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# Coyote Conflicts in Perth County



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## Coyote Ecology in Southern Ontario

- ❑ Coyotes are now a permanent component of our wildlife community
- ❑ Important top predator feeding primarily on small rodents and other wildlife
- ❑ The major factor influencing population size is the food resource
- ❑ Most coyote mortality caused by humans



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## **Coyote Behavior and Human Safety**

- ❑ Usually wary of humans
- ❑ Where they show no fear, it is almost always due to them having been habituated to people or human food.
- ❑ Such behavior is restricted to that animal or family group and not the general population



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## Human-Coyote Conflict

- ❑ Most causes can be easily controlled.
  
- ❑ Most effective control is PREVENTION:
  - Don't attract coyotes to your property
  - Keep pets and livestock safe
  - Reduce potential for encounters

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## Bounties

- ❑ Definition:
  - An incentive paid to kill any coyote, anywhere and at any time across a broad geographic area.
- ❑ Ontario had a bounty on coyotes until 1972, as did many other jurisdictions.
- ❑ History has proven that bounties don't work.
- ❑ Since 1973, bounties have been illegal in Ont.

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## Lethal Control of Coyotes

1. Coyote hunting and trapping are legal year-round in SW Ont.
2. Landowners may destroy a coyote in protection of property (Section 31 [1])
3. There is a legal mechanism for a landowner to pay authorized agents to kill problem coyotes (Section 31 [2])
4. Municipality may be authorized to pay a financial incentive to control coyote predation (Section 11)



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## Protection of Property -Section 31 (1)

- On your own land or if you farm on land with written agreement, you may with “reasonable grounds” harass or capture or kill wildlife to deter or stop the wildlife from damaging your property. However, there are some exceptions:
  - You may not capture, kill or harass a white-tailed deer, unless you are in possession of a Deer Removal/Harassment Authorization issued by MNR
  - **Must be linkage between animals killed and threat to livestock (e.g., cannot kill coyotes just because they are there)**



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## Protection of Property with an Agent -Section 31 (2)

- ❑ As a farmer you may use an agent to assist or carry out wildlife control
- ❑ Agent means:



- Licenced trappers (a current licence is required).

- Members of a landowner's immediate family acting on behalf of the landowner on the landowner's own land.

- Persons whose business is primarily the business of removing nuisance wildlife if they capture and release it if it is capable of being released.



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## Municipal Financial Incentives for Control of Coyote Predation

- ❑ Section 11 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act – need authorization to hunt or trap for hire or gain or to induce someone to do so
- ❑ A municipality who wishes to compensate hunters or trappers designated by the livestock owner to remove coyotes and wolves for damaging livestock **must be authorized to do so.**
- ❑ Not a bounty (bounties not legal in Ont. since 1972) i.e. not for a population of animals over a widespread area but on or near property where coyote livestock predation is confirmed.
- ❑ Intended only for the problem animals on or near a farm and not intended for a livestock owner to hunt for gain.

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## Municipal Financial Incentives for Control of Coyote Predation

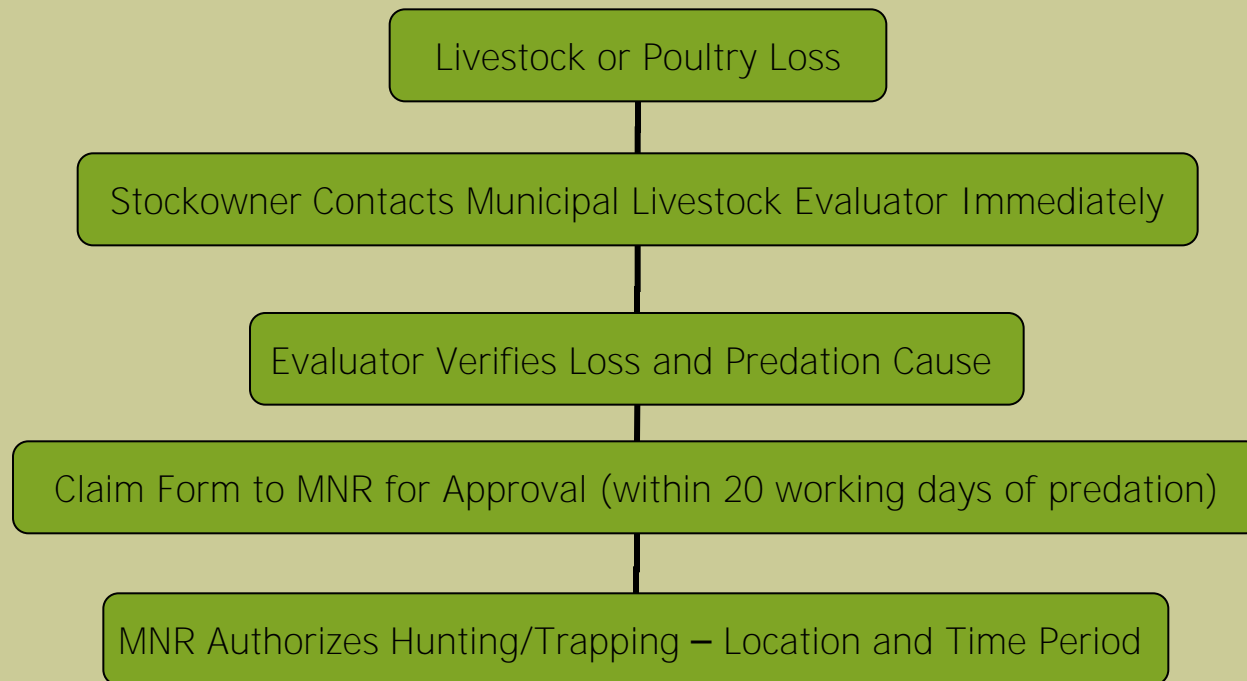
- Under a Section 11 authorization all relevant hunting or trapping regulations apply.

□ *Note: this is not to be confused with the compensation program for livestock owners for wolf and coyote property damage under the Livestock, Poultry and Honey Bee Protection Act administered by municipalities on behalf of OMAFRA.*



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## MNR Process - Municipal Financial Incentives for Control of Coyote Predation



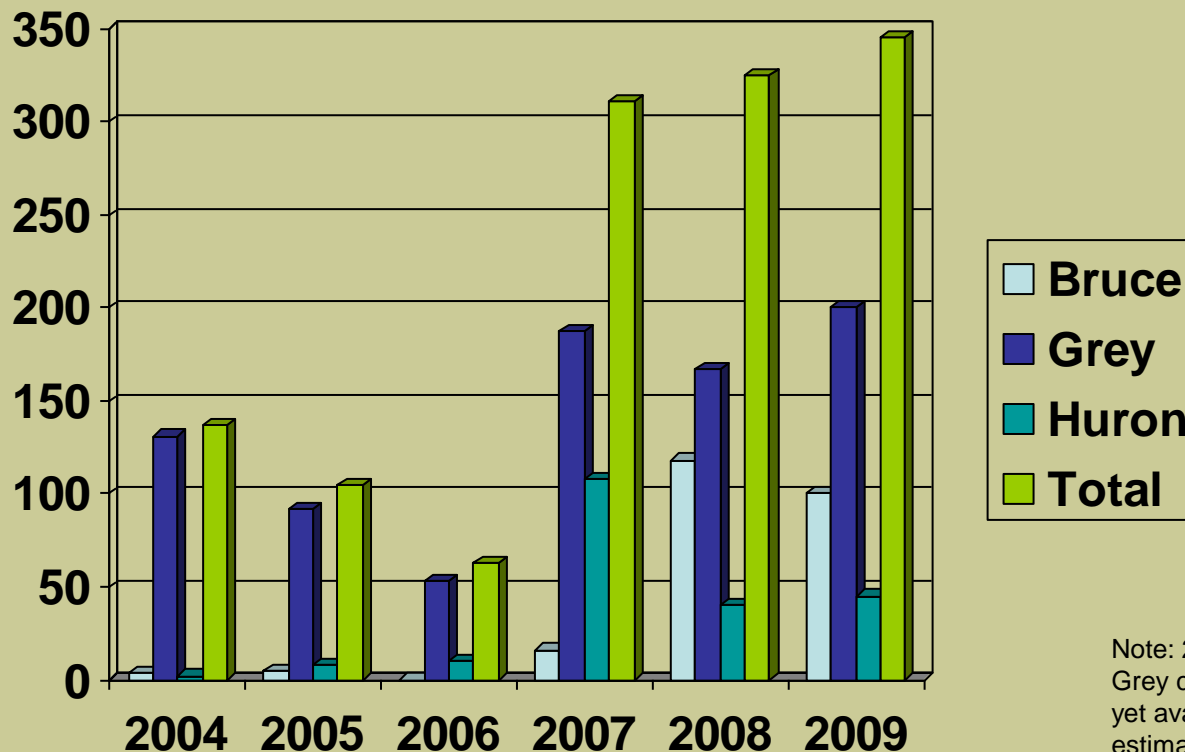
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## Southwestern Ontario Results



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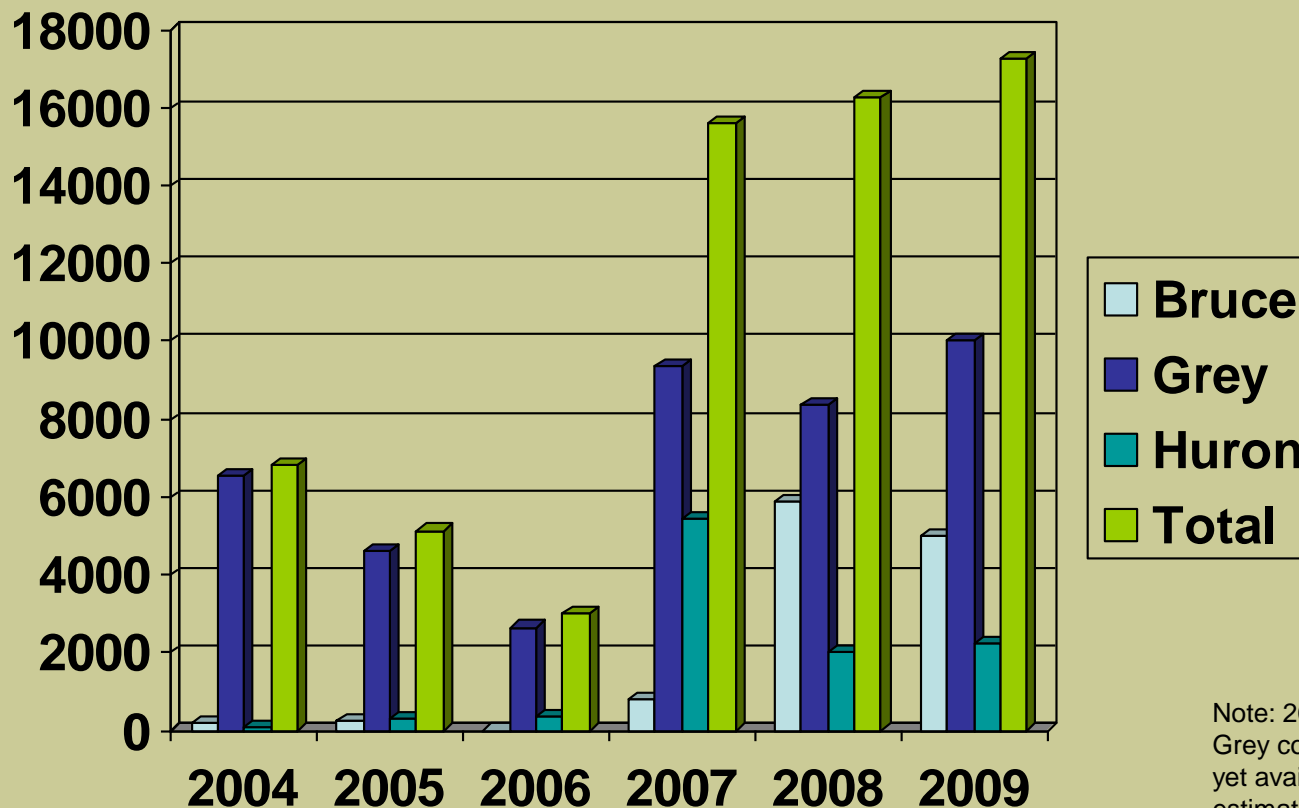
## Coyotes Harvested Under Compensation Program



Note: 2009 data for Grey county is not yet available but is estimated by county to be about 200.

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## Cost to Counties



Note: 2009 data for Grey county is not yet available but is estimated by county to be about \$10,000.

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**Questions?**