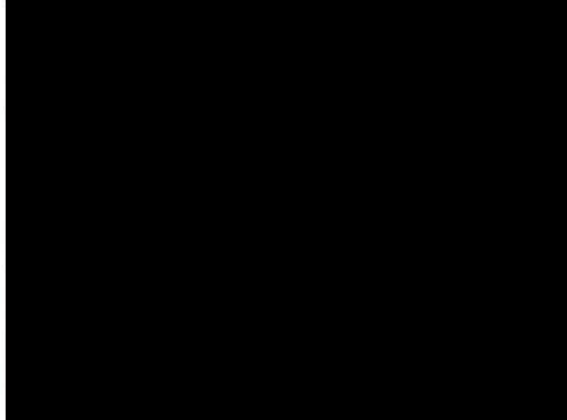


COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Coyote Management Plan

Goals

The goal of this Management Plan is to support coexistence with urban coyotes using education, behavior modification and development of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior. The tiered response requires active participation on the part of the entire community including residents, homeowners associations, volunteers and city personnel.

This Management Plan is based on research and best known management practices and includes a full spectrum of management tools. Basic principles that guide this Plan are based on the following:

1. Urban wildlife is valued for biological diversity, as members of natural ecosystems, and reminders of larger global conservation issues.
2. Urban wildlife and wildlife habitats are important to Rancho Palos Verdes residents. Although urban environments are more favorable to some species than others, coexistence is the foundation of City's general wildlife management programs.
3. Human safety is a priority in managing wildlife/human conflicts that pose a danger to people.
4. Preventive practices such as, reduction and removal of wildlife attractants, habitat manipulation (e.g. removal of potential coyote denning areas), and responding appropriately during human and wildlife interactions when interacting with wildlife are key to minimizing potential human conflicts.
5. Rancho Palos Verdes management techniques and decisions are based on a thorough understanding of the biology and ecology of urban wildlife species.
6. Education and communication are essential in supporting human and animal needs and coexistence.
7. Emphasis of this Management Plan is placed on preventative measures and nonlethal controls.

Difficulties Managing Wildlife

Although Rancho Palos Verdes 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.

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 and require prior approval by the City.

Limits of this Management Plan

The intent of this Management Plan is to provide guidance for City Staff and Homeowners in dealing with coyotes in Rancho Palos Verdes. Guidelines and provisions of this plan do not supersede federal, state and county regulations and policies. Furthermore, the provisions of this Management Plan do not apply to Rancho Palos Verdes residents in pursuit of their legal rights in dealing with coyotes.



The Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

Where are coyotes from?

Coyotes are 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.



Coyote dispersal range

What do coyotes look like?

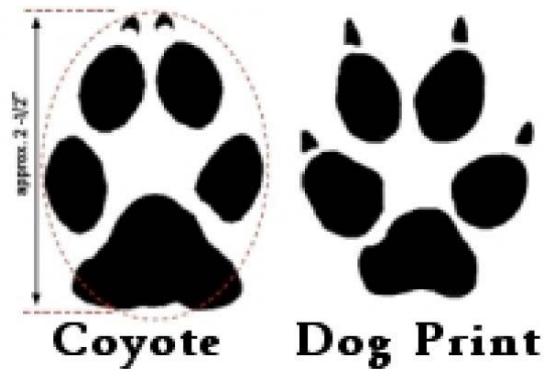
On the upper parts of their body, coyote pelts vary from gray-brown to yellow-gray. Their backs have tawny-colored under fur and long overcoats with black-tipped guard hairs. The latter forms a dorsal stripe and dark band over their shoulders. Throat and bellies tend to be buff or white. Forelegs, sides 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.





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 end of summer; 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, rats, gophers and other small animals. Rodents make up a majority of their diet. Areas with resident coyotes often report a decrease in rodents and geese populations.

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 Rancho Palos Verdes residents supports the need for strong and consistent educational messages to clarify management techniques.

Have coyote numbers increased in Rancho Palos Verdes?

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, like all predators, will stabilize their populations if they are not constantly exploited. 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. The pack system keeps coyotes from getting too numerous because the packs defend the area they need to survive.

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 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.

How do humans affect coyote behavior?

Cities may support larger populations of animals in close proximity to people for the following reasons:

- 1) Increased access to food. People provide easy access to large supplies of food by leaving pet food, bird seed, unsecure compost or trash and fallen fruits in yards. Unintentional and intentional feeding of coyotes may encourage bold behavior and increase aggression towards people and pets. Intentional feeding can lead coyotes to see people as a source of food.
- 2) Increased access to water. Year round water supplies in cities from man-made ponds, lakes, irrigation, pet water dishes, etc. increase water for prey animal and coyotes.
- 3) Increased potential shelter. Parks, open spaces, golf course buildings, vehicles, sheds, decks, crawl spaces, among others increase the amount and variability of coyote shelters. They can safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes and businesses without detection.



- 4) Increased exposure to pets. Pets are a normal part of an urban landscape and to urban coyotes they are considered other animals in their habitats. Pets can be considered potential prey or a potential competitor in coyote territory.

While human attacks are very rare, urban landscape development, habituation through intentional and intentional 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.

Feeding Coyotes?

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.



City, County, and State laws prohibit feeding wildlife. According to Section 6.04.020 of the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code, the City has adopted, by reference, the Los Angeles County Animal Control Section 10.84.010 which states that *no person shall feed or in any manner provide food to any peafowl, crow, pigeon, seagull, nondomesticated rodent, including tree squirrels or ground squirrels, or to a nondomesticated mammalian predator, including coyote (emphasis added), foxes, opossums, skunks and raccoons.*

Furthermore, California Code of Regulations Title 14 states:

§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.



The City's Code Enforcement Division will strictly enforce all law(s) pertaining to the feeding coyotes or any prohibited activities.

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).

Goals of Hazing

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.

Hazing by itself, will NOT remove coyotes from an area for a sustained period of time. Hazing is just one tool of many to use when encountering a coyote(s). Again, hazing is not a permanent solution to remove these animals from an area. Not all coyote(s) can be hazed, when a coyote becomes habituated and no longer afraid of humans, chances are it can no longer be hazed. At that point, when confronted by a coyote(s), maintain eye contact and back away slowly.



AT A GLANCE

Larger, more wiley and much more varied in color than its Western counterpart, the Eastern coyote is a product of migration and adaptation, establishing itself in New Jersey and other urbanized Eastern areas more than 50 years ago.

Average weight and height
(measured at the shoulder)



THE STAR-LEDGER

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

Management Strategy

The City's strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect and protection for wildlife and their habitats without compromising public safety. The main strategy is comprised of a two-pronged approach consisting of public education designed around co-existence with coyotes and ensuring public safety by implementing appropriate responses to a coyote attack on a human.

Public Education and Outreach

Education is the key to having residents make appropriate decisions regarding their safety, or managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing attractants, increasing pet safety and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior. 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 with coyotes. For example, vocalization is normal acceptable behavior and does not indicate aggression. Education and outreach include:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Developing a common language and awareness of normal versus abnormal behavior when discussing encounters with coyotes (see definitions in Appendix A)



- 3) Disseminating information to residents, businesses and schools through the city's website, CTV, media newsletter, e-news, etc.
- 4) Cooperating with non-profit organizations like Project Coyote and agencies like that National Park Service that provide public education materials, programs, and expertise.
- 5) Participating in the City's Wildlife Watch Program to recognize and distinguish wildlife sightings, wildlife threats to public safety, and natural versus unnatural wildlife behavior with an emphasis on coyotes. This program requires the participation of an entire neighborhood to keep coyotes out of neighborhoods.

Attack Response Plan

An "attack" is defined as: when a human is injured or killed by a coyote (see Appendix A for definitions). If a human is attacked and physically injured by a coyote, City Staff will inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. . (See Appendix B on levels of coyote behavior).

Trapping of Coyotes

According to State laws, coyotes are considered "non-game wildlife", therefore any resident can initiate, at their own expense, action to protect themselves and their property from coyote attacks, including trapping. No private individual is authorized to discharge a firearm within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Section 9.08.010 of the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code states:

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it shall be unlawful within the boundaries of the city for any person to fire, discharge, shoot or operate or to assist or participate in firing, discharging, shooting or operating any gun, revolver, pistol, firearm, spring gun, air gun, sling, slingshot or device designed or intended to discharge or capable of discharging any dangerous missile or any cartridge, shell, ammunition or device containing any explosive substance designed or intended to be used in or fired from any gun, revolver, pistol or firearm.

Although, as stated in the previous paragraph, Residents have the ability to initiate, at their own expense, trapping and removal of coyotes. Note a private trapper must be certified/licensed by the State of California. The City has entered into contract with the County of Los Angeles to provide trapping services in the City only when it has been determined by the City that an "aggressive" coyote exists. As it is well known that trapping and the resulting euthanization of a coyote is not as effective as other methods of hazing contact with coyotes as discussed within this Management Plan, the City shall be the one to determine, based on field observations and assessing the incident, if a case needs to be brought to the County's attention or simply additional education instruction is needed. If the County is contacted by the City because the City feels that a



Coyote Management Plan

coyote may be “aggressive” and cause concern for the public’s safety, the County will still conduct their own assessment to determine if trapping should occur.

If a resident is concerned with coyotes in their area, the City recommends following the guidelines in this Management Plan and other handout material in decreasing attractants and increasing pet safety in order to help shape coyote behavior to avoid human contact. A resident may contact the City’s Code Enforcement Division if they have any questions or wish to report an aggressive coyote. Furthermore, the City’s Code Enforcement Division is trained to conduct property assessments to assist property owners in minimizing coyote attractants.



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 Tiered Response Chart

Coyote Action	Classification	City and/or Resident Response
Coyote heard	Observation	Distribute educational materials and info on normal coyote behavior
Coyote seen moving in area	Sighting	Distribute education materials and info on normal coyote behavior
Coyote seen resting in area	Sighting	If area frequented, educate people on normal behavior, haze to encourage animal to leave
Coyote following or approaching a person & pet	Sighting Encounter	Educate on potential hazing techniques, what to do tips and pet management
Coyote following or approaching a person w/o pet	Encounter	Educate on potential hazing techniques, what to do tips and pet management
Coyote entering a yard without pets	Sighting	Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, hazing info
Coyote entering a yard with pets	Encounter	Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, hazing info, pet management
Coyote entering yard and injuring or killing pet	Incident	Develop hazing team in area, gather info on specific animals involved, report on circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard and neighborhood audits, pet management. Consult with all appropriate agencies, document the results, and consider possible trapping.
Coyote entering yard with people & pets, no injury occurring	Encounter	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, pet management
Coyote biting or injuring pet on leash	Incident	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/ neighborhood audits, hazing, pet management, trapping may be necessary
Coyote aggressive, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping w/o contact	Incident	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/ neighborhood audits, hazing, pet management, trapping may be necessary, Consult with all appropriate agencies and document findings.
Coyote biting or injuring person	Attack	Identify and gather information on specific animal involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/ neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet management,. If a human is attacked and physically injured by a coyote, City staff will inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.. The offending animal will be located, and removed.necessary



Appendix C

Hazing Program

Coexistence is not a passive undertaking. The City's guiding principles are to coexist with wildlife.

Hazing and Behavioral Change

Some urban coyotes have become comfortable in close proximity to people. To safely coexist, it's important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. Urban coyote behavior needs to be reshaped to encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans and pets.

Hazing is the process that facilitates this change and is by necessity a community response to 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, 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. Behavioral change also involves human activities such as how to identify and remove attractants and how to responsibly protect pets.

Foundation of Hazing

- 1) It is not economically, ecologically or in other ways efficient to try and remove coyotes from the urban ecosystem.
- 2) 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

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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. The latter will be initiated by community volunteers.
- 3) To model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes among other residents, friends and family.



- 4) Monitor hazing to assess its effectiveness and determine if further action or more aggressive hazing is needed.
- 5) Possibly develop long-term community based hazing programs by volunteers.

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 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 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 inform appropriate agencies (i.e. California Department of Fish and Wildlife.).

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, spraying with a hose or water gun, 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.



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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.

