



Dear {{FirstName or "Friend of Cats Aren't Trophies"}},

There are times when it's hard to believe that we even had to conduct a ballot measure to stop the trophy hunting and commercial trapping of Colorado's native cats.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission or the Legislature should have handled it.

But they haven't. And that's the reason we formed Cats Aren't Trophies (CATs) and then worked with hundreds of Colorado citizens to collect 188,000 signatures of voters in the state.

Any day now, we should learn from Colorado officials if we've officially qualified for the ballot.

But let me tell you that we are not waiting for that nod. We have just 110 days or so to the election. We have 4.5 million Colorado voters to educate on the issue. We need to get busy today.

I feel such urgency because it's plainly wrong to allow cruel killing of mountain lions and bobcats for their heads and their beautiful coats. Those are the unsporting, inhumane, unnecessary practices this measure aims to stop. It does not stop the regrettable taking of any "problem animal" for human safety or protecting livestock or pets.

Let's face it: Cats are inedible, and recreational hunting of native cats occurs just for trophies and fur pelts. Trophy hunters and fur trappers of mountain lions and bobcats target unoffending animals and do nothing to protect human safety, livestock, or pets.

What makes it worse is that wealthy trophy hunters hire commercial guides with packs of dogs trained to attack and tree a lion or bobcat and shoot the animal off a tree limb. It's a "guaranteed kill" with the trophy hunter only paying the \$8,000 fee after the kill.

And what's worse is, nearly half of the lions shot by trophy hunters females. When mothers are killed, the kittens are doomed to starvation, dehydration, or exposure.

Last week, Dr. Jim Keen released a [landmark report](#) reviewing the literature on mountain lion science. He concluded from his exhaustive review that lion populations are self-regulating. He cited remarkable data from California, which banned lion hunting more than a century ago; cat populations there are stable, and the state averages fewer than 10 lions killed a year for damage control.

The scientific consensus is clear: Trophy hunting is entirely unneeded for population control.

He did point out that lions provide services, though, in regulating other species. Lions curb the effects of high densities of Colorado's deer and elk. They help maintain the balance of nature, reducing dangerous car crashes with deer or elk.

Wildlife biologists and veterinarians say mountain lions are critical in limiting the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer and elk herds.

This is the narrative we'll deliver to 4.5 million Coloradans. We are counting on you to be our ambassadors. And we are counting on you to give generously to fund our communications campaign.

Fighting the trophy hunting lobby is expensive, and this is going to be a serious fight.

Never again will you have an opportunity for your dollars to produce such a tangible and high-impact result. Please give generously today.

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For all cats and all animals,  
**Samantha Miller**  
Cats Aren't Trophies, Campaign Manager

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