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Dusting Off the CLOD

*Are Berentsen, Research Associate, Utah State University,
Jack H. Berryman Institute*

Livestock depredation by coyotes (*Canis latrans*) is a major problem nationwide, and conflicts associated with urban coyotes are on the rise. Unfortunately, so is the level of restriction on tools associated with predator management. However, a bait delivery device developed over 20 years ago is getting new attention.

The Coyote Lure Operative Device (CLOD) is a bait delivery system for coyotes. It was developed by Marsh et al. (1982) at the University of California, Davis. The current model of the CLOD consists of a 30 ml plastic vial (unit

Successful use of the device relies on the theory that once coyotes chew into CLODs and taste the sweet contents they will be more likely to visit the device again.

head), with a rigid nylon core and a disc to catch spilled material. The unit head attaches to a steel anchor stake in the ground using a nylon wing nut. The CLOD unit head contains a powdered sugar and corn syrup mixture as well as an active ingredient to be delivered. An attractant designed to elicit a biting response is applied to the outside of the unit head. Successful use of the device relies on the theory that once coyotes chew into CLODs and taste the sweet contents they will be more likely to visit the device again. In effect, using CLODs with the corn syrup/powdered sugar mixture acts as a pre baiting method before the desired active ingredient is added.

Early research by Ebbert (1988) showed that free ranging coyotes will activate CLODs and that activation rates were comparable to that of sodium cyanide ejectors (M-44s). Studies with captive coyotes suggest that individual coyotes will activate CLODs repeatedly when offered over 4 consecutive days

(Berentsen 2004). However, when mated pairs encounter the device, there appears to be a bias in activation toward males (Berentsen 2004).

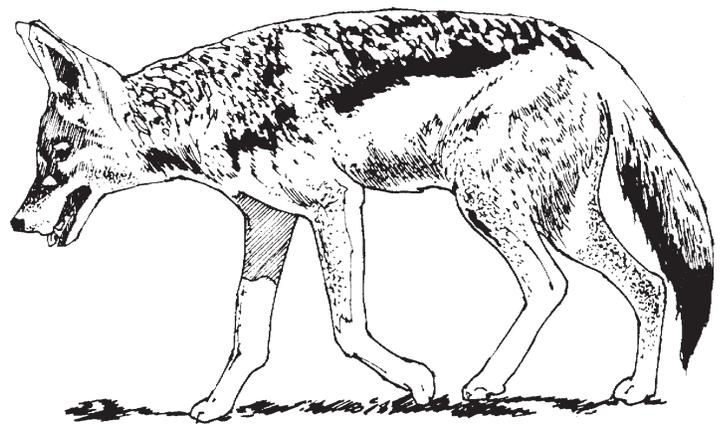
Field evaluations are being conducted at sites in Utah and California to determine whether free ranging coyotes will activate CLODs repeatedly. DNA analysis is being used to ascertain whether the same animal is responsible. In addition, funding has been approved for a more intensive evaluation to determine which attractants may be appropriate for year-round use of the CLOD. Lastly, remote cameras will help evaluate what other species may be investigating CLODs.

While there are currently no compounds registered for use in the CLOD, the potential exists for delivery of a variety of substances including pharmaceuticals, physiological markers, and preadicides (Fagre and Ebbert 1987). With increased restrictions being placed on the tools available for predator management, new techniques need to be developed or older ideas need to be dusted off and revisited.

References

Berentsen, A. R. 2004. *Behavioral responses of coyotes to the Coyote Lure Operative Device*. Thesis. Utah State University, Logan, UT, USA.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9-11, 2005 - Professional meeting of the Southwest Section of TWS, Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX. Additional information at: <http://www.swtws.org>

September 25-29, 2005 - The Wildlife Society's 12th Annual Conference, Madison, WI. Information at: WWW.wildlife.org.

August 18-25, 2005- National Trappers Association, National Convention, Elkhart County Fairgrounds, Goshen, IN. See <http://www.nationaltrappers.com/>

October 2-7, 2005 -- 4th International Congress of Vector Ecology, John Ascuaga's Nuggett Hotel/Casino, Reno, NV. Includes 13 separate, topical symposia plus multiple poster sessions. For additional information see <http://www.sove.org> To be put on the mailing list for further Congress information, contact Jared Denver <jd Denver@northwestmosquitovector.org>

October 27-29, 2005 - Human Dimensions of Natural Resources in the Western United States, Prospector Square Conference Center, Park City, UT. For information contact michael.butkus@usu.edu

December 11-14, 2005 - 66th Annual Mid-West Fish and Wildlife Conference, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI. Visit the conference website under "What you need to know" at <http://www.midwestfishandwildlife.com>

The 9th Annual National Wild Turkey Symposium will be held in conjunction with this event.

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Your contributions 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.

A Last Resort for Bear and Lion Problems

By Dexter K. Oliver, Duncan, Arizona

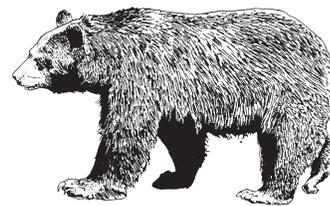
In the Southwest, and elsewhere that black bears and mountain lions exist, it is quite common to hear complaints about them adversely affecting human endeavors. They both can acquire an expensive taste for the flesh of domestic livestock, and bears can destroy the potential proceeds from orchards and commercial beehives.

Relief from this depends upon which state, and even in which county these activities take place. Because both animals are listed as big game, state wildlife agencies have jurisdiction over them although personnel from those

...state wildlife agencies are reluctant to give up any control in what they consider their sacred turf. They declare their personnel to be the "experts" and insist that either wildlife or people would be hurt or mistreated if private parties were allowed to deal with certain animals.

organizations don't routinely handle nuisance calls about them unless public campgrounds are threatened. If a county has enough money gathered by livestock associations they may warrant a resident trapper/hunter from the Federal Wildlife Services. These folks usually rely upon foothold traps or snares, or well-trained packs of hounds to solve the problem. If a landowner has enough savvy and experience he or she can get a depredation permit and take matters into their own hands. But a lot of people don't have these options.

Private paladins within the Nuisance Wildlife Control arena seem, at first glance, to be shunted aside from offering their services with these animals. There is no real reason for this, if they have enough experience dealing with one or both of the species. But state wildlife agencies are reluctant to give up any control in what they consider their sacred turf. They declare their



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Book Review

By Stephen Vantassel, Project Coordinator, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln

"*Innovative Skunk Control*" by Rob Erickson (DeKalb, Ill: R.J.E. Publications, 2005.) paperback pp. 1-79. \$15.95

For many years, Rob Erickson has been a leader in helping NWCO's broaden their wildlife control techniques. So it should come as little surprise that his latest book, *Innovative Skunk Control*, continues that proud tradition.

As the title suggests, Erickson doesn't cover every aspect or technique of the skunk control business. He assumes that his readers are well aware of the basic principles of skunk handling. So he doesn't bore them with information that they have received elsewhere. Erickson just wants to tell his readers about some methods he refined for handling skunks. In short, reading *Innovative Skunk Control* is how NWCO's around the country can get specialized skunk training from an industry leader without having to take time off for on-site training.

Writing in a no-nonsense style, Erickson opens with some basic skunk biology that NWCO's need to know to resolve skunk problems. You won't find any dry life-history information here, just the facts relevant for nuisance work. Chapters 2-3 cover skunk problems typical for residential areas. Erickson describes control techniques using the William's gravity door cage trap (a favorite cage trap of his) and touches on the use of footholds, snaring and gas cartridges. NWCO's would do well in following the simplicity of his equipment choices and avoid adopting newer models too quickly. Erickson's equipment list has been refined by years of field experience. If wildlife laws in your state model those in Illinois, one would be well advised to consider mirroring his equipment choices.

To my mind, the most valuable portion of the book is found in the second half. It is well known that Rob Erickson has been a leading proponent of using an over-the-counter product, sold under the brand name 'Nity-Nite', for euthanizing skunks. He has perfected the technique and even developed a specialized injection tool to administer the fluid that reduces the chances of breaking needles. I think wildlife regu-

lators should look into this technique and consider legalizing it in their respective states. With the number of skunk rabies cases on the rise and the public's concern about odor-free removal, Erickson's injection method provides a responsible and effective way for NWCO's to satisfy a variety of interest groups. It is time for regulators to be pro-active and at least give this technique a fair hearing.

In my opinion, Erickson's description of how to control skunk and raccoon damage at golf courses is the most valuable portion of the book. With the explosion of golf courses around the country, NWCO's should read this book just to see how they might be able to service this lucrative market. I won't describe his techniques except to say that not every safari takes place in Africa.

I have two criticisms of the book. First, I would have liked to have seen more cautions included with the recommendation of gas cartridges for skunks. The photo was unfortunate because the label, as pictured, doesn't list skunk as a target species from that angle. Erickson should have noted that users may need to have a pesticide applicator's permit to use gas cartridges in their state.

Additionally, warnings concerning the cartridge's risk to non-targets should have been mentioned. I also think Erickson was ill advised to state that the

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Bear & Lion Problems—Last Resort

personnel to be the “experts” and insist that either wildlife or people would be hurt or mistreated if private parties were allowed to deal with certain animals. Having worked for a number of federal, state, and private wildlife organizations I’ll state unequivocally that there are no experts, just some folks with more experience than others dealing with certain wildlife species. And there are certainly as many, or more, well-qualified individuals in the private sector as in government bureaucracies involved with wildlife. Since relocation of black bears and mountain lions isn’t an issue (it rarely works due to lack of suitable habitat and competition with resident animals), immobilizing drugs and any risky methods of administering them are moot.

Until the current rules and regulations are changed (and all government agencies seem to be slowly moving toward “outsourcing”, with private entities doing the actual field work), NWCOs are basically blocked out of this niche in the animal control area; but not completely.

Predator calling for either depredating lions or bears, on both private and public lands, is still an option to offer to a client. It might be seen as a last resort to resolve a situation, because the timing may have to be just right. However, if a landowner can’t handle the problem, no Wildlife Services personnel are available, and the problem has moved beyond the tolerable stage, it should be considered.

No inexperienced people should attempt such work. There is some validity to Game & Fish Departments stating that hazards are involved here. Nobody wants to wound an animal, to see it run off, never to be found. And certainly no one wants either a bear or lion to get hold of them. It would ruin your day. But it can be done.

The NWCO needs to have a current state hunting license and a big game permit for either or both species. Check and re-check state regulations and seasons. Plan your hunt accordingly. Mountain lions in some states may be hunted year around; bears have more restricted seasons. Hopefully the timing will coincide with calls about problem animals. Find out where the quarry has been most active and concentrate calling there.

Predator calls may be cassette tapes, electronic simulations, open/closed reed mouth-blown calls, or one’s own vocal

The editor of *THE PROBE* thanks contributors to this issue: Are Berentsen, Mike Dwyer, Dexter K. Oliver, and Stephen Vantassel

cords. This is a matter of experience and going with what has worked in the past. I prefer the wider range of sounds available with open reed mouth-blown calls, but usually stick to generic fawn or calf elk bleats when calling bears and lions. Camouflage clothing does help, especially for the hands and face that tend to shine in sunlight. Bears use their sensitive noses to locate danger so keeping the wind in your face and using masking scents, such as skunk essence, is important.

Unlike calling for coyotes or foxes that may respond within minutes, lions and bears often take a long time to come to a call. Stay on a stand for at least an hour for either of them. They may have wandered farther away than anticipated or just be wary when coming in. On the other hand, they may charge in with no concern for stealth or caution, so always be prepared. And, as Robert Ruark once wrote: “Use enough gun.”

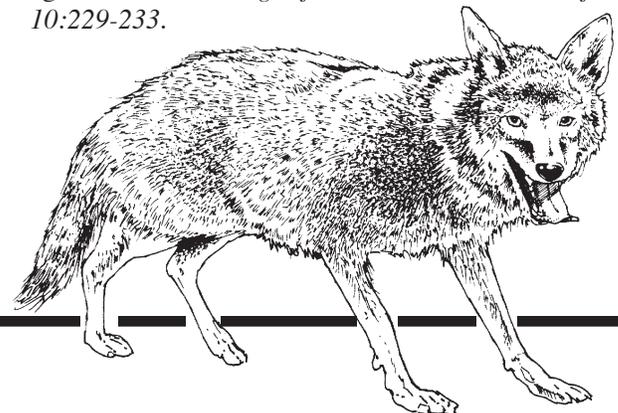
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Dusting Off the CLOD

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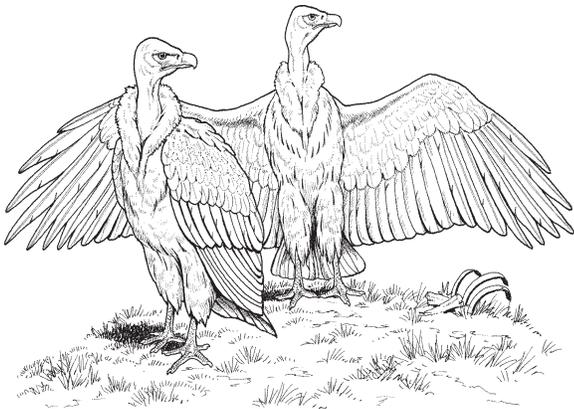
Wildlife Damage in the News

BEIJING - China imported a U.S.-made scream machine to scare away the birds at Beijing airport -- except they didn't recognize the noises and refused to budge.

The bird-dispersing equipment had recorded the screams of American birds or the sounds of the birds' natural enemies, the Beijing Evening News said. "Local birds did not understand the foreign language," the newspaper said. So Chinese experts "translated" the U.S. bird noises into those of their Chinese counterparts.

"The workers have already recorded six or seven bird screams which are common in Beijing," it said, adding that the new scare tactics were undergoing tests.

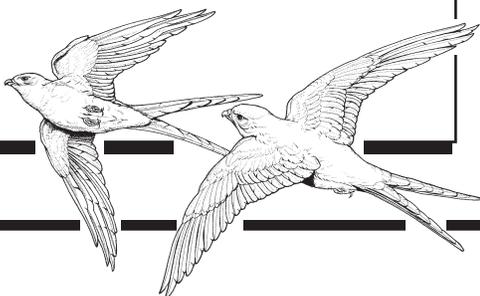
Source - *WDAMAGE* post from Mike Dwyer



Wildlife Damage in the News

Send your articles, news stories, book reviews, seminar reports, horror stories, new techniques, new products, and anything else related to wildlife damage management to the editor at: PO Box 163, Arivaca, AZ, 85601 or e-mail them to:

sullivan@ag.arizona.edu



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Book Review

gas kills the animals "painlessly" (p.19). Second, I wish Erickson had written a longer book. I suspect that there are many more informational gems that he could share about the ins and outs of controlling skunks. But I guess we will all have to wait until his next book.

Innovative Skunk Control is a fast read. NWCO's should be able to finish it in about an hour. It is filled with good quality black and white photos. If you want to learn how to use lethal injection and control skunks (and raccoons) on golf courses, this is the book for you.

You can order the book from the publisher. Send check or money orders for \$19.80 (15.95 + 3.85 shipping-continental U.S.) to On Target A.D.C., P.O. Box 480, Cortland, IL 60112. Visa and Mastercard orders can be phoned in to 815-286-3073. You can also learn more about Wildlife Control Technology by visiting their website <http://www.wctech.com> by e-mail wctech@ix.netcom.com.

Readers should be aware of my longstanding relationship with Rob Erickson. I am a frequent contributor to his magazine, "Wildlife Control Technology" and was the assistant editor for two years. I also consider myself his friend.

