

**Q: Please tell me a story about an experience you've had with coyotes in Vermont.**

A: Well I've actually had a lot of experiences with coyotes, I'm an avid hunter. But one that sticks out well is when I was housesitting for my brother in Guilford, Vermont. And it was late at night, and my brother's dog has one of those electric collars on with the underground fence. So I put on his collar and I let him out and he pauses on the porch and all of a sudden takes off, and that's not how Zero [the dog] is. I instantly got an adrenaline dump cause I knew he was going after something. All of a sudden I hear him start squealing. He was attacking a small coyote, and a small coyote was attacking him. So I ran out barefoot and I was able to give this little coyote a good thump and was able to get it off my brother's dog. All of a sudden when I hit the coyote to get him off, he scurried off into the woods with the pack. All of a sudden the pack started going crazy, crazy, crazy howling, it was right there. Zero, the dog, jumps his electric fence and went after the pack again. And all of a sudden Zero starts squealing again and I couldn't catch up to him and I thought he died. But eventually, after me chasing all the noise and everything, hollering and screaming and everything, Zero was able to come back, with a little bit of a limp, but he came back unscathed. So actually he was okay. That's the most significant coyote story I've had.

**Q: Can you explain why that story was meaningful to you?**

A: It was meaningful because it put into perspective of, well number one how fast things can change cause I was about to go to bed, but also just that animal instinct y'know that dogs have, that all of a sudden fight or flight. I don't know if Zero was protecting his territory, I don't know if the coyote attacked him first cause I did see Zero run at the coyote so I don't know if it was a coyote attack or both playing defensive, so I don't really know. But it's significant because I don't know it was just a crazy night.

**Q: Now let's talk about coyotes more generally. Can you rank your experience of coyotes in Vermont on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being very negative, 3 being neither positive nor negative, and 5 being very positive?**

A: Just like everything, there's a balance to everything y'know. Obviously you need predators and you need everything. But all depending on your area, you can either have good coyote impact or negative coyote impact depending on what neck of the woods you're in. If you have too many coyotes they kill a lot of turkeys, a lot of fawns, they kill a lot of everything. But if you don't have enough then you can have a lot of overpopulation things. Like in areas of Maine that I hunt, there's a ton of coyotes, which isn't good. And there's some areas of Vermont where there's a ton of coyotes and the turkey population is down. So y'know trapping and killing coyotes is a good thing but can also be a bad thing depending on the area. So my experience with coyotes here in Vermont, honestly, this past year, 2020 hunting season, I didn't see a lot of them. So I want to say right now it's going good, y'know. So yeah I'd give it a 3, I'm not a big fan of them. If I'm turkey hunting or deer hunting and I see a coyote it'll turn into a coyote hunt. But they're not horrible around here, so I'd give it a 3.

**Q: Think back to the coyote story that you shared. Can you tell me where it took place?**

A: It was at my brother's house in Guilford, Vermont. It was actually almost in Mass, but it was in a good neck of woods. It was far from town.

**Q: And, can you tell me what year your coyote story took place in?**

A: That was 2 years ago, 2019. Before the virus.

**Q: What kinds of things do you do outside, for work or for recreation?**

A: Well I work outside anyways, y'know my hobbies are obviously hunting and fishing and hiking and all that. So I'm always outside dealing with animals and I like to think I know a lot about the outdoors.

**Q: How long have you lived in Vermont?**

A: I've lived in Vermont all my life, and I'm 21.

**Q: What town do you live in?**

A: I currently live in Dummerston.

**Q: What year were you born in?**

A: I was born in 1999.

**Q: What is your gender?**

A: Male

**Q: What is your race or ethnicity?**

A: I'm white.