

CITY OF CYPRESS

COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



January 14, 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to community concerns regarding coyote activity in neighborhoods, the City Council created an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to identify effective coyote management practices utilized by surrounding communities and develop a comprehensive Coyote Management Plan.

This plan helps inform the public and provides guidance in dealing with coyotes in Cypress. The plan does not supersede federal, state and county regulations and policies. This plan does not apply to residents, businesses or homeowner associations' legal rights in dealing with coyotes.

Coyotes and the Law

State law considers coyotes “non-game wildlife”; therefore, residents can, at their own expense, protect themselves and their property from coyote attacks in accordance with state laws. NO PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL IS AUTHORIZED TO DISCHARGE A FIREARM WITHIN THE CITY OF CYPRESS.

If residents are concerned about coyotes in their area, this plan recommends reporting sightings through the City's website under the “How Do I...” tab or at www.ucanr.edu/sites/coyotecacher. IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 911.

Management Strategy

Cypress' coyote management strategy aims to respect wildlife and their habitats without compromising public safety. This strategy consists of:

- Monitoring and collecting data:

The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen and to identify human-coyote conflict hotspots. Gathering data on incidents allows for targeted educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

- Public education and outreach:

Education is key to enabling residents to make appropriate decisions regarding their safety and managing their property and pets. The goal of education and outreach is to decrease attractants, increase pet safety, and reshape coyote behavior through hazing.

- Implementation of a tiered incident response plan:

A tiered incident response plan provides a mechanism for identifying and

responding to different levels of human-coyote interactions. Circumstances of each incident are critical in determining an appropriate response and may include increased education, public meetings, and/or the potential lethal removal of the animal(s) involved. Cypress will not engage in any attempts of general culling; specific animals will be targeted when necessary.

Successful coyote management requires active participation by residents. It is important to note that the implementation of this plan will take time and effort as we work to gather information on coyote activity, educate the community, and work toward reshaping the behavior of coyotes in our community.

COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Goals

The Coyote Management Plan provides practical advice and response protocol to minimize conflicts between humans, their pets and urban coyotes. This plan proposes data collection, education, behavior modification and a tiered response to aggressive coyotes.

Based on research and best management practices, this plan includes coyote management tools guided by basic principles:

1. Human safety is the priority in managing wildlife conflicts that pose a danger to people.
2. Urban wildlife is valued for biological diversity, as members of natural ecosystems, and reminders of larger global conservation issues.
3. Urban wildlife and their habitats are important to residents and coexistence is the foundation of the City's wildlife management programs.
4. A thorough understanding of the biology and ecology of urban wildlife informs wildlife management decisions.
5. Education and communication are essential in supporting human and wildlife coexistence.
6. Preventative practices and nonlethal controls, such as reduction and removal of wildlife attractants, habitat manipulation, and behavior modification are the first response to human/wildlife conflicts.
7. Lethal controls are used only when necessary and, in the most humane manner possible.

Difficulties Managing Wildlife

The City does not own or control wildlife within its boundaries, nor is the City responsible for the actions or damage caused by them. Wildlife are a common and integral part of our ecosystem.

Cypress acknowledges the value of wildlife in our ecosystem; however, some animals that have adapted to urban environments have the potential to cause problems/conflicts in specific situations. In addressing these problems, the City promotes prevention and remedial measures that do not harm the wildlife or their habitats.

A wildlife problem is any situation that causes a health or safety issue to residents, risk to domestic pets or unacceptable damage to property. In cases where wildlife problems are associated with human behavior (e.g. leaving garbage exposed or intentional wildlife feeding), education and enforcement of local ordinances are the preferred ways to minimize conflict.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) does not allow coyotes to be trapped and relocated. Generally, relocated coyotes 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. Relocated coyotes often go to great lengths to return to their previous territory.

Lethal control measures can be challenging and controversial and are a last resort. When employed, lethal control measures must be selective (targeting only a problem coyote), humane and comply with federal and state laws.

Attempting to remove all coyotes from the urban ecosystem is not economical, ecologically sound or otherwise justified.

About Coyotes

Where are coyotes from?

Coyotes are 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 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 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 50-70% in the first year. Litter size is dependent on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area.

Although a litter varies from two to 12 pups, the average varies depending on environmental factors. 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 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. Research indicates that coyotes are extremely adaptable in creating territories under a wide range of urban conditions.

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.

What role do coyotes play in a city?

Coyotes play an important role in the urban ecosystem, particularly as a top-level predator. They eat a broad range of small animals including squirrels, mice, rabbits, rats, and gophers. Coyotes also prey on mid-level predators, such as raccoons and opossums. Coyotes can 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 influence human perceptions. Experiences range from animal sightings without incident to stalking, killing of pets or, at the extreme, an attack on a person. Coyotes attacks on humans are very infrequent. Although such incidents generate significant media coverage, they remain a very rare event (roughly less than one a year throughout California).

Because wild animals may understandably conjure up fear in some, actual sightings and perceptions may become exaggerated or misconstrued. The wide range in perceptions of urban coyotes from residents supports the need for strong and consistent educational messages to clarify management techniques.

Have coyote numbers increased in Cypress?

Currently, there are no historical records tracking the number of urban coyotes in the city or county. Without historic 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 to humans if they are intentionally or unintentionally fed, which can lead to loss of fear of people and bolder behavior.

In general, coyotes regularly roam an area of up to five square miles to obtain enough food for group members. Normally, each territorial family group is made up of three to ten individuals. The number of mature coyotes in the group is related to the amount of food resources in the territory. Coyotes, like all predators, will stabilize their populations without human interference.

How do humans affect coyote behavior?

Urban coyotes have developed a different lifestyle from coyotes in rural environments. Urban coyotes may experience increased access to food, water, and shelter as a result of their proximity to humans. Part of the coyote's success as a species is its dietary adaptability. Coyotes prefer a carnivorous diet, however they will also seek alternative food sources including small pets, pet food, bird seed, unsecure compost or trash, and fallen fruits and vegetables found in yards. Additionally, year round water supplies in

urban environments in the form of storm water impoundments and channels, man-made ponds or lakes, swimming pools, irrigation, and pet water dishes increase access to water for both coyotes and their prey. During drought or otherwise dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food. Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks and crawl spaces all increase the amount and variability of shelter for coyotes in the urban environment. These spaces and structures may allow coyotes to safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes and businesses without detection.

Pets are a normal part of an urban landscape. Within their territory, urban coyotes may consider pets as potential prey or potential competitors. Free-roaming outdoor pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. It is important to note that attacks on free-roaming outdoor pets are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for humans. The best way to minimize risk to pets is to not leave them outside unattended.

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid direct human contact. However, in an urban environment regular interaction between coyotes and people, without negative consequences for the coyotes, encourages increased comfort levels with human contact.

Management Strategies

1. Monitoring and Collecting Data

Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective coyote management plan. Monitoring relies on community efforts to report the location and type of coyote activity.

Coyote sightings or incidents can be reported through the City's website www.cypressca.org under the "How Do I..." tab or at www.ucanr.edu/sites/coyotecacher. If you encounter a sick, injured, or deceased coyote, please contact Orange County Animal Care at (714) 935-6848. OC Animal Care does not respond to calls for service for coyote sightings.

The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen and to identify human-coyote conflict hotspots. Gathering data on incidents allows for targeted educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

2. Public Education and Outreach

Education is key to enabling residents to make appropriate decisions regarding their safety and managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing attractants, increasing pet safety, educating residents on ways to change the behavior of coyotes in specific neighborhoods, and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior.

Learning how to respond to a coyote encounter empowers residents and can help reduce undesirable coyote behavior. Understanding normal behavior is important when living in close proximity with coyotes. For example, vocalization is normal acceptable behavior and does not indicate aggression.

Education and outreach efforts may include:

- Understanding human safety, pet safety, coyote attractants, deterrents to coyotes on private property, exclusion techniques, “what to do” tips, and information on appropriate hazing techniques.
- Encouraging residents to utilize available tools, such as a Yard Audit Checklist (see Appendix D), to help recognize and remove coyote attractants in their yards and neighborhoods.
- Developing a common language and awareness of normal versus abnormal behavior when discussing encounters with coyotes.
- Disseminating information to residents, businesses and schools.
- Consulting with agencies like the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or OC Animal Care that can provide public education classes, programs and expertise.

Public education and outreach may also include information and training on hazing to encourage behavioral changes in coyotes. Because of generations of non-threatening contact with humans, some coyotes have become too comfortable in close proximity of people.

For coyotes and humans to coexist, coyotes need to fear and avoid contact with humans. Hazing – also known as “fear conditioning” – is the process that facilitates this change in coyote behavior 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).

Lastly, public education and outreach may also include enforcement of local ordinances, state, and federal laws prohibiting the feeding of wildlife or harassment of animals, which includes disruption of animals’ normal behavior patterns, which includes, but is not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering. These activities can attract coyotes to an area and result in increases in coyote and human interactions.

3. Tiered Incident Response Plan

Circumstances of an incident are critical in determining response (see Appendix A for types of Coyote Encounters). A detailed tiered response plan has been developed to categorize incidents by threat level and outline an appropriate response at each level. Individual incident circumstances will determine if one-time response or continued response is required. Continued response may include increased targeted educational efforts, enforcement of local ordinances, and/or removal of the animal(s) involved.

If a human is attacked and physically injured by a coyote, the City of Cypress will work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident and remove the responsible coyote(s). Cypress will not engage in any attempts of general culling; only specific animals will be targeted. If a resident ever feels threatened by any wild animal, they should call 911 immediately.

Threat Level Tiered Response

	Incident Behavior	Incident Response Options
Level Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coyote heard in an area • Coyote sighted during day or night • Coyote seen moving through an area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage resident reporting • Encourage yard audits to remove attractants • Education on hazing techniques
Level Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coyote frequently associates with human or human-related food sources and exhibits little wariness of humans • Coyote seen during the day resting or continuously moving through an area frequented by people • Coyote frequently entering a yard with or without pets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage resident reporting • Encourage yard audits to remove attractants • Education on hazing techniques • If multiple yellow incidents occur in the same vicinity within a short amount of time, removal may be recommended
Level Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coyote incident involving an attended domestic animal loss • Coyote involving a documented threat or attack on humans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal may be recommended • If a coyote has attacked a human, California Department of Fish and Wildlife will investigate, locate and remove the offending animal

Concluding Remarks

The information and recommendations contained in this Coyote Management Plan are provided as educational and informational resources and are not guaranteed to be effective. The City is not responsible for and not liable for any damage or injuries resulting from the use of information, techniques, recommendations, or suggestions contained herein.

If removal of coyotes is determined to be appropriate, the City will use a contracted trapper and may partner with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In the event of an extreme safety situation, Cypress Police are also potential first responders.

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APPENDIX A

Definitions of Encounters with Coyotes

Active coexistence: Humans and coyotes exist together. Humans take an active role in keeping coyotes 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: An aggressive action that involves human injury by a coyote.

Provoked attack – 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 six feet in length; or a human intentionally corners, injures, tries to injure, attempts to capture or feeds the coyote.

Unprovoked attack – 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 six feet of the pet, and the pet is on leash, and is injured or killed by a coyote.

Unattended animal loss or injury: A coyote injures or kills a pet while not in the presence of a human. 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 or provides food for animals in the coyote food chain, including feral cats.

Unintentional feeding – A resident or business is unintentionally providing access to food. Examples include 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 indirectly 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 near but not at the

animal, 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 harm or damage animals, humans, or property.

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

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

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

Sighting: A visual observation of a coyote; may occur at any time – day or night.

Unsecured Trash: Trash that is accessible to wildlife, e.g. individual garbage cans, bags, 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 Resident Response

COYOTE BEHAVIOR	RESIDENT RESPONSE ACTIONS		
Attacking human (biting/injuring)			
Threatening human (baring teeth, lunging, etc)			
Biting/injuring pet (on leash less than 6ft)			
Stalking human (with or without pet)			
Biting/injuring pet (on leash over 6ft)			
Entering yard (injure/kill pets)			
Entering yard (with pets)			
Entering yard (no pets)			
Seen resting (near humans)			
Seen resting			
Seen moving			
Heard			
	Report incident & review educational materials	Report incident, review educational materials, conduct yard and/or neighborhood audits, implement hazing techniques	Report incident, review educational materials, conduct audits, continue hazing, install yard safety tools or equipment (i.e. fence rollers)

APPENDIX B

Coyote Behavior, Behavior Classification and Recommended Resident Response

Coyote Action	Classification	Response
Coyote heard	Observation Level Green	Review educational materials and info on normal coyote behavior. Report action on City website.
Coyote seen moving in area	Sighting Level Green	Review educational materials and info on normal coyote behavior. Report on City website.
Coyote seen resting in area	Sighting Level Green	Review educational materials on hazing techniques, what to do tips. Report on City website.
Coyote seen resting in area with people present	Sighting Level Yellow	If area frequented by people, review educational materials on normal behavior and haze to encourage animal to leave and modify future behavior. Look for and eliminate attractants. Report on City website.
Coyote entering a yard without pets	Sighting Level Yellow	Review educational materials on coyote attractants and hazing techniques. Conduct yard audit to eliminate attractants. Report on City website.
Coyote entering a yard with pets	Encounter Level Yellow	Review educational materials on coyote attractants, hazing techniques, and pet safety tips. Conduct yard audit. Report on City website.
Coyote entering a yard and injuring or killing pet without humans present	Domestic animal loss/injury Level Yellow	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances. Review educational materials on coyote attractants, and pet safety tips. Conduct yard/neighborhood audits. Report on City's website and to OC Animal Care.
Coyote biting or injuring unattended pet or pet on leash longer than six feet	Domestic animal loss/injury Level Yellow	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances. Review educational materials on coyote attractants, hazing techniques, and pet safety tips. Conduct yard/neighborhood audits. Report on City's website and to OC Animal Care.
Coyote following or approaching a person with or without pet	Stalking Incident Level Red	Implement hazing techniques, review educational materials and pet safety tips. Report on City website. Removal may be considered if coyote does not respond to

		aggressive hazing and there is evidence of recurrence. CALL 911 IF IN DANGER.
Coyote biting or injuring attended pet or pet on leash less than six feet	Domestic animal loss/injury Level Red	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances. Review educational materials on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing techniques, and pet safety tips. Report on City website and to OC Animal Care. CALL 911 IF IN DANGER.
Coyote aggressive, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping at human without contact	Threat Incident Level Red	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances. Review educational materials on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing techniques, pet safety tips. Report on City website and to OC Animal Care. Removal may be recommended. CALL 911 IF IN DANGER.
Coyote biting or injuring a person	Attack Level Red	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances. Review educational materials on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing techniques, pet safety tips. Report on City website and to OC Animal Care/California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Removal recommended. CALL 911 IF IN DANGER.

APPENDIX C

Hazing Program and Training Plan

Hazing and Behavioral Change

Some urban coyotes have become comfortable in close proximity to people. To safely coexist, it is 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 a 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, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and discourage them from neighborhoods, back yards 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.

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. Humans 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 tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support feeling safe in their parks and neighborhoods.
3. To model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes among other residents, friends, and family.

General Considerations

- Levels of hazing need to be appropriately relevant to coyote activity.
 - Coyotes live in open spaces and, unless they exhibit aggressive behavior to human and/or their pets, the best practice is to leave them alone and educate the public on personal safety.

- Coyotes are often out late at night when few people are present. This is normal, acceptable behavior. Hazing may not be necessary.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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 shaping that animal’s future behavior.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Human behavior must change to support hazing and continued identification and, if necessary, remove possible attractants.

- 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.
- 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 back away slowly from the animal until the animal is out of sight, and then immediately contact OC Animal Care at 714-935-6848 or City of Cypress.
- 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.

Public Hazing Training

Because coexisting with wildlife requires community support, the most successful coyote hazing programs involve resident participation. Residents are best equipped to respond consistently and at the most opportune times in their own neighborhoods, parks and open spaces. Coyotes will also learn to fear the general public faster if they are hazed by the residents that they already encounter in their territories.

Providing the public with hazing training opportunities has the additional benefit of empowering residents and reducing their fear of coyotes by giving them tools to address coyote conflicts themselves. It is important that public hazing training include information on basic coyote ecology and behavior, seasonal behavior changes, influences of human behavior on coyotes, how to identify and remove coyote attractants, safety tips for pets, hazing techniques including tools and tips for success.

When possible, in-person trainings and meetings are the most effective way to relay important information to residents and to train them in coyote hazing techniques. Supplemental materials, such as handouts, brochures, websites and social media can also successfully provide this needed information.

Volunteer Hazing Team

When supported by community interest, the development of a volunteer hazing team can be successful with public education and outreach in response to coyote conflicts. Volunteers must be trained in basic coyote information and proper coyote hazing techniques. Volunteers can respond to coyote incidents by providing education and outreach through direct contact with the public, dissemination of educational materials, ensuring incident information is properly reported for monitoring purposes, etc.

Summary of Hazing

Hazing is a process whereby the community responds in a manner to make a coyote uncomfortable so it chooses 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, yelling and making unpleasant and frightening noises until the animal chooses 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 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

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 become 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.

APPENDIX D
Coyote Yard Audit Checklist
(For Resident Use)

	OK	FIX	Ways to Mitigate
FOOD			Never hand-feed or intentionally feed wildlife.
Pet Food			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
Water Sources			Remove water attractants, such as pet water bowls.
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 bbq 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 deterrent) to deter coyotes. Ensure there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground at least 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.