



# BLOOD MONEY

**C**ONTEST KILLING, like dogfighting and cockfighting, is the province of a small subculture that is rarely glimpsed by the general public. Contestants pay entry fees and compete for prizes in a party-like atmosphere of drinking and gambling. The contestant who kills the most animals wins. Contest slaughters are held around the country for coyotes, foxes, prairie dogs, groundhogs (woodchucks), and pigeons and other birds. Two of the most common are the following:

## **Coyote "Calling" Contests**

Shooters receive specialty prizes for the most, largest, and smallest coyotes killed in so-called coyote calling contests. To attract coyotes, participants imitate the call of a downed animal or coyote in distress. Coyotes, like humans, feel a strong bond to their fellows, and when they hear this cry, they throw their normal caution aside and come to see if they can help.



Manipulating animals' natural compassion or instinct to lure them within gun range is a reprehensible practice condemned by hunters and nonhunters alike as unsporting.

### **Prairie Dog Shoots**

Shooters set up 200 or more yards from a prairie dog town with long-range, rapid-fire rifles and shoot the animals as they come up out of their burrows. In addition to their body count, shooters get extra points for specialty shots like the "red mist," in which the victim disappears behind a spray of blood.



## **END KILLING CONTESTS**

Contest kills are not hunting. They are bloodbaths for entertainment. Like dogfighting and cockfighting, contest kills have no place in a humane world. For more on killing contests and what you can do to end them, visit [www.hsus.org/wildlife](http://www.hsus.org/wildlife).

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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