9.4 years
- ◆ Permits typically renewed via fax with no inspection conducted
- ◆ Only three (3) pens provided quarterly reports
- ◆ Sandsifters pen reported ten (10) coyotes were killed during a single, weekend trial
- ◆ Sandsifters pen had escape areas blocked by concrete, but no action was taken by FWC
- ◆ Byant Fox pen had a bear inside the pen
- ◆ Non-permitted pens, such as Holt Fox Pen, continue to advertise events
- ◆ No follow-up provided for multiple 30-day notices / warnings given to fox pens
- ◆ Coyotes and Foxes can carry Alveolar Echinococcosis, a tapeworm that is fatal to humans



FL Wildlife & Conservation Com

FWC Commissioners
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Commissioners@MyFWC.com

Nick Wiley
Executive Director
850-487-3796
ExecutiveDirector@MyFWC.com

Okaloosa Co. Commissioners

Wayne Harris
wharris@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Bill Roberts
broberts@co.okaloosa.fl.us

James Campbell
jcampbell@co.okaloosa.fl.us

John Jannazo
jjannazo@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Don Amunds
damunds@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Santa Rosa Co. Commissioners

Phone for ALL: 850-983-1877

W.D. "Don" Salter
comm-Salter@santarosa.fl.gov

Gordon Goodin
comm-goodin@santarosa.fl.gov

Jim Williamson
comm-williamson@santarosa.fl.gov

Robert A. "Bob" Cole
comm-cole@santarosa.fl.gov

Lane Lynchard
comm-lynchard@santarosa.fl.gov

State Representatives

Senator Don Gaetz
gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov
(850) 487-5009

Senator Durell Peaden, Jr.
peaden.durell.web@flsenate.gov
(850) 487-5000

Representative Ray Sansom
ray.sansom@myfloridahouse.gov
(850) 833-9328

Representative Greg Evers
greg.evers@myfloridahouse.gov
(850) 833-9328

Go to TrainingNotTorture.org and join the Cause!