

Coyote Trap Check Proposal Summary

In the December Wildlife Board meeting, the Division was directed to take a proposal from the central RAC through the public process. The proposal is *“To change the trap check rule from 48 hours to 7 days for coyotes”*

The Division is not supporting this proposal for the following reasons:

1. Coyotes are not protected wildlife meaning that the Division and Wildlife Board do not have the authority to make regulations specific to coyotes.
2. Therefore, any changes to the trap check rule would apply to all species that may be caught in a coyote set such as bobcat and kit fox.

WHY?

Traps are not species specific, in other words it is impossible to set a trap that is guaranteed to only catch a coyote. Traps that are intended for coyotes sometimes trap protected wildlife species and are therefore subject to the trap check regulations.

3. There are 4 main reasons why the Division opposes changes to the current trap checking regulations:
 - a. The Division considers the possibility of leaving an animal in trap alive for 7 days unethical
 - b. A 7 day trap check will result in protected wildlife being wasted.
 - c. A 7 day trap check could remove the ability of trappers to release non-target species unharmed
 - d. A 7 day trap check could result in increased take of bobcats and kit fox (a state sensitive species), gray fox and others.

Recent Changes to Accommodate Trappers include:

1. Trap check period was changed to 96 hours for lethal sets
2. A person can check another person's traps “buddy trapping”

The Division supports efforts to increase funding for targeted removal of coyotes by Wildlife Services and increased sportsmen participation through hunting.