



MEDIA RELEASE

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COMPENSATION AVAILABLE TO FARMERS FOR LOSS OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO COYOTE PREDATION

Farmers face many challenges in the management of their livestock operations. One of the main concerns is the loss of livestock due to coyotes. Coyotes are very resourceful animals and adapt well in human environments. Coyote populations fluctuate depending on factors such as disease and the availability of food. They generally prey on small animals such as rabbits and wild turkeys however if livestock such as sheep and calves are easily accessible they may become a target. Farmers have the right to protect their livestock and may hunt coyotes on their property if they are causing damage.

The *Livestock, Poultry and Honey Bee Protection Act* entitles livestock and poultry producers to make claims to the municipality for livestock losses attributed to attacks by wolves, coyotes and dogs. The Act is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Town of Caledon.

"When the owner of livestock or poultry has suffered a loss of livestock due to predation by a coyote, wolf or a stray dog, the owner should immediately notify the Town of Caledon, Animal Control Section," urges Mayor Morrison. An Animal Control Officer will investigate the claim and compensate the farmer for losses in accordance with the Act. If the producer does not agree with the municipal valuers report, an appeal may be made to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Compensation for livestock claims attributed to wolves or coyotes are paid by the Town of Caledon with this cost recovered through the Ministry of Agriculture (OMAFRA). Claims attributed to wild or domestic dogs are paid by the municipality.

Please contact the Town of Caledon Animal Services Section at 905-857-5208 ext. 21 or toll free at 1-866-818-5493 for further information or to determine if you are eligible to receive compensation. To report a claim after regular business hours call 1-800-563-7881. Claims must be reported within 24 hours after the livestock loss.

A vibrant community of over 57,000 residents and more than 1,700 businesses, the Town of Caledon is the largest and northern-most municipality in the Region of Peel and part of the Greater Toronto Area. Providing effective, high quality municipal services is a priority – maintaining a sustainable balance of initiatives that focus on community, environment and development.

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