

City of
Arcadia

Coyote
Management Plan

Adopted June 2017



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Introduction

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

Background

Concerns regarding high numbers of coyotes in residential neighborhoods continue to be pervasive in Arcadia and surrounding foothill communities. Previous efforts at coyote abatement have yielded little results at controlling the coyote population.

Coyotes are wild animals and their behavior, by many accounts, is becoming bolder as they become more accustomed to living near humans. The likelihood of these animals coming out of the adjacent open space and into the City will always exist. This is particularly true because in addition to lushly landscaped homes and parks, Arcadia is bordered by the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains where coyotes have a natural habitat. Issues of drought and significant fires within the Angeles National Forest have also been contributing factors to the recent rise in coyote concerns.

Coyotes are opportunistic predators and clever scavengers. They primarily eat small mammals, including rabbits, ground squirrels, and mice. Their diet also includes birds, snakes, lizards, deer, and some livestock. The coyote will also prey on birds that nest on the ground, including peacocks. They will eat fruits and vegetables during the fall and winter months when their natural prey is scarcer.

The coyote is a versatile animal, capable of easily adapting to its environment. As a result, the urban coyote will often eat human garbage, pet food, road kill, and domestic pets, including cats and dogs. As is more commonly the case in urbanized environments, coyotes have been known to actively hunt cats and small dogs, and are able to leap fences as high as 8 feet to prey on domestic animals. Less frequently, bolder packs of coyotes have been known to shadow joggers and even approach humans while walking their pets on a leash. While extremely unusual, coyotes have been known to attack humans, but this typically occurs when a human is trying to rescue a pet from an imminent coyote attack. Rarely does a coyote engage and attack a human directly.

Even more uncommon are fatalities from a coyote attack, of which only two have been recorded in North America. One occurred in 1981 in Glendale, California where a coyote attacked a toddler. The second attack occurred in 2009 in Nova Scotia, Canada where a pair of coyotes attacked a hiker. As a comparison, according to DogsBite.org, a non-profit organization that tracks dog bite fatalities in the

United States, in 2015, 34 dog bite fatalities were recorded. Over an 11-year period from 2005 to 2015, 360 victims suffered death due to dog bite injury.

A study by the School of Environmental and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University entitled “Coyote Attacks on Humans in the United States and Canada” found that the vast majority of coyote attacks occur in California and are likely attributable to our moderate climate and close proximity to urban-wildland interfaces. The data further suggests that many incidents are the result of accidental feeding by humans, stating:



“Studies of coyote ecology in metropolitan areas have reported a preference by coyotes for natural or forested areas over urban or otherwise disturbed areas and a shift to nocturnal activity in urbanized areas of high human use. This nocturnal behavior of coyotes has been attributed to an effort to avoid confrontations with people. The large number of attacks occurring within daytime hours suggests that in some cases the offending coyotes were no longer avoiding humans, and may become habituated to human activity, likely due to intentional or accidental wildlife feeding.”¹

According to the research, human-related food constituted as much as 25% of a coyote’s diet in Southern California whereas in Chicago, for example, human-related food was found in less than 2% of scats analyzed. The data suggests that it is the availability of food sources that is the main factor driving human/coyote interactions.

In response to the rise of more aggressive coyote activity in neighborhoods, City staff researched responses from surrounding communities, reviewed existing Coyote Management Plans, sought input from our local partners including the Pasadena Humane Society, and analyzed the Coyote Guidelines from the Humane Society of the United States, to develop a comprehensive approach for the City of Arcadia. To that end, the City’s approach will place an emphasis on education, hazing, and will consider employing lethal means of removal when the safety of the public is at risk as determined by the guidelines listed in this document.

Guiding Principles

The Coyote Management Plan is guided by the following principles:

¹ School of Environmental and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University

- Human safety is the number one priority in managing human-coyote interactions.
- Domestic pet safety is also principally important.
- Coyotes serve an important role in our local ecosystem by helping to control the rodent population.
- Preventative measures such as reduction and removal of food attractants, habitat modification, and responding appropriately when interacting with wildlife are key factors to minimizing potential interactions with coyotes.
- Solutions for coyote conflicts must address both problematic coyote behaviors (such as aggression towards people and attacks on pets) and problematic human behaviors (such as intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes) that contribute to conflicts.
- Non-selective coyote removal programs are ineffective for reducing coyote population sizes or preventing human-coyote conflicts and may actually increase the populations.
- A community-wide program that involves residents is necessary for achieving coexistence among people, coyotes, and pets.

The recommended actions in the Management Plan are designed to increase residents' knowledge and understanding of how coyotes behave and make clear how such behavior be managed to reduce or eliminate conflicts with coyotes. The Management Plan requires **ACTIVE** participation on the part of the entire community which includes residents, homeowner associations, neighborhood volunteers, community partners (Pasadena Humane Society, etc.) and the City of Arcadia.

Coyotes 101

Coyotes are native to California and several other western states. Due to their intelligence, adaptability, the decline in larger predatory animals, and urban sprawl, coyotes have successfully expanded their range. As a result, coyotes are now found in all states except Hawaii and have established themselves in every urban ecosystem across North America, including large metropolitan areas like Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York. In short, coyotes are not just an Arcadia issue, but are found in neighborhoods and communities throughout the United States.

Identifying Coyotes

On the upper parts of their body, coyote pelts vary from gray-brown to yellow-gray. Their backs have tawny-colored 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 than they actually are.

Coyote Family Structure



Coyotes may live alone, in pairs, or in family groups with one breeding pair, generally mating once a year, usually December 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 although pup mortality rate averages between 50% and 70% in the first year. Litter size depends on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area. More available food resources, shelter, and unoccupied territories tend to result in larger litter sizes. The converse is also true.

Although a litter varies from 2 to 12 pups, the average is 6 or 7. Pups remain in the den for the first six weeks and then travel with adults. By the end of summer they are more independent but may still travel with parents and siblings. This is what is often seen and described as “packs” of coyotes; however, this is only indicative of the den’s hierarchy and social structure and does not necessarily lend itself to a small or large coyote population in the surrounding area. Because coyotes are socially organized, the group raises the young and defends their territory from other coyotes. Territories do not overlap and although coyotes generally live in groups, they often travel alone or in pairs.

In urban areas, most coyotes live in large parks, golf courses, greenways, and natural open spaces where food and shelter are abundant. Thus, their territory may follow the park or open space boundaries, which are often along urban-wildland interfaces. Coyotes are extremely adaptive at creating territories under a wide range of urban conditions.

Coyote Dens

Coyote dens are holes dug out in the ground or along the side of a hill. It can be a few feet in length or up to about 50 feet. Coyotes often use ready-made “den-like” holes in an existing area, like a cave or other enclosed space surrounded by trees or brush. They will also take over dens that were left by other burrowing animals such as foxes or badgers.

As stated, coyotes are opportunistic animals and will use any hidden hole or cave like structure to protect their young from fleas and vermin. Coyotes will often use sticks and other natural covers to hide the entrances to their dens, allowing just enough space for them to move in and out with food they have hunted for their young.

Ecosystems and Coyotes

Coyotes play an important role in the urban environment. They are predators of geese, peacocks, squirrels, mice, rabbits, gophers, opossums, and other small animals. Rodents make up a majority of their diet. Areas with resident coyotes often report a decrease in the rodent population.

The Human Element

People respond to coyotes in various ways. Some observe them with enjoyment, others with indifference, and some with fear and 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, a violent interaction. Because wild animals can evoke fear, actual sightings and perceptions may become exaggerated or misconstrued.

Number of Coyotes in Arcadia

It is very expensive and difficult to track coyotes given their relatively short life span and migratory habits. A single coyote covering a relatively large territory may be seen three or four different times in a 24 hour period giving the impression that there are large numbers of coyotes. What is known is that coyotes can become habituated if they are intentionally or unintentionally fed, which 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 to 6 square miles. Normally, each pack is a territorial family group that varies in numbers 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. Young coyotes may leave the pack at 9 to 11 months of age but dispersal patterns are highly variable. These coyotes become transients. Other types of transients include older coyotes 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 a group to join. Transient coyotes often expire before they succeed. It is largely because of these transients that indiscriminate coyote culling programs are unsuccessful.

According to the Humane Society of United States, coyote culling programs are ineffective at reducing the coyote population and in fact may actually help increase their reproductive rate. Coyotes removed from an area will quickly be replaced by others. Coyote pairs hold territories, which leaves transient coyotes constantly looking for new places to call home. If attractants in a neighborhood are not removed (e.g., pet food, garbage, etc.) new coyotes in an area can quickly become "nuisance" coyotes.

Research suggests that when aggressively controlled, coyotes can increase their reproductive rate by breeding at an earlier age and having larger litters, with a higher survival rate among young. This allows coyote populations to quickly bounce back, even when as much as 70 percent of their numbers are removed.

Further, it is nearly impossible to completely eradicate coyotes from an area. Despite bounties and large-scale efforts to kill coyotes over the last 100 years, coyotes have expanded their range throughout the U.S. and Canada tremendously. One study even found that killing 75% of a coyote population every year for 50 years would still not exterminate the population.

Coyote Management Plan Goal

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

The strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect and protection of wildlife without compromising public safety. The main strategy is a multi-focused approach consisting of:

1. *Education*
2. *Enforcement*
3. *Safety Response Plan*

Education

Coyote awareness education is critical for residents to make informed decisions regarding their safety, and that of their property and pets, by decreasing attractants, reshaping coyote behavior, and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior. Dissemination of information to residents, businesses, and schools will be accomplished through the use of the City of Arcadia website, City Newsletter, Hot Sheet, social media, press releases, community forums, community partnerships (Pasadena Humane Society, Parent/Teacher Associations, & Arcadia Association of Realtors), and other direct and indirect public outreach campaigns.

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

Enforcement

The act of feeding wildlife is known to lead to an increase in wildlife activity. Feeding can attract coyotes and their prey to an area leading to an increased likelihood of creating habituated coyotes and resulting in increases in coyote-human interactions. California law prohibits feeding wildlife, including coyotes. The Arcadia Police Department and its Animal Control services provider—Pasadena Humane Society—will strictly enforce state laws pertaining to this activity.

Safety Response Plan

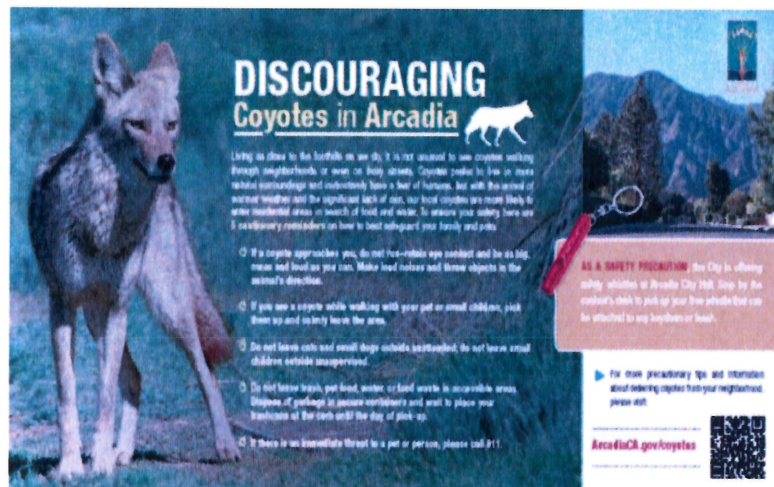
A detailed, tiered Safety Response Plan has been developed to provide a mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of human coyote interactions. The Safety Response Plan serves as a guide for residents and the City of Arcadia to respond to reports of coyote interactions in order of magnitude.

The tenets of Education, Enforcement, and the Safety Response Plan are more fully described in the sections that follow.

Education – Discouraging Coyotes in Arcadia

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

Coyotes usually become habituated when they learn and associate people and/or neighborhoods with sources of food. We reinforce this behavior by not reacting appropriately when we see a coyote. Steps must be taken to address safety concerns and misconceptions and to ensure appropriate responses to potential threats to human safety. It's important to keep in mind that coyotes have been in and around Arcadia (and other parts of Southern California) since before we settled the area.



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

1. **FOOD** – Urban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes that primarily eat rodents such as mice and rats. However, coyotes can be further attracted into suburban neighborhoods by human-associated food such as pet food, unsecured compost or trash, and fallen fruit in yards. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with sources of food, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people, and pets. To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:
 - Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote.
 - Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove sources of pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly.

- Never compost any meat or dairy products (unless the compost is fully secured).
 - Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, to help discourage coyote activity near residences.
 - 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 left out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into. If necessary, secured trash containers are available for purchase from Waste Management, the City's contracted refuse hauler.
 - Bag especially attractive food waste such as meat scraps or leftover pet food before discarding.
2. **WATER** – Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of storm water impoundments and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, swimming pools, and pet water dishes, which support both coyotes and their prey. In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable. Keep the gates around your pool secured.
3. **ACCESS TO SHELTER** – Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, sumps, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, and crawl spaces 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 their young, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which their young are sheltered. Coyotes may take advantage of available spaces under sheds or decks for use as a den, bringing them into close contact with people and pets.
4. **UNATTENDED PETS** – Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Animals that are approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit, especially unattended outdoor cats and small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods.
- The best way to minimize risk to pets from coyotes (and the other dangers of outdoor life such as cars, disease, and other wildlife) is to keep small pets indoors or only let them outside in a secure enclosure or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness.
 - It is important to either keep dogs on a leash six feet long or shorter when outdoors or to stay within six feet of them when outside. (Coyotes may view a dog on a leash longer than six feet as an unattended pet.) Attacks on free-roaming small cats or dogs are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people. A free-roaming pet is considered an unattended domestic pet outside of its enclosed yard or area.

- Although attacks on larger dogs are rare, coyotes will sometimes go after a large dog when they feel that their territory is threatened. This generally occurs during the coyote breeding season, which takes place from January through March. During this time, it is especially important not to let dogs outside unattended and to keep them on leashes (six feet long or less) when in public areas.
5. **FERAL CATS** –While people who feed feral cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats, feeding feral cats may cause more harm than good as coyotes often frequent these locations. Although there is no sure way to protect feral cats from coyotes, the following tips can be helpful:
- Do not feed feral cats.
 - If feral cats frequent your neighborhood, please contact the Pasadena Humane Society.
 - Haze coyotes seen near feral cat locations. Making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.

Other domestic animals kept outside, such as rabbits, may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect outdoor animals from coyotes and other predators with protective fencing, ensuring that they are confined in sturdy cages each evening.

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

Hazing and Behavior Change

According to the Humane Society of the United States as well as numerous studies from major research universities, coyote hazing is the most effective deterrent to discourage coyotes from residential neighborhoods. Some coyotes have become too comfortable in the close proximity of people. To safely manage coyote/human interactions, 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.

Hazing employs immediate use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage undesirable behavior or activity. Deterrents include loud noises, spraying water, bright lights, throwing objects, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and discourage them from neighborhoods such as backyards and play areas. Hazing does not harm or damage animals, humans, or property. 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 eradicate 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.
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. Develop long-term community based hazing programs.



General Considerations

1. Levels of hazing need to be appropriately relevant to coyote activity.
 - Coyotes are best left alone. Ignore them if they are ignoring you. As with any wild animal, maintaining personal safety should be the first goal.
 - 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 animals. 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 coyotes. Usually there is a dominant coyote in a group who will respond - others will follow its lead. DO NOT ignore, turn your back, or avoid hazing because there are multiple coyotes instead of a single individual coyote.
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 instead remove themselves from the situation, then immediately contact the Arcadia Police Department at (626) 574-5151 or the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151.

12. Individuals involved in hazing need to be trained in explaining hazing to residents who witness the process. They also need to explain the difference between hazing and harassment of wildlife and goals of appropriate behavior for coexistence.

Training Program

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

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

Behavioral change and hazing includes the following:

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

Public Hazing Training

Hazing requires 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.

1. Locations of trainings offered should be based on data accumulated from the public on coyote activity in specific neighborhoods, parks, or open space or proactively when requested by neighborhood community or volunteer groups.
2. Trainings will be free to the public.
3. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to:
 - Basic coyote information

- Discussion on why coyotes are in the City
 - Normal and abnormal coyote behavior
 - Seasonal behavior changes (breeding season, pups, denning behavior)
 - Reality of dangers towards people vs. danger towards pets
 - Children and coyotes
 - How human behavior influences coyote behavior
 - Attractants
 - Tips on deterring animals from entering private property
 - Appropriate responses when encountering a coyote
 - What is hazing, goals, how to engage
 - Appropriate hazing techniques and tools
 - Pet safety tips
4. Updates, additional coyote information, electronic flyers, and handouts will be distributed to participants. Information should be encouraged to be passed on to others.
 5. Participants will be notified of “hot spots” and asked to haze in the area.
 6. Ask for feedback on hazing training and use of hazing techniques.
 7. Participants will be asked to email detailed accounts of encounters and hazing (Hazing Interaction Reports) to the City of Arcadia for program evaluation purposes which should include successful tools and techniques being used, and techniques and tools needed to effectively haze coyotes. The Hazing Interaction Reports should include the following information:
 - Date, location, time of day, number of coyotes
 - Initial coyote behavior, hazing behavior, coyote response
 - Effectiveness ratings – i.e. was the method used successful or not
 - Tools and techniques used
 - Additional details/comments

For more information about how to set-up an educational seminar in your neighborhood, please contact the City Manager's Office at (626) 574-5401.

Enforcement

The act of feeding wildlife can attract coyotes and their prey to an area, leading to an increased likelihood of creating habituated coyotes and increased coyote-human interactions. California law prohibits feeding wildlife, and the Arcadia Police Department, Pasadena Humane Society, and City Code Enforcement Officers will strictly enforce applicable state statutes pertaining to this activity. The following are some of the applicable regulations that may be utilized as enforcement tools to discourage coyotes from proliferating in urbanized Arcadia.

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 14. SECTION 251.1. HARASSMENT OF ANIMALS

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

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE TITLE 10. SECTION 10.84.010. PROVIDING FOOD FOR CERTAIN RODENTS OR PREDATOR ANIMALS PROHIBITED

Except as otherwise provided herein, no person shall feed or in any manner provide food to a non-domesticated rodent or non-domesticated mammalian predator.

For the purposes of this chapter:

"Rodent" includes ground squirrels

"Mammalian predators" includes coyote, raccoon, fox, and opossum.

ARCADIA MUNICIPAL CODE ARTICLE IV PUBLIC WELFARE, MORALS, AND POLICY. CHAPTER 1. ANIMALS. PART 3. OTHER ANIMALS. DIVISION 7. KEEPING, FEEDING, AND RUNNING AT LARGE. SECTION 4137. PUBLIC FEEDING PROHIBITED

No person shall feed or make any food or edible thing available to any animal or fowl in, on, or upon any public street, sidewalk or parkway.

ARCADIA MUNICIPAL CODE ARTICLE IX DIVISION OF LAND USE. ORDINANCE 2346 ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES FOR UNOCCUPIED RESIDENCES IN THE CITY OF ARCADIA AND

TO REORGANIZE AND UPDATE THE CITY'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND NUISANCE ABATEMENT REGULATIONS

It is the purpose and intent of the City of Arcadia, through the establishment of an unoccupied residence registration program to protect neighborhoods from becoming blighted by the lack of adequate maintenance and security of unoccupied residences and to prevent unoccupied residences from becoming substandard properties.

Unoccupied properties shall be maintained so as not to become a refuge for coyotes, vermin, or other wildlife.

Failure to adhere to the maintenance standards for unoccupied properties shall be a public nuisance, subject to abatement or summary abatement in accordance with [City] code.

Safety Response Plan

The Safety Response Plan below is intended to serve as a mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of human/coyote interactions. The Plan also includes guidelines for resident and City responses to different levels of coyote/human interactions up to and including the use of force to lethally remove coyotes from Arcadia neighborhoods. It is important to note the use of force may include other measures such as forcefully eradicating coyote dens or access denial improvements to areas where coyotes frequent to deter future interactions. Each interaction warranting the use of force will be thoroughly investigated to determine the appropriate response. Definitions of coyote encounters are listed in Appendix B.

If a human is attacked and physically injured by a coyote(s), the City of Arcadia will employ all necessary force to remove the offending animal(s) and/or contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for their removal services.

COYOTE BEHAVIOR	RESPONSE LEVEL	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Coyote heard	1	Provide educational materials and info on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen moving in public area	1	Provide education materials and info on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen resting in public area	1	Educate on hazing techniques, what to do tips.
Coyote seen resting in public area with humans present	2	If area frequented by people, educate on normal behavior and haze to encourage coyote to leave. Look for and eliminate attractants.

Coyote entering a yard to a home without pets	2	Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, provide hazing info.
Coyote entering a yard to a home with pets	2	Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, hazing info, pet safety.
Coyote entering a yard and injuring or killing attended or unattended pet	3	Develop hazing team in area, gather info on specific animals involved, report on circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard and neighborhood audits, and pet safety.
Coyote biting or injuring a unattended pet/pet on a leash longer than 6 feet	3	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety.
Coyote following or approaching a person and pet (Stalking)	3	Educate on hazing techniques and what to do tips and pet safety.
Coyote following or approaching a person without a pet (Stalking)	4	Educate on hazing techniques and what to do tips. Use of force may be considered.
Coyote biting or injuring attended pet/pet on a leash 6 feet or less	4	Gather info on specific animals involved, document circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, pet safety. Use of force may be considered.
Coyote behaving aggressively; showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without contact and/or with or without pet present	4	Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, aggressive hazing, pet safety. Use of force will be recommended.
Coyote entering a home; biting or injuring a human	4	Identify and gather information on specific animal involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety. City staff will inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Use of force will be recommended.

Since coyotes are considered “non-game wildlife” any resident of Homeowners’ Association can initiate, at their own expense, action to protect themselves and their private property from coyote attacks.

Protecting person and property is of the utmost concern to the City of Arcadia. As such, this plan includes a list of Coyote Deterrent Devices (Appendix C) that may help discourage coyotes from entering your property, approaching your pet, or, in extreme cases, initiating contact with a human. Although the City is suggesting these devices, we are not endorsing any particular device, brand, model, or service. Further, while these devices market themselves as coyote deterrents, the City does offer any assurance that any device will deter every coyote in any instance. It is up to the individual to decide which device is appropriate for them.

Coyote Reporting

The City of Arcadia encourages Arcadia residents to report coyote sightings. This will allow the City to identify potential trouble areas where coyotes are frequently sighted and allow the City to focus resources where they are needed most.

There are several options to choose from and Arcadia residents are encouraged to use the tool that works best for them. Please keep in mind that these are only coyote reporting tools. Depending on the format, you may receive acknowledgement of your submission; however, you will not be contacted by the City of Arcadia. **If you or your pet has been involved in a coyote attack, please dial 9-1-1.**

Sick/Injured Coyotes

If you see a sick or injured coyote, please contact the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151.

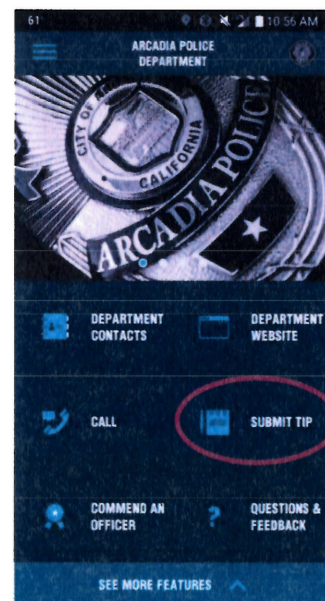
Coyote Bites

If you have been bitten by a coyote and are in distress, **please dial 9-1-1**. Coyote bites can be extremely hazardous to your health. **PLEASE SEEK MEDICAL CARE IMMEDIATELY.** Arcadia first responders are available to assist you 24/7. A police report will be taken to document the incident.

If the bite is mild in nature, residents are encouraged to report the incident to the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151. All animal bites to people are legally reportable in Los Angeles County except for rodent and rabbit bites. For more information, please visit the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm>.

MyPD Mobile App

The Arcadia Police Department mobile app (MyPD) has an online reporting tool for coyote sightings. Residents can download the app from the Apple or Google Play stores free of charge. After selecting the Arcadia Police Department as their primary agency, users can send coyote sightings through the "Submit Tip" function and select Coyote



Reporting from the Topic menu.

City of Arcadia Website

Please visit www.arcadiaca.gov/coyotes to access the reporting tools available through the website. The City of Arcadia has partnered with the University of California Cooperative Extension, which is collecting information on coyote encounters throughout California. You can report a coyote encounter to the UC Coyote Cacher through the link on the website or by submitting your request at <https://geodata.ucanr.edu/coyoteCacher/form/>.

Coyote Hotline – (626) 574-5463

The City of Arcadia has created a coyote hotline to report coyote sightings around the City. When submitting your sighting, please include the following information in your message: your name, address, telephone number, approximate time and location of the coyote encounter, and description of the encounter. This information will be logged for future analysis of coyote sightings in Arcadia. Unless specifically requested, you will not be contacted by City staff.

Email Us – coyotes@arcadiaca.gov

For your convenience, the City of Arcadia has created an email address for residents to submit questions, concerns, tips, sightings, or general information related to coyotes in Arcadia neighborhoods. When submitting your sighting, please include the following information in your message: your name, address, telephone number, approximate time and location of the coyote encounter, and description of the encounter. This information will be logged for future analysis of coyote sightings in Arcadia.

Requesting Information

For general information regarding the Coyote Management Plan, please contact the City Manager's Office at (626) 574-5401.

Appendix A: Yard Audit Checklist

	OK	FIX	RECOMMENDED ACTION
FOOD			NEVER intentionally feed a coyote.
Pet Food			NEVER feed pets outdoors; store all pet food in secure containers.
Water			Remove water attractants (such as fountains) in dry climates.
Bird Feeders			Remove bird feeders or clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.
Fallen Fruit			Clean up fallen fruit around trees.
Compost			Do not include meat or dairy products among compost contents unless fully enclosed.
BBQ Grills			Clean up food around barbeque grills after each use.
Trash & Rodents			Secure all trash containers with locking lids and place curbside the morning of trash pickup. Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors. Rid property of rodents (coyotes eat rodents).
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 a 6-foot fence (or a 6-foot fence with an additional extension or roller-top) to deter coyotes. Ensure that there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground six (6) inches or is fitted with a mesh apron to deter coyotes from digging underneath. *Must comply with Arcadia Municipal Code(s).
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.

Residents are encourage to take steps to eliminate attractants on their property and to share this information with friends and neighbors, as minimizing conflicts with coyotes in the most effective when the entire neighborhood and community works together.

Appendix B: Definition of Coyote Encounters

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 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.

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

Feeding – A coyote is fed intentionally or unintentionally by humans.

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

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

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, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and play spaces. Hazing does not damage animals, humans, or property.

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

Pet Attack – A pet is injured or killed by a coyote.

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. Also includes “depredation” - predation on domestic pets. Free-roaming animal loss or injury is normal behavior for a coyote.

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

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

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

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 trash scattered is outside the receptacle).

Use of Force – This action uses coercion to force aggressive coyotes from Arcadia neighborhoods. This action may include non-lethal measures such as eradication of coyote dens or access denial improvements or lethal measures like trapping.

Vocalization – Coyote communications vary and may consist of the following: woof, growl, howl, bark, yelp, or whine by a single coyote or by groups.