



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
**PROTECTION**  
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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## **Officer runs over coyote multiple times: cruelty investigation demanded** *National wildlife protection group demands full cruelty investigation, public report on actions and policies*

A national non-profit is calling for an immediate and complete investigation into the potentially criminal actions of an OPP officer following the release of cell phone footage that shows the officer repeatedly running over a coyote prior to shooting it.

“We didn’t want to think this was real when it was sent to us,” says Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers). “But it is irrefutable at this point – the officer did in fact run over what we have been told was a coyote multiple times prior to using his sidearm to kill him in a more humane fashion.”

The OPP have acknowledged the actions and state they are investigating.

“This was not an accident or an aberration,” Howie adds. “This was a choice made by an individual who, as an officer of the Ontario Provincial Police, has significant training in tactical use of force. With that in mind, we are asking the Ontario SPCA and the OPP to work together to conduct a thorough and public cruelty investigation.”

The Fur-Bearers are also willing to offer their services – at no charge – to Collingwood and the surrounding municipalities to create co-existence programs to prevent the need for police intervention in wildlife situations in the future.

“Police officers are highly trained and typically responsible individuals,” Howie notes. “But their mandate should not include responding to wildlife calls. Cutbacks to Ministry of Natural Resources and downloading of responsibility has forced municipalities to react to situations, rather than be proactive. We are ready, willing, and able to help prevent this from happening again.”

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The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals was formed in 1953 in response to the ongoing use of steel traps; today, the organization opposes the commercial fur trade with education and compassionate conversation, as well as provides municipalities with assistance in creating co-existence programs to prevent wildlife-human conflict.

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