



Dear Friend of Cats Aren't Trophies,

Our ballot measure stops trophy hunting of mountain lions and bobcats and establishes front-end protections for endangered Canada lynxes. But from day one, some predator hunters and trappers have been protesting our characterization of them as “trophy hunters.”

Whether one likes it or not, hunting for sport and food among sustainably managed game species is an American tradition and will stay one.

Hunting for bragging rights by targeting the largest, most important breeders is a completely different proposition, much less acceptable to the public, including many ethical, fair-chase hunters.

Trophy hunting is even less acceptable when targeted species are predators which, unlike traditional game species, do not and cannot compensate for mortality with fecundity.

Trophy hunters are trying to wipe away 100 years of writing, picture-taking, and awards competitions that highlight their pursuit. There is an entire culture of trophy hunting as a subset of hunting activities.

And let's be clear: Lion hunting is trophy hunting in its purest form.

The opposition wants to hide the truth from you, and for good reason, because they fear that if the public understands their true intentions, they'll lose the statewide vote in November.

And believe me, they've already got enough to hide:

- The use of packs of dogs with GPS collars to run down, attack, and corner cats so hunters can shoot the terrified animals from close range.
- The mass orphaning of lion and bobcat kittens, left to die after their mothers are shot or, in the case of bobcats, bludgeoned or strangled after being terrorized for days in allegedly “humane” live traps.
- State data shows that 47% of mountain lions killed last season were female.
- Bobcats are dying mainly for the fur trade. Most of the hides are sent to China for elites to adorn themselves.

For all these forms of cruelty and selfishness, sunlight is the best disinfectant.

SUBHEAD: Trophy Hunters Coined the Term ‘Trophy Hunting’

I want to remind you of the words of the trophy hunters.

The term “trophy hunting” goes back more than a century, used by groups like Boone & Crockett Club and the Safari Club International that continue to list mountain lion [trophy entries](#) (192 for Colorado) with score charts that determine “trophies.”

The term “trophy” is commonly used by outfitters who [charge wealthy lion hunters](#) \$8,000 or more to kill a lion in our state for its head and hide. I just saw a posting online by a lion trophy hunter strapping a dead lion to a horse, with the caption “[tying on the trophy](#).”

Even the [World Atlas](#) says, “In North America, trophy hunting focuses on the mountain lion, called the puma, panther or cougar.”

These cats are the poster animal for trophy hunting!

“According to the hunters, the trophy refers to the part of the animal such as the head, skin ... as proof of their hunting victories Trophy hunting may take various forms including ranch hunting, African trophy hunting, and [North American trophy hunting](#) ... ”

SUBHEAD: ‘Trophy Lion Hunting’ Saturates Media, Hunting Jargon

Hunting magazines that talk about mountain lion hunting use the term “trophy hunting” as the primary reason it:

“But the cat isn’t only a trophy” —[Free Range American](#)

Mountain lion trophy hunters across social media and in outfitter testimonials routinely explain their main goal is primarily about getting a trophy lion:

“This was defiantly (sic) an experience of a lifetime ... getting me a trophy Tom.” [Canyon Rim Outfitters](#)

Literature about guided hunts says that the cost of a hunt depends on “*the outfitter’s reputation for [producing quality trophies](#).*”

Notice that most mountain lion trophy hunting guides offer a [guaranteed kill](#) of a mountain lion in Colorado, with a 100% success rate for a large trophy. The accepted definition of trophy hunting is hunting of animals for pleasure with the hallmark being killing the largest individuals of the species.

SUBHEAD: Even CPW Calls the Dead Lion ‘Your Trophy’

Even Colorado Parks and Wildlife uses the term in tandem with lion recreational killing. A video the agency made shows [how to preserve the skin or hide](#), for the taxidermist, for a mountain lion,

or as the commentator says, an African leopard. In minute 7:17, he calls it “your trophy.” So you see, you can have a rule to cut up a lion, and feed it to your dogs, but it is still “your trophy.”

Subhead: More Lame Excuses to Kill a Lion

Nobody shoots a lion to eat it. Ethical, fair-chase hunters always eat what they kill. Predator hunters don't. Colorado requires cougars to “be properly prepared for human consumption.” That reg is pure PR, unenforceable and generally ignored. On online forums, cougar hunters have posted: “I feed them to my hounds” and “Who would eat cougar?”

More broadly, Americans don't eat cats and dogs. In fact, we have a national law that bans the selling of dog or cat meat for consumption.

That's the American value system. It's different in China, but in the United States, the prohibition is quite clear and our legal standards make it plain.

Who eats a bobcat? We know they are killed for the trophy and the fur, and when they aren't in a political campaign, the trappers and trophy hunters brag about the size of their trophies.

The same is true for lions.

We need to counter the blather and the nonsense of the small but loud trophy-hunting crowd. And there are just over 90 days until the election.

Will you join us to get out the truth? We need your help to get this measure approved by the voters. There won't be any other opportunity in the coming generation. This is our one shot.

Please donate to the campaign. When you do, the next time you head out on the nature trail, you will feel pride that you did something to halt naked cruelty to animals in Colorado.

As we turn to the decisive and final stage of the campaign, we ask you to invest with your labor and your financial support.

We have this as our only, once-in-a-generation opportunity to stop massive cruelty to wild cats of Colorado by passing THIS statewide ballot initiative.

Will you donate today to help our organization fight for bobcats, mountain lions and other animals?

*For the cats,
Samantha Miller
Cats Aren't Trophies, Campaign Manager*