



CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

4045 Palos Verdes Drive North
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
(310) 377-1577

www.RollingHillsEstatesCA.gov

Rolling Hills Estates Coyote Management Plan

Executive Summary

The intent of this Plan is to provide guidance for City staff in dealing with coyotes in Rolling Hills Estates. Guidelines and provision within this plan do not supersede federal, state and country regulations and policies. Furthermore, this plan does not apply to residents, businesses or homeowner associations in pursuit of their legal rights in dealing with coyotes.

City strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect and protection for wildlife and their habitats without compromising public safety. This Management Plan, based upon research and best known management practices, supports the strategy by using a three-pronged approach:

- 1) Public education designed around co-existence with coyotes.
- 2) Enforcement of laws and regulations prohibiting the feeding of wildlife.
- 3) Ensuring public safety by implementing appropriate tiered responses to coyote and human interactions. This plan requires active participation on the part of the entire community including residents, homeowners associations, volunteers and City personnel.

The City of Rolling Hills Estates do not own or have any control of wild animals found within its boundaries, nor is the City responsible for the actions or damage caused by them. These animals are a common and important integral part of our ecosystem.

Law Enforcement Officers or City personnel does not respond to calls for service for normal coyote behavior, such as sightings. Law Enforcement will respond to calls which involve an immediate public safety issue.

Difficulties Managing Wildlife

Although Rolling Hills Estates places a high value on its wildlife, some species adapted to urban environments have the potential for problems and/or conflicts in specific situations. In addressing problems, the City 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 disperse to other locations where they may cause problems to humans, be involved in territorial disputes or introduce disease. In some instances, the translocated coyote will go to great lengths to return to its previous territory. For these reasons, the CDFW rarely allows relocation of wildlife.

As a last resort, lethal control measures are controversial and non-selective. If they are used, they must be humane and in compliance with federal and state laws. It is not economically, ecologically nor in other ways justified to attempt to remove all coyotes from the urban ecosystem as a means of addressing conflicts between humans and coyotes.



The Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

Where are coyotes from?

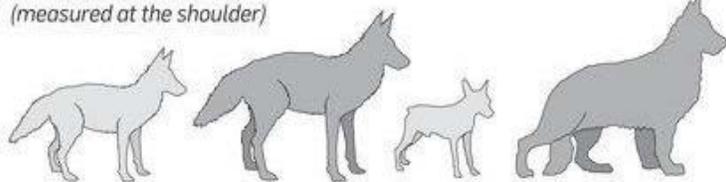
The Western coyote is originally native to California and several other western states. Due to their intelligence, adaptability, the decline of larger animals and urban sprawl, coyotes have successfully expanded their range. They are now found in all states except Hawaii and have successfully established themselves in every urban ecosystem across North America.

What do coyotes look like?

On the upper parts of their body, coyote pelts vary from gray-brown to yellow-gray. Their backs have tawny-colored under fur and long overcoats with black-tipped guardhairs. The latter forms a dorsal stripe and dark band over their shoulders. Throat and bellies tend to be buff or white. Forelegs, sides of the head, muzzle and feet are reddish brown. Coyotes have long legs, small paws, large pointed ears and a pointed snout. Weighing between 15 to 40 pounds, their long legs and thick fur make them appear larger.



Average weight and height
(measured at the shoulder)



Western coyote

Weight: 20-30 lbs.
Height: 18 inches

Eastern coyote

Weight: 30-40 lbs.
Height: 24 inches

Miniature pinscher

Weight: 8-20 lbs.
Height: 12 inches

German shepherd

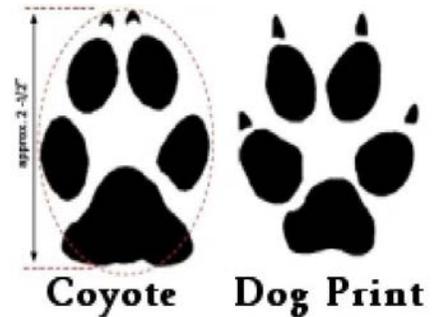
Weight: 85-95 lbs.
Height: 26 inches

THE STAR-LEDGER

Source: Jonathan Way, Eastern Coyote Research,
American Kennel Club, dogsindepth.com, NJ
Division of Fish and Wildlife

How do you know where coyotes are?

If you do not directly see a coyote, you may notice paw prints or scat (feces) left behind or even may hear them. Their prints are similar to dogs and difficult to tell apart. However, unlike dogs, their scat is rope-like and typically filled with hair, seeds and bones. Coyotes use scat to communicate and often deposit it in the middle of a trail or edge of their territory where it is easily seen. Coyotes howl, bark or whine – usually to communicate with each other.



How and where do coyotes live?

Coyotes may live alone, in pairs, or in family groups with one breeding pair, generally mating once a year, usually January through February. Social organization and group size are highly correlated with food availability. The rest of the group is comprised of multiple generations of offspring. Pups are born March through May. The entire group protects the pups though pup mortality averages between 50 and 70% in the first year. Litter size depends on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area.

Although a litter varies from two to 12 pups, the average is six or seven. Pups remain in the den the first six weeks and then travel with the adults. By the fall months, they are more independent, yet, may still travel with parents and siblings.

Because coyotes are socially organized, the group raises the young and defends their territory from other coyotes. Territories do not overlap. Although they generally live in groups, coyotes often travel alone or in pairs.

In the urban areas, most coyotes live in large parks, golf courses, greenways and natural open space where they find food and cover. Thus, their territory may follow the park or open space boundaries. They are extremely adaptable in creating territories under a wide range of urban conditions.

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, gophers and other small animals. Coyotes also prey on “mesopredators” such as raccoons and opossums. Without having a top predator like the coyote to keep them in check, these mesopredators can dramatically effect important wildlife like reducing bird populations by eating their eggs. Coyotes also disperse seeds of native plant species and recycle nutrients.

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 coyote description encounters). The wide range in perceptions of urban coyotes from Rolling Hills Estates residents supports the need for strong and consistent educational messages to clarify management techniques.

Have coyote numbers increased in Rolling Hills Estates?

Without tracking and updated inventories, it is difficult to know if the number of coyotes has increased in an 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 regularly roam an area of about 3-6 square miles or whatever it takes to get enough food for the pack members. Normally, each pack is a territorial family group that varies in number from 3 to 10 individuals. A portion of the area the pack inhabits is the pack’s territory, which they defend from other coyotes. The number of mature coyotes in the pack is linked to the amount of food resources in the territory.

A coyote pack usually has one breeding (or alpha) female. This female produces many more puppies than are ultimately wanted in the pack. Young coyotes may leave the pack 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 pack members and

leave the pack.

Transients move all over in narrow undefended zones that exist between pack 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 culling 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, the resulting effect may result in ovulation in other breeding-age females in the pack and an increase in the number of litters as well as the number of pups per litter.



Public Education and Outreach

Education is the key to having residents make appropriate decisions regarding their safety or managing their property and pets. Education involves getting the message out in various ways from social media to direct mail flyers. Educational tools will also include signage that will warn pet owners of the presence of coyotes. The goal of education is to decrease attractants, increase pet safety, and reshape coyote behavior through hazing and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior.

Learning how to respond to a coyote encounter empowers residents and can help reduce undesired coyote behaviors. The public should understand what normal coyote behavior is when living in close proximity with coyotes. For example, vocalization is normal acceptable behavior and does not indicate aggression. Education and outreach efforts by the City should focus on:

- Understanding human safety, pet safety, coyote attractants, deterrents to coyotes on private property, including appropriate fencing, exclusion techniques, “what to do” tips, and information on appropriate hazing techniques.
- Developing a common language and awareness of normal versus abnormal behavior when discussing encounters with coyotes (see definitions in Appendix A)

- Disseminating information to residents, businesses and schools through the City’s website, social media, flyers/handouts, mailers, etc.
- Consulting with organizations like the Land Conservancy, other non-profit organizations like the Humane Society of the United States and agencies like the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department – Pest Management Division that provide public education materials, programs and expertise.

Coyote Attractants in Urban Areas

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

1. Food. Urban areas often support large numbers of rodents, including 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:

- Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote.
- Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove sources of pet food and water that a coyote could easily obtain. If feeding pets outside is necessary, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly.
- Never include meat or dairy in compost.
- Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders.
- Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and explored.
- Bag especially attractive food wastes, 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 storm water impoundments and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, pet water dishes, etc., which support both coyotes and their prey.

- During drought or otherwise 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. Pets are a normal part of an urban landscape. Within their territory, coyotes may consider pets as potential prey or potential competitors.

- Free-roaming pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to minimize risk to pets is to not leave them outside unattended.
- Cats. Coyotes primarily eat small mammals, but will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit, free-roaming outdoor cats may also be seen as eligible prey items by coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on cats are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people. The best way to protect cats from coyotes (and the other dangers of outside life, such as cars, disease, dogs and other wildlife) is to keep cats primarily indoors and only let them outside in a secure enclosure or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness.
- 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 the outdoor pet food. Although there is no sure way to protect feral cats from coyotes, the following tips can be helpful:
 - Do not feed feral cats. Doing so can have other unintentional consequences, including ecological damage.
 - Provide escape routes for cats.
 - Haze coyotes seen on the property (see Appendix C). Making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.
- Dogs. Dogs are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes who are accustomed or habituated to people (usually from feeding), or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season).
 - Small, unattended dogs may be seen by coyotes as potential prey. It is important, therefore, to either keep dogs on a six-foot long or shorter leash when outdoors or to stay within six feet of them when on your property. (Coyotes may view a dog on a

leash longer than six feet as an unattended pet.) This is especially important if you are in or near nature preserves or open-space areas. Attacks on unattended, small dogs are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger to people.

- Although attacks on larger dogs are rarer, 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.
- Do not allow dogs off leash, off your property. It is against the law and unsafe for your dog.

Other domestic animals kept outside, such as chickens, may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect outdoor animals from coyotes (and other predators) with protective fencing and/or confine them in sturdy cages each evening.

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.

While human attacks 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. Steps must be taken to address safety concerns and misconceptions and appropriate responses to potential threats to human safety. It's important to keep in mind that coyotes have been in and around Los Angeles (and other parts of Southern California), interacting with and being seen by people, for as long as the City has existed.

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 a habituated coyote(s) resulting in increases in coyote and human interactions. California law and Rolling Hills Estates Municipal Code Chapter 6.05 generally prohibits feeding wildlife.

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, and Appendix B provides a chart detailing coyote behavior, behavior classification and recommended responses.

Hazing and Behavioral Change

Some coyotes have become too comfortable in the close 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.

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 (see Appendix C for coyote hazing overview).

The goals of hazing are to:

- Reshape coyote behavior to avoid human contact in an urban setting.
- Give residents tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support feeling safe in their parks and neighborhoods.
- Model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes with other residents, friends and family.

Hazing Process

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.

Behavioral change and hazing includes the following:

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

Overview of Hazing

Hazing is a process whereby a number of individuals encountering a coyote 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, or creating fear of contact so the animal leaves the situation. For more options see Appendix C on hazing.

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.

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.

Trapping of Coyotes

According to State laws, coyotes are considered “non-game wildlife”, therefore any resident or homeowner association can initiate, at their own expense, action to protect themselves and their property from coyote attacks. However, Proposition 4, passed by California voters in 1998, prohibits leg-hold traps statewide and severely restricts use of other body gripping traps. Per Rolling Hills Estates Municipal Code 9.04:

“No person may shoot, fire or discharge any pistol, rifle, gun or other firearm or any pistol, rifle or gun operated by compressed air, or a spring device including, but not limited to, B.B. or pellet guns, not necessary in self-defense, or in performance of an official duty within the city.”

Residents have the ability to initiate, at their own expense, trapping and removal of coyotes. The City has entered into contract with the County of Los Angeles to provide inspections and, if warranted, trapping services in the City only when it has been determined by the City that an “aggressive” coyote exists.

As it is well known, trapping and the resulting euthanization of a coyote is not as effective as other methods of hazing contact with coyotes as discussed within this plan, the City shall be the one to determine if a case needs to be brought to the

County's attention or simply additional education instruction is needed. If the County is contacted because there is a report of a coyote that may be "aggressive" and cause concern for the public's safety, the County will still conduct their own assessment based upon their expertise to determine if trapping should occur.

If a resident is concerned with coyotes in their area, the City recommends following the guidelines in this plan and other handout material in decreasing attractants and increasing pet safety in order to help shape coyote behavior to avoid human contact. If there is still elevated concern, residents should contact the County of Los Angeles.

Other Coyote Control Methods

The vast majority of coyote control efforts rely first on education and awareness, then on trapping; however, in extremely rare instances shooting coyotes outright is an option available by the City's contract through the County of Los Angeles.

Officials that use firearm for this purpose have completed POST 832 training and receive annual firearms training and are provide the necessary authority for use of firearms by California Penal Code 12031 and LA County Code 13.66.010.

The mere presence of coyotes in an area is not sufficient to initiate attempts at direct suppression and these measures are not used for the purposes of general coyote population reduction.

Appendix A

Definitions on Encounters with Coyotes

Active coexistence: Humans and coyotes exist together. Communities decide on community space, such as open spaces, where coyotes are appropriate and do not haze, feed, or interact with them in these areas. Humans take an active role in keeping coyotes in their community wild by learning about coyote ecology and behavior, removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, and hazing coyotes in neighborhood or community spaces (except for predetermined coyote appropriate areas).

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 dog off-leash in an on-leash area; dog on leash longer than 6' in length, or a human intentionally approaches or feeds the coyote.

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

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

Domestic animal loss or injury: A coyote injures or kills a pet animal. Also includes "depredation" - predation on domestic pets or livestock. Unattended animal loss or injury is normal behavior for a coyote.

Encounter: An unexpected, direct meeting between a human and a coyote that is without incident.

Feeding:

Intentional feeding - A resident or business actively and intentionally feeds coyotes including intentionally providing food for animals in the coyote food chain.

Unintentional feeding - A resident or business is unintentionally providing access to food. Examples such as accessible compost, fallen fruit from trees, left open sheds and doors, pet food left outdoors, among others.

Unintentional feeding – bird feeders: A resident or business with bird feeders that may provide food for coyotes, e.g. birds, bird food, rodents, 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, 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.

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.

Levels of animal contact

Level 1: A coyote that has been involved in an investigated and documented unprovoked attack on a human. Targeted education and hazing needed public awareness of incident and circumstances discussed, lethal response may be appropriate.

Level 2: A coyote that has been involved in an investigated and documented provoked attack on a human with no pet involved. Evaluate circumstances and human safety, provide education and hazing training, enhance public awareness of incident and circumstances. Lethal response may be appropriate.

Level 3: A coyote is involved in an incident(s) and/or an attended domestic animal loss. Education and hazing needed, public awareness of incident and circumstances discussed.

Level 4: A coyote appears to frequently associate with humans or human related food sources, and exhibits little wariness of people presence, including unattended domestic animal loss. Education and hazing needed, public awareness of incident and circumstances discussed.

Observation: The act of noticing or taking note of tracks, scat or vocalizations.

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 or uncovered or open dumpsters or trash cans over-flowing or where scattered trash is outside the receptacle.

Appendix B

Coyote Behavior, Behavior Classification and Recommended Response

Report Coyote encounters, incidents and attacks to Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department – Pest Management Division at (626) 575-5462.

Coyote Action	Classification	Response
Coyote heard	Observation	Note sighting –tracked as normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen moving in an area	Sighting	Note sighting. Learn proper hazing techniques. Tracked as normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen resting in an area	Sighting	If area frequented by people, learn proper hazing techniques to encourage animal to leave. Look for and eliminate attractants
Coyote following or approaching a person and a pet	Sighting -Encounter	Know and exercise proper hazing techniques and pet management – pets should be kept on leash. Do not turn your back; face the coyote and carefully back away slowly.
Coyote following or approaching a person without a pet (stalking)	Encounter	Know and exercise proper hazing techniques. Do not turn your back; face the coyote and carefully back away slowly.
Coyote entering a yard	Encounter	Complete a yard audit and remove attractants. Know and understand proper hazing techniques. If you have pets, review pet management for their safety.
Coyote entering yard and injuring or killing pet	Incident	Work with neighbors to aggressively haze coyotes, gather info on specific animals involved, report on circumstances, conduct yard and neighborhood audits, remove coyote attractants in yard and neighborhood, encourage pet safety for all in neighborhood.
Coyote biting or injuring pet on leash	Incident	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances, conduct yard and neighborhood audits, remove coyote attractants in yard and neighborhood, encourage pet safety for all in neighborhood. Trapping may be necessary.
Coyote aggressive showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without contact	Threat	Gather info on situation, report circumstances, conduct yard and neighborhood audits, remove coyote attractants in yard and neighborhood, encourage pet safety for all in neighborhood. Trapping may be necessary.
Coyote biting or injuring person	Attack	IN PROCESS ATTACK – REPORT TO 911 Identify and gather information on specific animal involved. Report circumstance to County Department and City staff. City will inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Trapping may be necessary.

Appendix C

Hazing Overview and General Considerations

1. Levels of hazing need to be appropriately relevant to coyote activity.
 - 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.
 - c) Exceptions: In early stages of hazing, programs should still engage the animal. Coyotes that associate danger in the presence of people under all circumstances will be reinforced to avoid contact.
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 animals. Usually, there is a dominant animal in a group who will respond—others will follow its lead. DO NOT ignore, turn your back or avoid hazing because there are multiple animals 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 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 toward 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 should remove themselves from the situation, and then contact Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department – Pest Management Division at (626) 575—5462.

Wildlife Watch

Because coexisting with wildlife involves the community, the City is partnering with the California State Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement their pilot program called Wildlife Watch. The intent of the program is to enhance education to the community about ways to curb coyote populations from increasing and causing a public safety threat. It is a holistic approach in that it engages the community, staff and different contract agencies (Sheriff, Animal Care and Control, neighboring cities etc.).

Community leaders, such as Neighborhood Watch members, homeowners association board members and others should be a part of the program to help engage their neighbors. Information should be available through this program to include basic training on background, coyote ecology information, ways to safeguard properties and neighborhoods, and 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.

Wildlife Watch 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.

Hazing requires by necessity community involvement, understanding and support. Residents are best equipped to respond consistently and at the most opportune times in their own neighborhoods, parks and open spaces not identified as nature reserves.

Summary of Hazing

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 near the animal, spraying with a hose or water gun containing water or white vinegar, or creating fear of contact so the animal leaves the situation. Note: Many projectiles are not legal, including but not limited to slingshots, paintballs, guns and pepper balls.

Hazing must continue once it begins until the animal leaves. Otherwise, the coyote will learn to “wait” until the person gives up. The coyote will create an animal more resistance 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.

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

Note, this video made by Wisconsin’s Public Health Madison & Dane County Department of Public Health is a helpful resource on how to properly haze coyotes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIC8KTDilRs#>



Appendix D

Home & Yard Checklist for Wildlife

Complete the checklist to identify areas on your property that may need improvements to reduce wildlife, such as coyotes, opossums, skunks, raccoons, etc. on your property and in your neighborhood; improve any condition for which you check the box. Eliminate attractants on your property in order to minimize conflicts with wildlife. Share this information with your friends and neighbors because minimizing conflicts is most effective when the entire neighborhood works together.

COMMON ATTRACTANTS	Checkbox	CONDITIONS OR HABITS THAT MAY ATTRACTION WILDLIFE
FOOD SOURCES		
Never hand-feed or intentionally feed wildlife animals!		
Pet Food	Check	Do you feed your animal outside or leave food outside unattended? Do you leave pet treats or bones out?
Water Sources		Do you have pet water bowls or unnecessary water sources on your property, or fish ponds without nets covering the water?
Bird Feeders		Do you have bird feeders with fallen seed on the ground which could attract bird for wildlife to prey on?
Fallen Fruit		Do you have fallen fruit around trees that can be a food source?
Compost		Do you include meat or dairy products within compost contents that could attract or feed wildlife? Other food attractants?
BBQ Grills		Is your barbeque grill uncleaned with food or wrappers left out?
Trash		Do you leave your trash containers out? With lids open? (Periodically clean cans to reduce residual food or trash odors)
LANDSCAPING		
Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places and potential denning sites.		
Structures and Out Buildings		Do you have an access space under a house, deck or shed, or around woodpiles, or any other structure that can provide cover or denning sites for wildlife or their prey?
FENCING		
Enclose property with a 6-foot fence to deter wildlife from entering your yard. Consider placing rollers on top of fencing, fit gaps and spaces with metal mesh (like hardware cloth) and bury at least 2 feet down along the perimeter to deter the animal from digging deep.		
Fencing Around Yards		Do low fences, walls, or gates enable wildlife to enter your yard?
Gates		Do you leave gates open through which wildlife can enter your yard?
PETS AND ANIMALS		
Never leave pets unattended outside. Keep pets leashed when out. Keep other animals in secure enclosures.		
Pet/Wildlife Interaction		Do you permit your pets to “play” or interact with wildlife?
Kennels/Coops		Do you have an outdoor pet kennel/coops that are not fully enclosed?
Walking Pets on Leash		Do you sometimes walk your pet on a long leash or no leash? (Pets can be snatched by wildlife if not watched on a short leash)
Animal Waste		At home, do you sometimes or often fail to clean up after your pet or leave animal waste in your yard? (Wildlife animals are attracted to areas where animal waste is present because of the potential food source of the waste producing animal.)