

# **CITY OF NORWALK**

## **COYOTE COEXISTENCE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**City of Norwalk**  
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## **Introduction**

The intent of the City of Norwalk's Coyote Coexistence and Management Plan (Coyote Management Plan) is to provide guidance to the community and City staff in response to human/coyote interactions in Norwalk. These guidelines adhere to federal, state, and county regulations in regards to coyote management. Provisions of this plan maintain the legal rights of Norwalk residents, businesses, and/or homeowner's associations in protecting private property relative to coyote management practices. The Coyote Management Plan is based on research and best practices that include a full spectrum of tools to effectively respond to coyotes in an urban area.

### **Management Strategy**

The strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect for the protection of wildlife and their habitats while prioritizing public safety. This plan is guided by the following basic principles:

1. Human safety is a priority in managing human-coyote interactions.
2. Understanding coyotes serve an important role in the ecosystem by helping to control the population of rodents, rabbits, and other urban mammals.
3. Preventive practices such as reduction and removal of food attractants, habitat modification and responding appropriately when interacting with wildlife are key to minimizing potential interactions with coyotes.
4. Solutions for coyote conflicts must address both problematic coyote behaviors (such as aggression towards people and attacks on pets) and the problematic human behaviors (intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes and letting pets outside unattended) that contribute to conflicts.
5. Non-selective coyote removal programs are ineffective for reducing coyote population sizes or preventing human-coyote conflicts.
6. A community-wide program that involves residents is necessary for achieving coexistence among people, coyotes, and pets.

### **Goal**

The goal of the Coyote Management Plan is to discourage the habituation of coyotes in an urban environment by using education, behavior modification, and development of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior. The recommended actions in this plan are designed to increase knowledge and understanding of how coyotes behave and to make clear how such behavior can be managed or reduced to eliminate human conflicts with coyotes. The ultimate goal of coyote behavior modification is to encourage the natural relocation of coyotes to their native environment.

## **Background**

The City of Norwalk, along with other municipalities in the surrounding areas, is making an effort to educate its residents on how to respond to coyote encounters. These encounters include coyote sightings in local neighborhoods, aggressive behavior, and attacks on pets. Norwalk Public Safety Dispatch documents these type of reported encounters to educate the residents and better manage the coyote activity. The City urges the residents to report on coyote encounters to help with data monitoring and collection. Underreporting to the City may be attributed to a lack of knowledge regarding the importance of reporting, paired with online forums/social media functioning as an information hub for receiving and disseminating coyote information. The City relies on its residents to report encounters but more importantly, to follow the recommended action plan when they encounter coyotes. Implementation of a successful management plan relies heavily on the development of a partnership between the City and residents. The foundation of this partnership is providing our residents with accurate information and established guidelines to guide their response when dealing with a coyote.

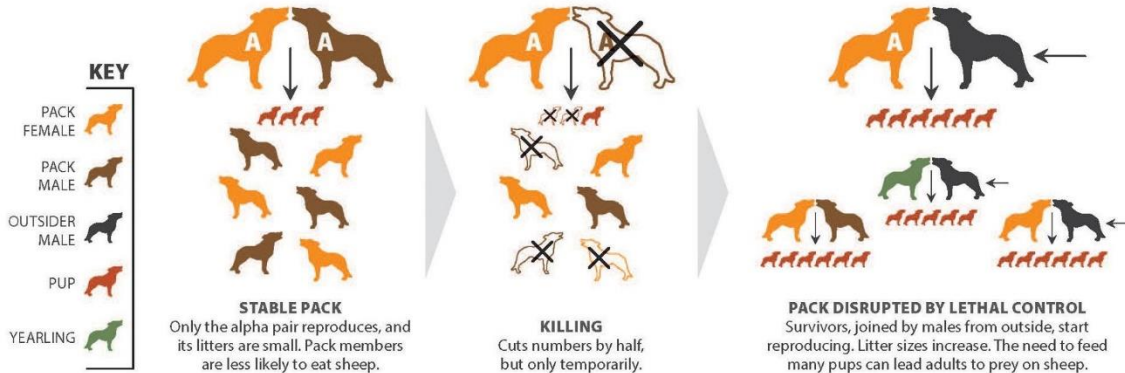
Historically, coyotes have existed in Norwalk and Los Angeles County, finding safe haven in areas within the City where dense brush is prominent. These areas provide suitable locations where coyotes can safely build dens and reproduce. It is also believed that the prolonged drought has limited potential food sources for the coyotes and thus has drawn the coyotes to residential neighborhoods in search of food and water.

Coyotes are opportunistic, versatile carnivores that primarily eat small mammals, such as rabbits, ground squirrels, and mice, to name a few. Coyotes tend to prefer fresh meat but will eat significant amounts of fruits and vegetables during the autumn and winter months when their prey is scarce. Part of the coyote's success as a species is its dietary adaptability. This dietary flexibility, coupled with a lack of prey and closer proximity to residents, has led the coyotes to seek alternative food sources, including small pets, pet food, and fallen fruits and vegetables found in the backyards of homes. Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. As coyotes have become urbanized, however, they have realized there are few real threats in suburban environments. This has resulted in coyotes approaching people and even feeling safe visiting yards when people are present.

In response to coyote activity in neighborhoods, City staff researched responses from surrounding communities, reviewed existing management plans, sought input from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and analyzed the Coyote Guidelines from the Humane Society of the United States, to develop an appropriate plan for Norwalk. The City's approach will emphasize on education, hazing, and lastly consider employing lethal means of removal only when the safety of the public is at risk.

# Why **KILLING** Doesn't Work

Shoot or poison coyotes and you will have just as many again within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring sooner, and litter sizes will grow.



[humanesociety.org/coyotes](http://humanesociety.org/coyotes)

## Difficulties Managing Wildlife

Although Norwalk places a high value on its wildlife, some species adapted to urban environments have the potential for problems and conflicts in specific situations. In addressing problems, Norwalk promotes policies supporting prevention and implementation of remedial measures that do not harm the wildlife or their habitats.

A wildlife problem is defined as any situation that causes a health or safety issue to its residents. In cases where problems with wildlife are associated with human behavior (leaving garbage exposed or intentional wildlife feeding), ordinances and enforcement may be enacted to minimize conflict. In some cases, particular or traditional management tools are ineffective. For example, relocation of animals is not ecologically sound and is not allowed in California without permission from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Generally, relocated animals do not survive the transfer. If they do, they rarely stay in the relocation area and tend to scatter to other locations where they may cause problems, be involved in territorial disputes or introduce disease. In some instances, the dispersed wildlife, especially coyotes, will go to great lengths to return to their previous territory or adversely affect residents. For these reasons, the CDFW rarely allows relocation of wildlife.

As a last resort, lethal control measures, when employed, must be selective, meaning they target the problem coyote. If they are used, they must be humane and in compliance with federal and state laws.

It is not economically, ecologically or in other ways efficient to attempt to remove all coyotes from the urban ecosystem. Attempts made by local, state and federal agencies as well as private organizations over the past century to eradicate coyotes have proven to be ineffective. Moreover, during the past century coyotes have expanded their territories to include every state except Hawaii.

### **What Role do Coyotes play in the Environment?**

Coyotes play an important role in the urban ecosystem. They are predators of geese eggs, squirrels, mice, rabbits, rats, gophers, and other small animals. Rodents make up a majority of their diet.

### **How do Humans Perceive Coyotes?**

People respond to coyotes in various ways. Some observe them with enjoyment, others with indifference and some with fear or concern. Personal experiences with coyotes may influence their perceptions. Experiences range from animal sightings without incident to stalking, killing of pets or, at the extreme, an attack on a person.

Because wild animals conjure up fear, actual sightings and perceptions may become exaggerated or misconstrued (see Appendix A for a description of types of coyote encounters). The wide range in perceptions of urban coyotes from Norwalk residents supports the need for strong and consistent educational messages to clarify management techniques.

### **Have Coyote Numbers Increased in Norwalk?**

Without accurate tracking data, it is difficult to exactly know the increase in numbers of coyotes in the area. What is known is that coyotes can become habituated if they are intentionally or unintentionally fed, which can lead to bolder behavior when coyotes lose their fear of people. Coyotes, like all predators, will stabilize their populations if they are not constantly exploited. In general, coyotes regularly roam an area of about 2-5 square miles or whatever it takes to get enough food for the pack members. Normally, each coyote family group is territorial and varies in number from 3 to 10 individuals. A portion of the area the family inhabits is the pack's territory, which they defend from other coyotes. The number of mature coyotes in the family is linked to the number of food resources in the territory. The family system keeps coyotes from getting too numerous because the families defend the area they need to survive.

A coyote family usually has one breeding (or alpha) female. This female produces more pups than are ultimately wanted in the family. Young coyotes may leave the family at about 9-11 months of age but dispersal patterns are highly variable. These coyotes become transients. Other types of transients include older individuals that can no longer defend their role as upper-level family members and leave the family.

Transients move all over in narrow undefended zones that exist between territories searching for an open habitat to occupy or group to join. They often die before they succeed (many are hit by cars). It is largely because of these transients, that coyote eradication programs are unsuccessful.

Removing a group of territorial coyotes will create an undefended area into which the transient coyotes will flow. At all times of the year, numbers of transients are immediately available to replenish any voids created by killing the resident coyotes. Further, if either the alpha male or alpha female in a pack is killed, that may result in ovulation in other breeding-age females in the family and an increase in the number of litters as well as the number of pups per litter.

## **Coyote Management Plan**

The Coyote Management Plan is comprised of a multi-focused approach consisting of public education designed around co-existence with coyotes, enforcement of laws and regulations prohibiting the feeding of wildlife, and ensuring public safety by implementing appropriately tiered responses to coyote and human interactions. This plan requires active participation on the part of the entire community including residents, homeowners associations, businesses, volunteers and City personnel.

### **Education**

Education is vital to residents making appropriate decisions regarding their safety, and that of their property and pets, by decreasing attractants, reshaping coyote behavior through hazing and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior. Dissemination of information to residents, businesses, and schools will be accomplished through the use of the City of Norwalk website, newsletter, social media, press releases, community forums, and other direct and indirect public outreach campaigns.

Learning how to respond to a coyote encounter empowers residents and supports reshaping undesired coyote behavior. The public should understand what normal coyote behavior is when living in close proximity to coyotes. For example, vocalization is normal acceptable behavior and does not indicate aggression.

### **Monitoring and Data Collection**

Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective coyote management plan. This is best accomplished with input from both residents and the City. Coyote sightings can be reported to Public Safety Dispatch at (562) 929-5732 or via an online submission form available on the City website, Public Safety Coyote Awareness section. A sick, injured, or deceased coyote should be reported to SEAACA at (562) 803-3301. If the coyote is posing an immediate threat or attacking, please call 9-1-1 immediately. The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen and to identify human-coyote conflict hotspots. Gathering specific data on incidents will allow for targeting of educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

## Coyote Attractants in Urban Areas

While attacks on humans are very rare, urban landscape development, habituation through intentional and unintentional feeding, pet-related incidents, and media attention have led some urban residents to fear coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on free-roaming and unattended small pets are normal coyote behavior and do not necessarily indicate danger for people.

Coyotes usually become habituated when they learn and associate people and/or neighborhoods with sources of food. Humans reinforce this behavior by not reacting appropriately when a coyote is seen. Steps must be taken to address safety concerns and misconceptions and to ensure appropriate responses to potential threats to human safety. It's important to keep in mind that coyotes have been in and around Norwalk (and other parts of Southern California), for a very long time.

Coyotes are drawn to urban and suburban areas for the following reasons:

1. **Food** - Urban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes, who primarily eat rodents such as mice and rats. However, coyotes can be further attracted into suburban neighborhoods by human-associated food such as pet food, unsecured compost or trash, and fallen fruit in yards. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with sources of food, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people, and pets. To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:
  - a. Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote.
  - b. Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove sources of pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly.
  - c. Never compost any meat or dairy (unless the compost is fully secured).
  - d. Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, to help discourage coyote activity near residences.
  - e. Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
  - f. Keep trash in high-quality containers with locking lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of trash pick-up. If left out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.
  - g. Bag especially attractive food waste such as meat scraps or leftover pet food before discarding
2. **Water** – Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of stormwater impoundments and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, pet water dishes, etc., which support both coyotes and their prey. In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable.



3. **Access to shelter** - Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, and crawl spaces, etc., increase the amount and variability of cover for coyotes. They allow coyotes to safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes, and businesses without detection. In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise young, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which their young are sheltered. Coyotes may take advantage of available spaces under sheds or decks for use as a den, bringing them into close contact with people and pets.
4. **Unattended Pets** - Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Animals that are approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit, unattended outdoor pets especially cats and small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods.
  - a. The best way to minimize risk to pets from coyotes (and the other dangers of outdoor life such as cars, disease, dogs and other wildlife) is to keep small pets indoors (or only let them outside in a secure enclosure or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness).
  - b. It is important to either keep dogs on a leash six feet long or shorter when outdoors or to stay within six feet of them when outside. (Coyotes may view a dog on a leash longer than six feet as an unattended pet.) Attacks on free-roaming small cats or dogs are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate danger for people. A free-roaming pet is considered an unattended domestic pet outside of its enclosed yard or area.
  - c. Although attacks on larger dogs are rare, coyotes will sometimes go after a large dog when they feel that their territory is threatened. This generally occurs during the coyote breeding season, which takes place from January through March. During this time, it is especially important not to let dogs outside unattended and to keep them on leashes (six feet long or less) when in public areas.
5. **Feral Cats** – People who feed feral cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well-founded, as coyotes can be attracted to outdoor pet food. Although there is no sure way to protect feral cats from coyotes, the following tips can be helpful:
  - a. Feed cats only during the day and at a set time—and pick up any leftovers immediately.
  - b. Provide escape routes for cats.
  - c. Haze coyotes seen on the property (see Appendix Making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.

Other domestic animals kept outside, such as chickens and rabbits, may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect poultry or other outdoor animals from coyotes (and other

predators) with protective fencing (both structural and electric), by ensuring that they are confined in sturdy cages or pens each evening and by using livestock-guarding animals where possible.

Residents are encouraged to use the Yard Audit Checklist (Appendix D) as a tool to help recognize and remove attractants in their yards and neighborhoods.

## **Hazing and Behavior Change**

Some coyotes have become too comfortable in the proximity of people. To safely coexist, it's important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. Habituated coyote behavior needs to be reshaped to encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans and pets (see Appendix C)

Hazing – also known as “fear conditioning” is the process that facilitates this change and is by necessity a community response to negative encounters with coyotes. The more often an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing coyote behavior.

Hazing employs immediate use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage undesirable behavior or activity. Deterrents include loud noises, spraying water, bright lights, throwing objects, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and discourage them from neighborhoods such as backyards and play areas. Hazing does not harm or damage animals, humans or property. The behavioral change also involves human activities such as how to identify and remove attractants and how to responsibly protect pets.

## **Foundation of Hazing**

- a. It is not economically, ecologically or in other ways efficient to try and eradicate coyotes from the urban ecosystem.
- b. Hazing is one piece of a long-term plan in creating safe and acceptable living situations, increase understanding and reduce conflict between coyotes and people.

## **Goals of Hazing**

- a. To reshape coyote behavior to avoid human contact in an urban setting. Human behavior can shape animal behavior, in either a negative or positive manner. People living in close proximity to coyotes can remove coyote attractants, identify potentially dangerous situations for their pets and themselves, and respond in a manner designed to change coyote behavior.
- b. To provide residents information and tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support feeling safe in their parks and neighborhoods. This can be accomplished by teaching residents hazing techniques.

- c. To model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes among other residents, friends, and family.
- d. Monitor hazing to assess its effectiveness and determine if further action or more aggressive hazing is needed.
- e. Develop long-term community-based hazing programs.

## **General Considerations**

1. Levels of hazing need to be appropriately relevant to coyote activity. Coyotes that associate danger in the presence of people under all circumstances will be reinforced to avoid contact.
  - a. Coyotes live in open spaces and the best practice is to leave them alone and educate the public on personal safety.
  - b. Coyotes are often out late at night when few people are present. This is normal acceptable behavior. Hazing may not be necessary.
2. Hazing must be more exaggerated, aggressive and consistent when first beginning a program of hazing. As coyotes “learn” appropriate responses to hazing, it will take less effort from hazers. Early in the process, it is extremely common for coyotes not to respond to hazing techniques. Without a history of hazing, they do not have the relevant context to respond in the desired outcome (to leave).
3. Techniques and tools can be used in the same manner for one or multiple coyotes. Usually, there is a dominant coyote in a group who will respond - others will follow its lead. DO NOT ignore, turn your back or avoid hazing because there are multiple coyotes instead of a single individual.
4. The more often an individual coyote is hazed by a variety of tools and techniques and a variety of people, the more effective hazing will be in changing that animal’s future behavior.
5. Hazing must be directly associated with the person involved in the hazing actions. The coyote must be aware of where the potential threat is coming from and identify the person.
6. Coyotes can and do recognize individual people and animals in their territories. They can learn to avoid or harass specific individuals in response to the behavior of the person and/or pet.
7. Coyotes can be routine in habit. Identifying their normal habits can help target which habits to change. For example, the coyote patrols the same bike path at the same time in the morning three to five days a week. Hazers should concentrate on that time and place to encourage the animal to adapt its routine to decrease contact with people.
8. Certain levels of hazing must always be maintained so that future generations of coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits related to habituation to people.
9. Human behavior must change to support hazing and continued identification and, if necessary, remove possible attractants.

10. Education about exclusion techniques including how to identify and remove attractants, personal responsibility in pet safety and having reasonable expectations are critical parts of a coyote hazing plan.
11. Coyotes are skittish by nature. Habituated behavior is learned and reinforced by human behavior. Coyotes, as a rule, DO NOT act aggressively towards aggressive people. The one exception is a sick or injured animal. Engaging a sick or injured animal can result in unpredictable behavior. If this is suspected, people should not engage and remove themselves from the situation, then immediately contact SEAACA at (562) 803-3301.
12. Individuals involved in hazing need to be trained in explaining hazing to residents who witness the process. They also need to explain the difference between hazing and harassment of wildlife and goals of appropriate behavior for coexistence.

## **Training Program**

Because coexisting with wildlife involves the community, initiating the hazing training programs and hazing activities by volunteers must be supervised by experts. Without this support, the programs will ultimately fail. Information should include basic training on background, coyote ecology information, an overview of hazing, and examples of techniques. Materials should be provided such as handouts, contact information, and resources when questions, comments, and concerns come up relating to coyotes.

Volunteers need to learn about coyote behavior and be aware of realistic expectations, understanding normal versus abnormal coyote behavior and having a consistent response to residents' concerns and comments.

Behavioral change and hazing includes the following:

- a. Pet owners need to protect pets. Off-leash, unattended, and free-roaming cats and dogs attract coyotes (as well as pet food).
- b. Residents need to learn hazing effectiveness and techniques. A hazing program must be instituted and maintained regularly.
- c. Hazing needs to be active for a sustained period of time to achieve the desired change for the highest possible long-term success.
- d. Hazing requires monitoring to assess its effectiveness and to determine if further action or more aggressive hazing is needed.

## **Enforcement**

The act of feeding wildlife is known to lead to an increase in wildlife activity. Feeding can attract coyotes and their prey to an area leading to an increased likelihood of creating habituated coyotes and resulting in increases in coyote - human interactions. California law prohibits feeding wildlife. The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA) will enforce the law(s) pertaining to this activity.

### **CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 14**

### **§251.1 – Harassment of Animals**

Except as otherwise authorized in these regulations or in the Fish & Game Code, no person shall harass, herd or drive any game or nongame bird or mammal or furbearing mammal. For the purposes of this section, harass is defined as an intentional act which disrupts an animal's normal behavior patterns, which includes, but is not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering.

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE TITLE 10**

#### **§10.84.010 – Providing Food for Certain Rodents or Predator Animals Prohibited**

**A.** Except as otherwise provided for herein, no person shall feed or in any manner provide food to a nondomesticated rodent or a nondomesticated mammalian predator.

**B.** For purposes of this chapter:

1. “Rodent” includes ground squirrels;
2. “Mammalian predators” includes coyote, raccoon, fox and opossum.

## **Safety Response Plan**

A detailed tiered response plan has been developed to provide a mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of human and coyote interactions. Definitions of coyote encounters are listed in Appendix A. Appendix B provides a chart detailing coyote behavior, behavior classification, and recommended response

SEAACA will respond to calls that involve a sick, injured coyote(s), or if there is a public safety issue, such as a coyote(s) resting in an area frequented by people (e.g. park, playground, school, etc.).

If a human is attacked and physically injured by a coyote, the City will work with the CDFW, which will be the lead investigating agency, to thoroughly investigate the incident, identify and lethally remove the responsible coyote(s). Lethal removal will also be considered as a last resort if there is a public safety issue (such as a coyote(s) threatening people or resting in an area frequented by people, such as a yard, park, playground, school, etc.) only after a thorough investigation and identification of the offending coyote(s). Since coyotes are considered “non-game wildlife”, any resident or Homeowner’s Association Board of Directors can initiate, at their own expense, action to protect themselves and their **private property** from coyote attacks.

### **Threat Level Tiered Response**

**Level Green:** Behavior – A coyote is seen or heard in an area. Sighting may be during the day or night. Coyote may be seen moving through the area.

- Response – Education and hazing needed.

Level Yellow: Behavior – A coyote appears to frequently associate with humans or human-related food sources, and exhibits little wariness of human presence. Coyote is seen during the day resting or continuously moving through an area frequented by people.

- Response – Education and aggressive hazing needed, volunteer hazing team created, and yard audits.

Level Orange: Behavior – A coyote is involved in an incident where there is an attended or unattended domestic animal loss, or a coyote biting or injuring an unattended pet on a leash of 6’ or less. Several level orange incidents in the same general area may indicate the presence of a habituated coyote(s).

- Response – Education and aggressive hazing needed, volunteer hazing team created, and public awareness of incident(s) and circumstances discussed. If multiple level orange incidents have occurred in the same vicinity within a short amount of time, lethal removal may be considered.

Level Red: Behavior – A coyote that has been involved in an investigated and documented provoked or unprovoked close encounter or attack on humans, or a coyote biting or injuring an attended pet on a leash of 6’ or less.

- Response – The City may contract work out to lethally remove the responsible coyote(s) after a thorough investigation of the incident(s).

## **Incident Defined**

An incident is described as a conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: coyote approaches a human and growls, bares teeth, or lunges; injures or kills an escorted/on-leash pet. This includes attended pet loss, but not human injury. When a human injury occurs, it is defined as an “attack.” The CDFW will investigate the incident if a human is physically injured.

## **Circumstances Determine the Response**

If an attack is unprovoked indicating a continued threat to human safety, the City will determine a course of action, potentially contracting with a licensed trapper. The City will not engage in any attempts of general culling. Only specific animals will be targeted.

In a provoked attack, the City will determine if circumstances indicate a continued threat to human safety. The City will determine initial response which may range from targeted education up to lethal removal of the involved animal.

A continued response will depend on specific details of the attack. The level of threat to human safety will determine if continued action is needed. Continued activity may include increased educational materials such as flyers, mailers or press releases, public meetings, and/or contracting with a licensed animal trapper.

# Appendix A

## Definitions of Encounters with Coyotes

**Active coexistence:** Humans and coyotes exist together. Humans take an active role in keeping coyotes wild by removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, hazing coyotes in their neighborhood, and learning about coyote ecology and behavior.

**Attack:** A human is injured or killed by a coyote.

**Provoked** - A human-provoked attack or incident where the human involved encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include, a human intentionally approaches or feeds the coyote, dog off-leash in an on-leash area, and approaching a coyote with pups.

**Unprovoked** - An unprovoked attack or incident where the human involved does not encourage the coyote to engage.

**Pet attack:** Coyote(s) kills or injures a domestic pet.

**Attended animal loss or injury** - When a person is within 6' of the pet and the pet is on a leash and is attacked and injured by a coyote.

**Unattended animal loss or injury** - Pet is free-roaming, walking off-leash more than six feet from a person, or on a leash longer than six feet.

**Encounter:** An unexpected, direct meeting between human and a coyote(s) with no physical contact that is without incident.

**Feeding:**

**Intentional feeding** - A resident or business actively and intentionally feeds coyotes.

**Unintentional feeding** - A resident or business is unintentionally providing access to food (e.g. accessible compost, fallen fruit from trees, left open sheds and doors, pet food left outdoors, etc.).

**Unintentional feeding** – Bird feeders: A resident or business with bird feeders may provide food for coyotes (e.g. birds, bird food, rodents, and squirrels). Bird feeders must be kept high enough from the ground so a coyote is unable to reach the feeding animals. The area under the bird feeder must be kept clean and free of residual bird food.

**Hazing:** Training method that employs immediate use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing techniques include loud noises, spraying water, bright lights, throwing objects, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces

such as backyards and play spaces. Hazing does not damage animals, humans, or property.

**Threat Incident:** A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: approaches a human and growls, bares teeth, or lunges; injures or kills an attended domestic animal. A human is not injured.

**Stalking Incident:** A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: follows a person with or without an attended pet on a leash. A human is not injured.

**Observation:** The act of noticing signs of a coyote(s), such as tracks, scat, or vocalizations, but without visual observation of the coyote(s).

**Sighting:** A visual observation of a coyote(s). A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.

**Unsecured trash:** Trash that is accessible to wildlife (e.g. individual garbage cans, bags, uncovered/open dumpsters, trash cans over-flowing, or trash scattered is outside the receptacle).



## Appendix B

### Coyote Behavior, Behavior Classification, and Recommended Response

Coyote Behavior	Classification	Recommended Response
Coyote heard	Level Green (Observation)	Provide education materials and info on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen moving through the area	Level Green (Sighting)	Provide education materials and info on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen resting in the area	Level Green (Sighting)	Educate on hazing techniques and tips.
Coyote seen resting in a public area with people present	Level Yellow (Sighting)	If area frequented by people, educate on normal behavior and haze to encourage the coyote to leave. Look for and eliminate attractants.
Coyote entering a yard to a home without pets	Level Yellow (Sighting)	Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, provide hazing info.
Coyote entering a yard to a home with pets	Level Yellow (Encounter)	Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, hazing info, pet safety.
Coyote entering the yard or home and injuring or killing pet w/o people present	Level Orange (Pet attack)	Gather info on specific animals involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, pet safety. Lethal removal will be considered.
Coyote biting or injuring unattended pet/pet on a leash longer than 6'	Level Orange (Pet attack)	Gather info on specific animals involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, pet safety. Lethal removal will be considered.
Coyote following or approaching a person w/o pet (Stalking)	Level Red (Encounter)	Gather info on the specific animal involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety. Lethal removal recommended.
Coyote following or approaching a person & pet (Stalking)	Level Red (Encounter)	Gather info on the specific animal involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety. Lethal removal recommended.
Coyote entering the yard or home with people & pets present, no injury occurring	Level Red (Encounter)	Gather info on the specific animals involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety. Lethal removal recommended.
Coyote biting or injuring attended pet/pet on leash 6' or less	Level Red (Pet attack)	Gather info on the specific animals involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety. Lethal removal recommended.
Coyote aggressive, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping w/o contact with or w/o pets present	Level Red (Threat)	Gather info on the specific animal involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety. Lethal removal recommended.
Coyote biting or injuring a person	Level Red (Attack)	Identify and gather information on the specific animal involved, document and report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety. City staff will inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Lethal removal recommended.

## **Appendix C**

### **Overview of Hazing**

Human behavior can shape animal behavior, in either a negative or positive manner. People living in close proximity to coyotes can remove coyote attractants, identify potentially dangerous situations for their pets and themselves, and respond in a manner designed to change coyote behavior.

Hazing is a process whereby individuals and volunteers respond in like manner to make a coyote uncomfortable and choose to leave a situation where their presence is unwanted.

**Basic hazing** consists of standing your ground, never ignoring or turning your back to a coyote(s), yelling and making unpleasant and frightening noises until the animal(s) choose to leave.

**More aggressive hazing** consists of approaching an animal quickly and aggressively, throwing projectiles, spraying with a hose or water gun, and the strategic safe use of paintball guns, all of which are used for creating fear of contact so the animal leaves the situation.

**Hazing must continue once it begins until the animal leaves**, otherwise, the coyote will learn to “wait” until the person gives up. Not following through with hazing will create an animal more resistant to hazing instead of reinforcing the image that “people are scary.”

**Hazing should never injure the animal.** An injured animal becomes less predictable versus a normal, healthy one who responds in a consistent and predictable manner to hazing.

**Hazing should be conducted in a manner that allows the coyote to return to its normal habitat** in a direction that would minimize harm to the animal. Hazing the animal in the direction of other houses and busy streets should be avoided.

Hazing uses a variety of different hazing tools. This is critical as coyotes get used to individual items and sounds.

- Noisemaker: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, “shaker” cans, pots, pie pans
- Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls
- Deterrents: hoses, spray bottles with vinegar, pepper spray, bear repellent, walking sticks

A common concern with hazing involves potential danger to the hazer. A coyote’s basic nature is very skittish and the nature of the species is what makes this technique successful. A normal, healthy coyote will not escalate a situation with an aggressive person. Hazing is NOT successful with every species of wild animal because different types of animals have different traits.

## Appendix D

### Coyote Yard Audit Checklist

Items	OK	FIX	Ways to Mitigate
FOOD			Never hand-feed or intentionally feed a coyote
Pet Food			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
Water Sources			Remove water attractants (such as pet water bowls) in dry climates.
Bird Feeders			Remove bird feeders or clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.
Fallen Fruit			Clean up fallen fruit around trees.
Compost			Do not include meat or dairy among compost contents unless fully enclosed.
BBQ Grills			Clean up food around barbeque grills after each use.
Trash			Secure all trash containers with locking lids and place curbside the morning of trash pickup. Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors.
Landscaping			Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places and potential denning sites.
Structures/ Outbuildings			Restrict access under decks and sheds, around woodpiles, or any other structure that can provide cover or denning sites for coyotes or their prey.
*Fencing			Enclose property with an 8-foot fence (or a 6-foot fence with an additional extension or roller-top) to deter coyotes. Ensure that there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground 6 inches or is fitted with a mesh apron to deter coyotes from digging underneath.
Pets			Never leave pets unattended outside. Never allow pets to “play” with coyotes. Fully enclose outdoor pet kennels. Walk pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length.

We encourage you to take steps to eliminate attractants on your property to minimize conflicts with coyotes. We also urge you to share this information with friends and neighbors because minimizing conflicts is most effective when the entire neighborhood works together.

## Appendix E

### Coyote Incident Report Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Interaction: \_\_\_\_\_ Duration of Interaction: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reporting Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Reporting Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Reporting Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Interaction: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Type: Park\_\_ Commercial Property\_\_ Residential Property\_\_ Natural Preserve\_\_ Vacant Land\_\_ Other\_\_

Specify Name of Location: \_\_\_\_\_

(E.g. Golf Course, Glazier Park, School, etc.)

Type of Interaction: Observation\_\_ Sighting\_\_ Encounter\_\_ Incident\_\_ Pet Attack Attended\_\_ Pet Attack Unattended\_\_

Human Attack Provoked\_\_ Human Attack Unprovoked\_\_ (See Definitions Below)

Activity of reporting party prior to interaction \_\_\_\_\_

(E.g. walking, running, riding bike, etc.)

Was the coyote being intentionally fed? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Was there pet food present? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Was unsecured garbage present? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Were other food attractants present? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ (e.g. bird see, compost, fruit, etc.)

Was a pet involved? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Type of pet: Cat\_\_ Dog\_\_ Other\_\_

Breed and weight of pet: \_\_\_\_\_

Was pet on a leash? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ If yes, was leash longer than 6 Ft? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Description of interaction/what happened: \_\_\_\_\_

Actions taken by reporting party: \_\_\_\_\_

(E.g. ran away, hazed, none, etc.)

How did coyote respond? \_\_\_\_\_

(E.g. ran away, approached, etc.)

**For Official Use Only:**

Outcome of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Human injuries: \_\_\_\_\_ Pet Killed: Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Coyote injuries: \_\_\_\_\_ Coyote euthanized: Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Coyote necropsy results: \_\_\_\_\_

Stomach contents: Human food: Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Sign of disease: Yes\_\_ No\_\_ If Yes, Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DEFINITIONS:**

**Observation:** The act of noticing signs of a coyote(s), such as tracks, scat, or vocalizations, but without visual observation of the coyote(s).

**Sighting:** A visual observation of a coyote(s). A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.

**Encounter:** A direct meeting that is between human and coyote(s) with no physical contact and that is without incident.

**Incident:** A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits any of the following behaviors: growling, baring teeth, lunging or making physical contact with a person. A human is not bitten.

**Human Attack:** A human is bitten by a coyote(s).

**Provoked:** An attack where the involved human encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include a human hand-feeding a coyote, approaching a coyote with pups or intervening in a coyote attack on a pet.

**Unprovoked:** An attack where the involved human does not encourage the coyote to engage.

**Pet Attack:** Coyote(s) kills or injures a domestic pet.

**Attended:** When a person is within 6' of the pet and the pet is on a leash and is attacked and injured by a coyote.

**Unattended:** Pet is free-roaming, walking off-leash more than six feet from a person, or on a leash longer than six feet.

**Livestock Loss/Depredation:** Coyote(s) kills or injures livestock.

## Appendix F

### References

City of Arcadia

<https://www.arcadiaca.gov/home/showdocument?id=10024>

City of Downey

<http://www.downeyca.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=9111>

City of Huntington Beach Coyote Management Plan

[https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/files/users/admin\\_pio/Coyote\\_Management\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/files/users/admin_pio/Coyote_Management_Plan.pdf)

City of Long Beach Coyote Management Plan

[http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/acs/media-library/documents/wildlife/living-with-urban-coyote/long-beach-coyote-management\\_final-11-3-15/](http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/acs/media-library/documents/wildlife/living-with-urban-coyote/long-beach-coyote-management_final-11-3-15/)

City of Torrance Coyote Management Plan

<https://www.torranceca.gov/home/showdocument?id=48696>

The Humane Society of the United States

<https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/HSUS%20Coyote%20Mgt%20Plan%202019.pdf>