

VISUAL GUIDE TO INTERPRETING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF COYOTE PREDATION ON DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK

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Coyotes have been increasingly observed in Florida, and may cause losses among livestock operations. Whether losses justify efforts at control, and where those efforts should be focussed, will depend in part upon the ability to identify predation from other causes of mortality. For more information, see: Main, M.B. 2000. Interpreting the physical evidence of predation on livestock. UF/IFAS EDIS Database, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW135>, and on the South Florida Coyote Study web site <http://www.imok.ufl.edu/wild/coyote/index.htm>



Note injured tail of calf - this type of injury is common among survivors of coyote attacks and may serve as a warning to ranchers of a potential problem.



Lack of bruising on neck of lamb to right indicates death was not caused by predators.



Coyotes typically kill with bites to throat and feed on flank and abdomen.



Coyote tracks are narrower than those of similarly sized dogs, and generally do not leave strong claw impressions.

Coyotes sometimes consume the nose region on young calves.



Domestic dogs often mutilate and generally do not consume prey.

Acknowledgements

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