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The Probe, Issue 191 - August 1998

The Probe NADCA
ISSUE 191
AUGUST 1998

You Can't Win if You Don't Play

Diane deLorimier, NADCA Regional Director, Western Region (Region 1), Sutton Ag Enterprises, Salinas, California

I was just looking at the membership breakdown of NADCA and other organizations dedicated to wildlife damage management. Despite the great surge in growth of the private NWCO trade in the past ten years, nearly half the members are government or university related. Another big chunk is made up of active, interested retirees from these fields.

These members are an invaluable asset to the industry and this organization. They are the past and present leaders in nuisance wildlife management in the realms of research, product development, public education, and field experience. The private sector has yet to make this industry their own (although that seems to be in the cards). We should not find it disheartening that NADCA is not yet their own.

Although a shift in NADCA membership ratios has occurred, it does not nearly reflect the recent privatization of this industry. We must ask ourselves who we serve, how we serve, and if we serve this broadening spectrum. Anyone involved in nuisance wildlife control is also called to make the organization evolve in ways that reflect and serve it.

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Perhaps this struggling growth industry just cannot support such an association without a payoff for doing so. Perhaps our shortfall is as simple as getting the word out. Or perhaps some bait is in order.

My business now belongs to several trade organizations. There are varying reasons for these memberships. In our struggling days, there were only two valid justifications to join: the potential to **increase sales** or **learn our trade**. If we weren't going to see a return for having joined, we just couldn't afford the dues.

When the start-up loans were paid off, dues payments could be justified as **support of an industry** in which we had a stake... more contribution than membership. Although we could finally afford the membership, we were busy growing a business and still lacked the time to take an active role.

In this phase of the company's evolution, there was also value in membership if it **carried clout** on your business card or letterhead. Being part of a valid, reputable organization imparts confidence among customers and camaraderie among business colleagues. Your name on a membership roster carries the potential for sales referrals. Access to that roster can open doors to new suppliers and valuable expertise. Expansion and networking begin, and by now you are ready to handle them.

Although we left the seed business 15 years ago, we maintain active memberships in two seed associations. This is a way to keep in touch with old **friends** and stay abreast of an industry in which we grew up and will continue to follow. While this may be sentimental, it is no less valid. And on occasion we are able to offer some hard-won wisdom or historical trade trivia.

Speaking strictly from this private enterprise frame of reference, companies are compelled by the **usefulness** of an association. By necessity, we are also driven by the evolutionary stage of our *particular* business. No organization can be all things to all people. Likewise, it will not be THE SAME THING to all people. Trade associations strive to reflect the industry they represent and to make membership useful to all of their members, in all of their stages.

These are very exciting times in nuisance wildlife control to those who recognize the frontier we're on. They can also be frustrating times to those with expectations of a developed, mature industry. In the case of NADCA, its members may make themselves more useful to the trade *and* the association by acknowledging its infancy.

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You Can't Win If You Don't Play

Animal damage control has been practiced for centuries, and in the nearly twenty years since NADCA's inception, the many professions involved have developed this field as we know it today. But there is no denying we are on the brink of some serious changes. It occurs to me that NADCA may be a PERFECT reflection of the trade it represents—changing, growing, pliable, and with limitless potential.

So the entrepreneur asks himself, can NADCA membership generate sales for my business? Can I learn my trade for having joined? Can the industry benefit from my membership? Is NADCA a useful networking vehicle? The answer to all these questions is ABSOLUTELY.

So the entrepreneur asks himself, can NADCA membership generate sales for my business? Can I learn my trade for having joined? Can the industry benefit from my membership? Is NADCA a useful networking vehicle? The answer to all these questions is ABSOLUTELY. The organization's most unique asset, though, is the opportunity for its members to mold the future of an emerging vocation—a true rarity in 1998, and a fulfilling challenge for those who take the bait. In California, our lottery motto reminds us "*you can't win if you don't play.*"

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Your contributions of articles to *The Probe* are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submitting materials is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of NADCA.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22-26, 1998: 5th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Buffalo, New York. Include a 1/2-day symposium "Public Health and Safety, and Wildlife in Conflict?" (11 papers); a full-day symposium "Managing Abundant White-tailed Deer Populations in the Eastern U.S." (21 papers); a full-day workshop "The Status and Future of Wildlife Fertility Control" (19 presentations, $55 fee); and a session "Wildlife Damage and Policy" (6 papers). Pre-registration deadline Aug. 24 ($190 members, $250 non-members; afterwards $235 and $295). For information, see the Society's web page at <http://www.wildlife.org> or phone (301) 897-9770.

Oct. 5-9, 1998: International Conference on Rodent Biology and Management, Bejing, China. Organized by Instit. of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science, and CSIRO Div'n. of Wildlife and Ecology, Australia. For additional information and mailings, contact: Zhibin Zhang, Secretary General, Int'l. Conference, 19 Zhongguancun Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, P.R. China, or e-mail: <zhangzb@panda.ioz.ac.cn.>

December 6 - 9, 1998: 60th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. Conference theme: "Reflections on a Century of Accomplishments." For further information, contact Dave Risley at (614) 265-6331, or see web site: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/wildlife/workshops/midwest>

January 31 - February 3, 1999: Fifth Annual Wildlife Control Technology (WCT) Instructional Seminar, Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, NV. For further information, contact Lisa at (815) 286-3039.

Wildlife Disease Publication Available

The 2nd Edition of the *Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases in the Southeastern United States* is now available for purchase. Containing substantial revision from the 1st Edition, the publication contains 11 chapters. Three new sections have been added to cover common disease problems of nongame birds, disease issues related to captive Cervidae (deer), and diseases that have human health implications. The new edition has approximately 125 additional pages of text and 29 new figures, mostly color photographs. In its 4-3/4" x 7" format, the publication is printed on high-quality water-resistant paper and includes a vinyl cover. Orders can be placed by mail or telephone and can be paid by check, purchase order, money order, or credit card. Single copies cost $20 (plus $4 domestic shipping and handling for 1 or 2 copies). Phone (800) 228-4689, or write AAVIM, 220 Smithonia Road, Winterville, GA 30683-9527.

Canadians Test Bone Oil as Coyote Repellent

Veterinarian John Martin, whose responsibility with the Ontario, Canada Ministry of Agriculture includes coyote predation control, came across the mention of a product called "fox oil" in the British Veterinary Record. Turns out this substance has been used in Wales for many years to keep animals out of horticultural crops. And in the mid-1990s, British dairy farmers got clearance to use it to expel badgers, an otherwise protected species in that country, but which put their dairy cows at risk of contracting tuberculosis.

Martin found that the product is bone oil, and is produced by distilling animal bones that have been turned into charcoal at 700 to 1,000 degrees Centigrade, a process that takes about 8 hours. The product goes by the trade name Renardine, and is produced by Roebuck-Eyot Ltd., a sugar maker that requires animal charcoal as a key part in the refining process. A similar product, called "Magic Circle," was developed by State College Laboratories of Pennsylvania in the 1950s. It was registered as a deer repellent in the U.S. into the late 1970s.

According to Martin, in initial field tests in Ontario over the past couple years, it's proven quite repulsive to coyotes. Dab this foul-smelling stuff on every fencepost around a pasture— or around the pasture perimeter— and coyotes largely refuse to cross the invisible barrier for a week or two, he reports. How bad does it smell? "If you've seen bad lamb chops left on the barbecue for five hours, multiplied by 100, then you know what it smells like," says Martin.

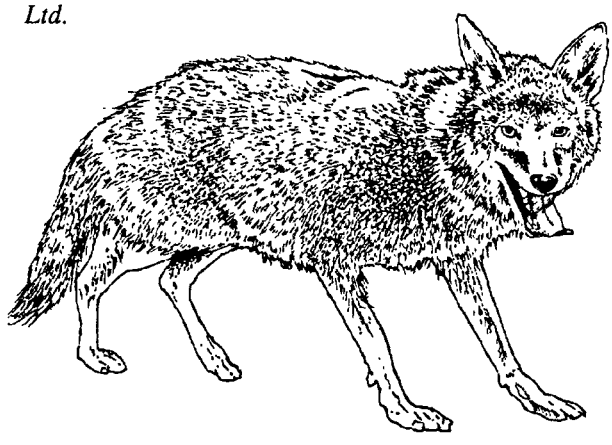
Application methods vary according to the circumstance. Martin has stomped around pastures with a backpack sprayer, spritzing the vile concoction onto fenceposts. He's also made the rounds with a pail, dabbing Renardine onto wooden posts with a stick. In winter, when Canadian sheep often are confined to barnyards, he's filled soda pop cans with the oil, inserted a wick, and attached the cans to fenceposts. The latter method seems to last for 3 or 4 weeks until the material is evaporated off the wick. Martin speculates that coyotes "sit and look at it, and then try to find a way around it." He suspects that the odor of bone oil causes pain in the olfactory nerves of canines.

The Ontario agricultural ministry currently compensates ranchers for $500,000 to $750,000 worth of losses to Eastern coyotes annually. Martin thinks there's a good possibility that the repellent might even prove useful for large livestock operations, where it may be possible to paint the repellent onto sheep's wool. However, he doesn't see it as a panacea—ranchers will still have to shoot a few "rogue" coyotes that will continue to attack sheep despite use of any repellent.

Renardine is not yet federally registered in Canada, but Martin has hopes that clearance to import it from Britain will come next year.

Other researchers remain skeptical that bone oil or any other repellent will successfully keep coyotes away from sheep or other domestic prey. Extensive testing of various candidate coyote repellents conducted in the U.S. during the 1970s by USDA scientists and several universities ultimately proved fruitless. Even the most noxious of chemicals—including those that had potentially detrimental effects on nursing lambs and ewes—failed to deter coyote predation on sheep for more than a few days or weeks. While some researchers who have reviewed Martin's preliminary data find it less than convincing, time will tell whether Renardine is a valuable additional to the list of nonlethal coyote control tools... or another version of "snake oil."

—excerpted from an article by Agricultural Publishing Co. Ltd.



ADC in the News

Trap Injury Study Begins

A multi-state project to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping has begun under the auspices of the Fur Resources Committee of the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. The objective of the 3-year study is to identify the combination of practices that are most effective and practical in preventing or reducing technical, economic, and social problems associated with trapping. BMPs are guidelines based on sound scientific information, and which can be applied in field management situations. In recent years, they have been used with great success in water quality and forest management activities. One component of the study, looking at trap-related trauma, involves the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and the University of Wyoming. Carcasses of animals caught in various types of traps will be submitted to pathologists, who will evaluate evidence of trap-related injury. Earlier studies in which SCWDS personnel cooperated resulted in valuable information applicable to trap technology. This information is now being used by wildlife managers to modify traps and trapping technologies, in an ongoing effort to address animal welfare concerns.

Video Review: by Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Correspondent

"Intermediate Coyote Trapping" by Tom Beaudette of High Country Control. 1998. 1-1/2 hours. VHS. $38.00

You may recall my review of Mr. Beaudette's earlier video entitled "Basic Coyote Control" (Issue #172, December 1996). While the first video discussed calling and basic trapping techniques that novices could apply, this video takes the viewer to the next level. In short, "Intermediate Coyote Trapping" was made for wildlife damage professionals.

Although this tape doesn't teach about calling, I remain impressed with the introduction which shows Mr. Beaudette taking out a coyote at possibly two hundred yards. The introduction was well done with upbeat music underscoring the fast-moving coverage of various coyotes and bobcats in footholds. I would like to warn any animal activists in advance that they should be careful in how they view the tape. Viewing the tape may be detrimental to their naïve views on footholds. The trapped coyotes and bobcats are simply too relaxed and appear in excellent condition.

In his unassuming way, Mr. Beaudette tells the viewer up front that this video is not about how to make a thousand different flat sets. He provides no-nonsense information on capturing depredating coyotes. Later in the video, the viewer learns some strategies in trapping coyotes for fur.

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The first segment begins with how to capture coyotes that have killed livestock. Mr. Beaudette stands by a killed calf and provides a brief description of the lay of the land and where one should set traps. As in real estate, location is the key to successful coyote trapping. Mr. Beaudette repeatedly underscores the importance of finding coyote trails and setting traps there. One term I found strange, but appropriate, was his use of "narrow-up." This is a place where coyotes' movements are concentrated due to changes in terrain. Out in the east, we call those locations "passes" or "crossovers." No matter what you call them, you want steel laid at those sites.

During this segment, Mr. Beaudette discusses bait and lure selection and remakes. I was a little concerned with his picking up cow pies etc. without gloves. I am not sure I would want to recommend other trappers follow Mr. Beaudette's example here. Trappers of all types do need to be concerned about zoonotic diseases.

"Basic Snaring" is the title of the second video segment. Mr. Beaudette is to be commended for his mentioning additional books on snaring. I also appreciated his desire to cite the person who taught this or that technique. Too often trappers and academics give instruction without giving due credit to where they learned that technique. The snaring instruction covers the essentials, hence basic snaring. However, the information should provide the viewer with enough teaching to catch some coyotes.

The third segment covers strategies for "Coyote Damage Control On Large Ranches." Here Mr. Beaudette emphasizes getting to know the lay of the land. He contends again that successful control requires you to know where the coyotes are moving. He advised finding a hill from which the view the area; however, I would think that a topographical map would also be advisable (even though I don't recall him recommending it). He gives the viewer five principles in trapping large ranches:

1. *Be patient.*
2. *Use good lure.*
3. *Never get careless.*
4. *Be proficient and knowledgeable about your target, and*
5. *Put in hard work and lots of it.*

The video ends with tips on "Coyote Fur Trapping." The viewer is advised to look for other animals to trap to help pay the bills unless you are trapping in an area that has 6 or more coyotes per square mile. Information on bobcat trapping is also provided.

Overall, I enjoyed the video. The pictures were generally clear and recognizable. The audio was also understandable, despite some difficulties in maintaining consistent volume levels. I want to commend Mr. Beaudette for his frankness. He mentioned how it took three weeks to catch a coyote in a particular set. It is nice to remind people that coyote trapping, like all trapping, is hard and often time-consuming work. I believe the little tips and specialized sets that Mr. Beaudette describes will be very useful to the western coyote trapper.

...it does what it promises to do—bring western coyote controllers to the next level in their profession.

Biologists may want to view the video for the information on foothold choice and the realities of the Colorado trapping laws. Mr. Beaudette seems to reject the notion that the kit fox is a truly endangered animal. He shows tape of a set that a kit fox has ruined by stealing the bait. In no way should the viewer ex-

Continued in col. 1, page 5

Arson Damages USDA Olympia Facilities

Arson fires heavily damaged two USDA facilities in Olympia, Washington, serving the National Wildlife Research Center's field station and the Wildlife Services operational program on the morning of Sunday, June 21. The fires were reported at 2:43 a.m. at a Washington Dept. of Nat. Resources/NWRC facility near Littlerock, and at 4:28 a.m. at the USDA-WS State office about 4 miles west of Olympia and a mile west of The Evergreen State College, according to the Thurston County sheriff's office.

Both fires were set outside the buildings, according to sheriff's Sgt. Alvin Griffin."It definitely was arson ...some kind of incendiary device,'' he said. Fire District 9 Chief Tedd Hendershot said plastic buckets filled with a flammable substance were used at both fires. Investigators were looking at the possibility that animal rights or other protest groups were involved. No animals were inside the buildings and no one was injured. According to Griffin, there had been a protest about six months earlier at the Wildlife Services office, which includes office space and warehouse areas totalling about 2,500 square feet. The WS office is the administrative location for operational programs in Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam.

Arson experts from the Washington State Patrol and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were investigating. James L. Provencher, an ATF agent in Seattle, said "It was absolutely intentionally set by arson. We are trying to learn everything we can that would give us an indication of motive, and we will follow the leads wherever they take us. There will be a very in-depth investigation."

Initial estimates were that the fires affected $1.5 million worth of research and caused some $400,000 in structural damage to the two facilities. In early July, USDA officials reported that much research data had been recovered, and that the impact to research in progress or recently completed at the facility was not as great as first feared. The Olympia field station has for many years been actively involved in finding solutions to wildlife damage problems involving forest resources. Scientists stationed at Olympia include Drs. Dale Nolte and Kimberly Kessler of NWRC, along with a number of technicians.

Shortly after the arson incident, the North American Animal Liberation Front (ALF) praised the fires as the brave and "completely nonviolent'' action of animal lovers who want to halt the use of animals in experiments. Katie Fedor, a spokeswoman for ALF in Minneapolis, stopped short of saying the group is responsible but said the fires were "very, very similar'' to previous attacks that members or friends of the group have staged. She said she is "98 percent" sure the fires had been set by members of her group. Fedor said the group works underground and that its press office deliberately is not informed about the specifics of activists' civil disobedience. She noted, "I have absolutely no personal knowledge of the individuals who carried out this courageous act. I had no contact with them. But the similarities are very exact. It was a professional act with a maximum amount of damage done in a small amount of time and done without injury to animals or humans." Such acts are "absolutely necessary," Fedor claimed."Civil disobedience, holding signs, doing protests isn't working fast enough for these animals."

FBI spokesman Ray Lauer said the fires destroyed government property and could lead to charges of domestic terrorism if they were politically motivated.

— excerpted from Associated Press and other sources

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Video Review

pect a tirade against the Colorado Department of Wildlife. Mr. Beaudette keeps his comments brief and blunt, like all true professionals.

Finally, his tips on bait use should be invaluable to the viewer. I give the video an ADC grade of "B+". In short, it does what it promises to do—bring western coyote controllers to the next level in their profession. A couple of things I would have liked to have seen are:

1. *information on pricing, and on estimating coyote populations;*
2. *techniques on identifying coyote-killed calves versus dog-killed calves, and*
3. *evaluating misfires and general troubleshooting.*

Perhaps I expect too much. But perhaps my comments will encourage Mr. Beaudette to make an advanced coyote control video. I am sure that the coyotes hope he won't.

You can obtain a postpaid copy by sending $38 payable to "High Country Control," P.O. Box 11453, Pueblo, CO 81001. The phone number is (719) 543-1629, and a web page can be found at: <http://www.supermall.com/highcountry.htm>

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The Editor thanks the following contributors to this issue: Diane deLorimier, Guy Connolly, Robert H. Schmidt, and Stephen Vantassel. Send your contributions to **The PROBE**, *4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.*

ADC in the News

Important Ruling in Alaska Wolf/ Snare Dispute

If an Alaska court decision stands, the state will continue to manage wolf populations with snares. But more importantly, wildlife management by popular opinion will be a thing of the past.

The Fourth District Superior Court in Fairbanks Alaska recently declared unconstitutional the proposed ballot measure to outlaw the use of snares to trap wolves and prohibited the State of Alaska from placing this initiative on the November, 1998 ballot.

"We are thrilled that the court ruled in favor of sportsmen and threw this off the ballot," said Wildlife Legislative Fund of America General Counsel Tom Sherman. "What's more, if precedent holds, Alaska will not be a state where the initiative process or ballot box management will be used to manage wildlife."

The key issue concerning the current wolf/snare dispute involved the violation of the public trust doctrine regarding the management of the state's fish and wildlife resources. According to Alaska's public trust doctrine, the state's fish and wildlife are considered assets of the people and are held by the state as trustees for the benefit of the people of Alaska. Laws on how wildlife is managed directly affect the distribution of wildlife resources. To dictate to the legislature what method or tool it should use to manage wildlife would be inappropriate and unconstitutional.

These restrictions would also encroach upon the legislature's exclusive right to professionally manage wildlife resources. They would compromise the legislature's ability to fulfill its trust obligation to preserve Alaska's fish and wildlife for the common use of all Alaskans.

The State of Alaska filed an appeal on May 27, 1998 to the Alaska Supreme Court, according to the Alaska Attorney General's Office. A decision has been requested by August 25, 1998.

*— excerpted from the **WLFA Update**, June 1998*

Utah Man Charged for Poisoning Gulls

Utah resident David Fowler of Taylor was arraigned in early June on a misdemeanor count of "wanton destruction of wildlife." The charge resulted from his poisoning 25 California gulls by feeding them toxic french fries at a Burger Barn restaurant on April 15. Fowler allegedly told wildlife officers he fed the poisoned fries to gulls because he felt the birds were a nuisance. California gulls are protected as the state bird in Utah, and also receive protection under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty. A news article in the Salt Lake Tribune did not specify the toxicant that Mr. Fowler used on the french fries. The largest breeding population of California gulls in the continental U.S. is found on the Great Salt Lake. Noted Utah DWR spokesman Jake Faibisch, "They come inland and forage all day, and they're very gregarious and move around a lot." Faibisch concluded, "The message is this: if gulls are a nuisance to you—to send them away, eliminate what attracts them: open dumpsters, grease thrown out by restaurants, and trash at picnic and camp grounds."

— excerpted from an Associated Press story

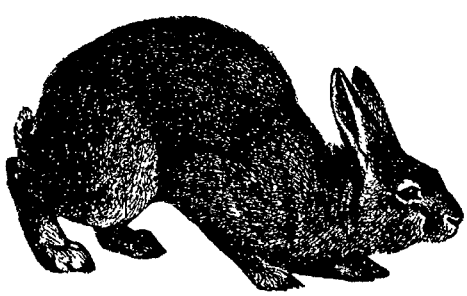
Girls Scouts Licensed to Kill Geese

A growing Canada goose population prompted Girl Scout officials to secure a permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to kill some geese at Camp Woodhaven, N.Y. in order to reduce their numbers. The camp has become home to up to 70 geese in the past few years, according to Esther Swanker, president of the Mohawk Pathways Girl Scout Council. "It looks very bad for the Girl Scouts to be killing animals," she noted. "This will disturb a lot of people."

*— excerpted from an Associated Press story, **The Denver Post***

Texas ADC Program Changes Name

Responding to the federal ADC program's name change to "Wildlife Services," the Texas Animal Damage Control Service has changed its name to "Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service." In Texas, the program continues to be a cooperative arrangement under the auspices of the Texas A&M University System. The new name was selected in recognition of the reduced used of "animal damage control" among wildlife professionals. Further, the new name, hopefully, is sufficiently distinct to be easily distinguished from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, and from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



Cottontails Damage Landscaping

A Texas Wildlife Damage Management specialist recently assisted officials at the State Corrections Facility in Dalhart with a cottontail rabbit problem. The rabbits had destroyed an estimated $2,000 worth of landscape plants at the facility. With the use of three cage traps, Facility personnel removed more than 30 rabbits in a months's time, solving the problem.

*—from **The Trapline**, newsletter of the Texas WDM Program*

Continued from page 6, col. 2

ADC in the News

Beaver Removal Solves Golf Course Damage

A golf course and country club near Roaring Springs, TX had developed a serious beaver problem. Not only had the rodents cut down or damaged several valuable landscape trees, but the golf course had recently spent more than $1,200 dredging waterways on the course that had been damaged by the beavers' activities. Texas WDM personnel, using conibear traps, removed a total of 13 beavers from the property—11 in the first three days of trapping—in order to reduce the damage. Country club managers reportedly were extremely pleased with the results.

*—from **The Trapline**, newsletter of the Texas WDM Program*

Coyotes Cause Airport Hazard

Laredo, TX International Airport officials requested assistance from the Texas WDM program after the pilot of a private jet aborted a landing when he observed a coyote chasing a jackrabbit on the runway. Aircraft-wildlife collisions on airport runways represent serious safety hazards to pilots and passengers, and can cause serious damage to aircraft landing gear. WDM personnel set 24 snares on the north boundary of the airport, where airport officials reported seeing the most coyote activity. An inspection of the snares, only 2 hours after the specialist had set them, revealed 2 captured coyotes. While work continues, a total of 8 coyotes and 2 feral dogs have been removed from airport property. Airport officials were pleased that the safety hazard had been substantially reduced.

*—from **The Trapline**, newsletter of the Texas WDM Program*

Beaver Removal Necessary to Control Damage

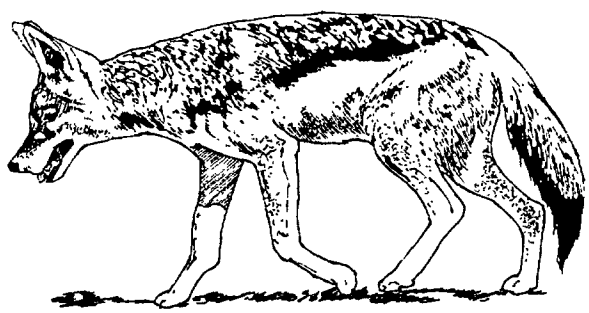
An accelerated beaver control program was initiated by Texas WDM personnel in Upshur County, TX at the request of county officials. The Upshur County Commissioners Court had reported that beavers were responsible for $200,000 in damages to county facilities and roads, while private property owners tallied an additional $283,150 in beaver damage to dikes, impoundments, trees, and pasture flooding. During the two-week project, 50 properties were investigated, on which control was subsequently conducted on 30.

Conibear traps and spotlight/shooting were employed to remove 202 beavers. A number of Texas WDM specialists were involved in control activities, scheduling, and public relations efforts associated with the project.

*—from **The Trapline**, newsletter of the Texas WDM Program*

Coyotes Spook Sheep, Cause Truck Accident

In Solano County, California, a USDA-WS specialist was asked by a sheep producer to help identify what was killing his livestock. The producer explained that at 2:30 am, something had pushed 100 head of ewes and a guard donkey through a fence onto state Highway 12. On the highway, a small pickup truck collided with the livestock, and in turn was rear-ended by an 18-wheeler. The resulting accident caused extensive damage to both vehicles and killed several more sheep. In all, 21 ewes, 20 lambs, and the guard donkey were killed, representing total dollar loss of $4,800. No estimate of damage to the vehicles was available. The WS specialist determined that coyotes were responsible for spooking the sheep through the fence, and control equipment was placed to remove the offending predators.



Rabies Aerial Baiting Program Concludes

The 1998 Oral Rabies Vaccination Program in Texas concluded after a 35-day operational effort, during which 2.6 million doses of oral vaccine were distributed by aircraft over 40,832 square miles in south and central Texas. The program was accomplished with the assistance personnel from the Texas Department of Health's Zoonosis Division. Begun in 1995, the baiting program is designed to stop the spread of canine rabies northward from Mexico and the south Texas counties where the disease has become established. Investigations in association with the 1998 bait application are focusing on 1) the effectiveness of the Raboral V-RG oral vaccine at 70 doses per square mile, 2) a palatability study using an attractant incorporated into baits, 3) a baitless study using a vaccine delivery system that does not require the standard fishmeal bait, and 4) an increased flightline distance and reduced baiting density utilized on two divisions of the King Ranch.

*—from **The Trapline**, newsletter of the Texas WDM Program*

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The Probe