



Humane
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Animals™

Solving Problems with Coyotes

A template conflict
management plan

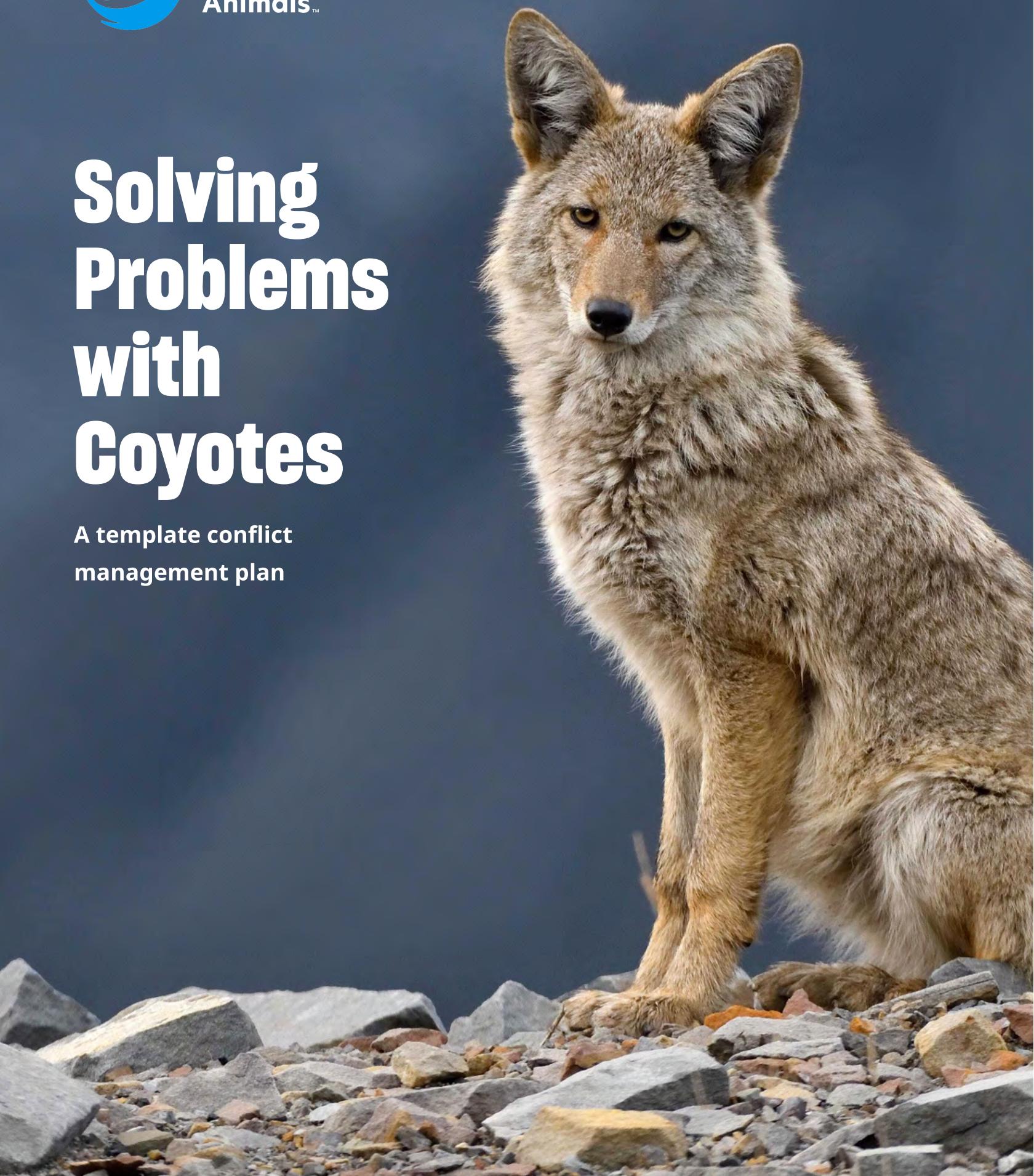


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How to use this template coyote management plan

This coyote conflict management plan has been prepared by Humane World for Animals for use by communities (including, but not limited to cities, villages, towns, counties, homeowners' associations, etc.) in humanely and effectively preventing and solving conflicts among coyotes, people and companion animals. The information in this plan has been gathered from scientific and peer-reviewed articles, from experts in the field of human-coyote conflict resolution and from successful coyote management plans across the U.S. We invite you to use this plan as your own or modify it as necessary to suit the needs of your community.

Acknowledgments

Humane World for Animals would like to specially thank Paula-Marie Lewis, a Ph.D. student at Griffith University, Australia, for her work in the creation of this management plan.

We would also like to acknowledge the following coyote management plans, which helped to influence the ideas and guidelines presented in this plan:

- City and County of Broomfield (CO) Coexistence with Wildlife Policy
- City of Calabasas (CA) Coyote Management Plan
- City of Centennial (CO) Coyote Management Plan
- City of Davis (CA) Coyote Management and Coexistence Plan
- City and County of Denver (CO) Coyote Management Plan
- Portland (OR)-Vancouver (BC) Model Coyote Management Policy
- Village of Riverside (IL) Coyote Home Audit Checklist
- City of Wheaton (IL) Coyote Policy



Introduction and goals

The goal of this template coyote conflict management plan is to provide a program for reducing human-coyote conflicts while prioritizing human safety. The suggested actions outlined in this plan are designed to increase the public's knowledge and understanding of how coyotes behave and make clear how such behavior can be managed to reduce or eliminate conflicts with coyotes.

This coyote conflict management plan is based on scientific research, a thorough understanding of coyote ecology and biology in urban settings and the best-known management practices and management tools. This plan is guided by the following basic principles:

1. Human safety is a priority in managing human-coyote interactions.
2. Coyotes serve an important role in ecosystems by helping to control the population of rodents, Canada geese, rabbits and other urban mammals.

3. Preventive practices such as reduction and removal of food attractants, habitat modification and responding appropriately when interacting with wildlife are key to minimizing potential interactions with coyotes.
4. Solutions for coyote conflicts must address both problematic coyote behaviors (such as aggression toward people and attacks on pets) and the problematic human behaviors (intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes and letting pets outside unattended) that contribute to conflicts.
5. Non-selective coyote removal programs are ineffective for reducing coyote population sizes or preventing human-coyote conflicts.
6. A community-wide program that involves residents is necessary for achieving coexistence among people, coyotes and pets.



The coyote

Due to their intelligence and adaptability—in addition to extensive urbanization and the subsequent decline of larger predators—coyotes have successfully expanded their range across North America. Coyotes are now found in all states in the U.S. except Hawaii and have become well established in nearly every ecosystem. They live in deserts, swamps, tundra and grasslands, brush, dense forests, cities and suburbs. People can live among coyotes yet never see them. Often it's only an evening chorus or group howling and yipping that alerts us to the presence of this wild canid in our neighborhoods. It is important to keep in mind that coyotes have been interacting with and adapting to people for at least the last 100 years.

Ecological importance

Coyotes are curious, smart and adaptable creatures and our urban areas provide the perfect balance of food, shelter and water for them. What you may not know is that even in fragmented and urbanized landscapes, coyotes can play an

integral role in their environment by providing ecosystem services and helping to maintain species diversity. Coyotes in urban areas not only provide free rodent control by feeding on mice and rats but also help to regulate the population size of other species that may cause conflicts with people in urban areas (such as voles, wild turkeys, white-tailed deer and Canada geese).

General biology, reproduction and behavior

Appearance and signs

Most coyotes weigh approximately 25-35 pounds, although their long legs and thick fur make them appear larger. Coyote fur varies in color from gray-brown to yellow-gray. They have a black-tipped tail which helps to distinguish them from other canids such as foxes. Coyotes also have yellow/amber eyes (which help to distinguish them from domestic dogs), large ears and narrow, pointed muzzles (which help to distinguish them from wolves).



Since coyotes are naturally very skittish and afraid of humans, they are rarely seen. Thus, their signs (including prints, scat and vocalizations) may be better indicators of their presence. Coyote prints are similar to those of a domestic dog's but are usually observed in a straight line (as opposed to the meandering path of domestic dog tracks). More commonly, coyote howling or other vocalizations may be heard. Coyotes produce a variety of sounds (including howls, barks, whines and yips) to communicate with one another and defend their territory. Small groups of two or three coyotes can distort their voices and sound like a group of 20. Coyotes also use scat (feces) to communicate by depositing it in the middle of a trail or on the edge of their territory. Coyote scat is similar to dog scat in size and appearance, but unlike dog scat, it is rope-like and typically filled with hairs, seeds and bones.

Diet

Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores with great flexibility in their diet. They generally hunt small mammals such as mice, rats, voles, rabbits and prairie dogs, but will also eat fruit and berries and will even scavenge road-killed animals.

In urban areas, coyotes are also known to eat pet food, unsecured garbage and compost. They may also prey on unattended domestic pets such as cats and small dogs if given the opportunity. This does not indicate a danger to humans but is rather natural coyote behavior. This behavior can be prevented by reducing human-associated food attractants in urban areas and not letting pets outside unattended (unless protected by a coyote-proof enclosure or fence).

Social structure

Most coyotes (called resident coyotes) live in family groups with one breeding pair and three to four other related individuals. Coyotes do not hunt in packs but work together to defend their territory from other coyote family groups. Other coyotes (called transient coyotes) live alone or as an isolated mated pair.

Coyotes mate once per year during their breeding season (which occurs from January through March). During the pup season (April through August), the breeding pair will give birth to pups (typically in April or May). Litter size depends on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area. The average litter size is four to seven pups. Coyotes will place their pups in a den for the first six weeks, after which the pups will learn to hunt with their parents. Coyote dens are found in steep banks, rock crevices and underbrush, as well as in open areas. During dispersal season (September through December), the pups from the previous year (yearlings) will leave the family group and become transient coyotes in search of a new home range.



Habitat

Coyotes are naturally diurnal (most active at dawn and dusk) but often shift to more nocturnal activity in urban and suburban areas in an effort to avoid people. Coyotes prefer open space and natural preserve areas over human-dominated landscapes but are extremely adept at living in proximity to people. Coyotes thrive in these areas because food, water and shelter are abundant.

Home range sizes vary for each individual coyote. Research has shown that home range sizes for resident coyotes average 2-5 square miles, while transient coyotes have larger home ranges (averaging 10 square miles). Home range size can be an important indicator of resource distribution and abundance and may correlate with population density.



Coyote attractants in urban areas

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

Food

Urban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes, who primarily eat rodents such as mice and rats. However, coyotes can be further attracted into suburban neighborhoods by human-associated food such as pet food, unsecured compost or trash, and fallen fruit in yards. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with sources of food, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people and pets. To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:

- 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 (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 you leave trash cans out overnight, they are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.
- Bag especially attractive food wastes such as meat scraps or leftover pet food. If it is several days before garbage will be picked up, freeze the food temporarily or take it to a dumpster or other secure storage container.



Water

Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of storm water impoundments and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, pet water dishes, etc., which support both coyotes and their prey.

In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable.

Access to shelter

Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks and crawl spaces, etc., increase the amount and variability of cover for coyotes. They allow coyotes to safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes and businesses without detection.

In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise young, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which their young are sheltered. Coyotes may take advantage of available spaces under sheds or decks for use as a den, bringing them into close contact with people and pets.

Unattended pets and community cats

Leaving pets outdoors without supervision can attract coyotes, with free-roaming cats and small dogs being especially at risk. Feeding community cats outside can also draw coyotes, who may be attracted to the food or view the cats themselves as potential prey. For practical tips to keep pets and community cats safe, see the next section on coyotes, pets and community cats.

Other domestic animals

Domestic animals kept outside, such as chickens and rabbits, may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect poultry or other outdoor animals from coyotes (and other predators) with protective fencing (both structural and electric), by ensuring that they are confined in sturdy cages or pens each evening and by using farmed animal-guarding animals where possible.





Coyotes, pets and community cats

Pets and community cats are a normal part of an urban landscape. Within their territory, coyotes may consider them as potential prey or potential competitors. **Free-roaming pets**, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to minimize risks to pets is to not leave them outside unattended.

Pet cats

Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats but will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit, free-roaming outdoor cats may also be seen as eligible prey by coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on cats are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people. The only way to protect cats from coyotes (and the other dangers of outdoor life such as cars, disease, dogs and other wildlife) is to keep cats indoors (or only let them outside in a secure enclosure, such as a catio, or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness). To learn more about catios, check out our [catios fact sheet](#).

Community cats

People who feed community cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well founded, as coyotes will be attracted to both the outdoor pet food and the cats themselves as prey. Although there is no guaranteed way to protect community cats from coyotes, the following tips can be helpful:

- Feed cats only during the day and at a set time—and pick up any leftovers immediately.
- Elevate feeding stations beyond coyotes—but not the cats’—reach.
- Provide escape routes for cats (in the form of “cat posts”) in places where trees and other climbing opportunities are scarce. These can be wooden posts (4 inches by 4 inches or corner posts) that stand out of the ground at least 10 to 12 feet and can be climbed by cats but not by coyotes.
- Haze coyotes seen on the property (see Appendix C). Making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.

- For additional tips on feeding community cats, check out our [community cat feeding guidelines](#).
- For additional tips on keeping pet cats, community cats and wildlife safe, check out our [resolving conflicts between cats and wildlife fact sheet](#).



Dogs

Dogs are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes who are accustomed or habituated to people (usually due to wildlife feeding) or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season).

Small, unattended dogs may be seen as potential prey for coyotes. It is important to either keep dogs on a leash 6 feet long or shorter when outdoors or to stay within 6 feet of them when outside. (Coyotes may view a dog on a leash longer than 6 feet as an unattended pet.) Attacks on unattended small dogs are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people.

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 pup season, coyotes may also view off-leash dogs that get too close to their den as threats. The best way to protect large dogs from incidents with coyotes is to keep them on leashes (6 feet long or shorter) when in public areas.

Fences can be used to keep coyotes out of residential yards, but they must be "coyote-proof." Coyote-proof fences are made of a material that coyotes cannot climb and are at least 8 feet tall. Shorter fences (at least 6 feet tall) can be "coyote-proofed" by adding a protective device on top such as a "coyote roller" (coyoteroller.com) that rolls off any coyotes (and dogs) that try to scramble over the fence. To prevent coyotes from digging under a fence, the bottom of the fence should also extend underground at least 12 inches or include an L-shaped mesh apron that extends outward at least 18 inches and is secured with landscape staples.



Coyote coexistence strategies and techniques

Monitoring and collecting data

Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective coyote management plan. This is best accomplished with input from both residents and city officials using a coyote hotline and/or an online reporting form.

The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen, to count how many coyotes are within an area and to identify human-coyote conflict hotspots. Gathering specific data on incidents will allow for targeting of educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

A standard Coyote Activity Form (Appendix A) should be made available to residents and employees to allow for consistent reporting of coyote incidents.

Contact information—including the date, time, name, address and phone number of the individuals submitting the report—should be included, as well as specific information about the incident.



Coyote conflict definitions

The following definitions will be used for the process of categorizing human-coyote conflicts, as well as conflicts among coyotes, pets and farmed animals.

Coexistence:

Humans and coyotes exist together. Humans take an active role in helping coyotes in their community stay wild by removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, hazing coyotes in their neighborhood and learning about coyote ecology and behavior.

Observation:

The act of noticing signs of a coyote, such as tracks, scat or vocalizations (howl), without visual observation of the coyote.

Sighting:

A visual observation of a coyote. A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.

Encounter:

A direct meeting between a human and/or pet with a coyote with no physical contact and no aggressive behavior on behalf of the coyote.

Following:

A meeting between a human and coyote resulting in the coyote following/tracking the movement of the human and/or pet*.

Aggression toward humans:

A meeting between a human and coyote resulting in one of the following types of behaviors by the coyote: growling, baring teeth or lunging. A human is not bitten, scratched, or injured by the coyote.

Pet/farmed animal-related attack on humans:

A coyote biting, scratching or injuring a human while the human was trying to prevent or intervene in a pet or farmed animal attack.

Attack on humans:

A meeting between a human and coyote resulting in biting, scratching or injury of the human by the coyote.

Provoked:

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

Unprovoked:

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

Aggression toward pets:

A meeting between a pet and coyote resulting in one of the following types of behaviors by the coyote toward the pet: growling, baring teeth or lunging.

Attack on pets:

A pet is physically bitten, injured or killed by a coyote.

Attended:

A pet is on a leash less than 6 feet long or is in the presence of a human less than 6 feet away.

Unattended:

A pet is free-roaming, walking off-leash more than 6 feet from a human or on a leash longer than 6 feet.

Farmed animal loss/depredation:

A coyote kills or injures a farmed animal.

**This behavior usually occurs during breeding or pup season and indicates that a den is nearby.*



Education and outreach

A critical element of a successful coyote management plan is the education and awareness of the public. Education is the key to helping people make appropriate decisions regarding their safety and managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing food attractants, taking precautions with pets and creating tolerance of normal coyote behavior.

An educational campaign should focus on how people can coexist with coyotes successfully. Educational outreach opportunities include:

- 1. Educational materials.** These can include brochures, informational postcards mailed or hand-delivered to specific neighborhoods with a high number of coyote sightings and interactions, detailed information and appropriate links made available on local websites and social media channels, e-newsletters, development of various public service announcements to run on public access channels, or coyote signage posted in appropriate parks and open spaces.
- 2. Trainings.** Incorporate coyote education in schools and make educational seminars and trainings available to the public.
- 3. An outreach and education team.** Composed of trained community volunteers (Appendix C), a team can help with community outreach by tabling at community events, presenting in classrooms and/or following up directly with individuals and neighborhoods who may have concerns.

Hazing: an intervention technique

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Coyotes in urban and suburban environments, however, may learn that neighborhoods provide easy sources of human-associated food while presenting few real threats. These coyotes, having lost their fear of humans, may visit yards and public areas even when people are present and may cause conflicts with people and pets. Humans have contributed to this habituation of coyotes by not reacting when they see a coyote. People have a tendency to either ignore coyotes due to fear or to watch/be enamored by coyotes because they are wild and it is "cool" to see one. To coexist safely, it's important to modify these behaviors and attitudes in resident coyote populations. The best solution for addressing problematic coyote behavior is by instituting a community-based hazing program (See Appendix C).

Hazing is an activity or series of activities that is conducted in an attempt to change behaviors of habituated coyotes and/or to re-instill a healthy fear of people in the local coyote population. Hazing techniques include generating loud noises, spraying water, shining bright lights, throwing objects, shouting, etc. Hazing can help maintain coyotes' fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards, greenbelts and play spaces.

A hazing program encourages the use of harassing actions without employing weapons or causing bodily harm to coyotes. The more often an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing that coyote's behavior. Being highly intelligent animals, coyotes who are hazed quickly learn to avoid neighborhoods, people and pets.

The goals of hazing are to:

- Reverse the habituation of coyotes to people, teaching them to once again fear and avoid humans.
- Discourage coyotes from entering public areas such as parks, playgrounds and yards when people are present.
- Discourage coyotes from approaching people and pets.
- Empower residents by giving them tools to use when they encounter a coyote, thereby reducing their fear of coyotes.
- Increase awareness about coyote behavior among residents and involve the community in coyote management efforts.

Basic hazing

Consists of directly facing the coyote and being “big and loud” by waving your arms over your head, making loud noises or squirting the coyote with water until the coyote(s) chooses to leave. Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical because coyotes can become desensitized to the continued use of just one technique, sound or action (see Appendix C). Basic hazing can be performed by anyone and includes the following techniques:

- Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote.
- Making loud noises with whistles, air horns, megaphones, soda cans filled with pennies, pots and pans.
- Throwing projectiles such as sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls or rubber balls in the direction of the coyote.
- Squirting water from a hose, water gun or spray bottle (with vinegar water).

See this informative [video](#) from Public Health Madison and Dane County for more hazing tips.

High-intensity hazing

Consists of approaching the animal quickly and aggressively, throwing projectiles, paint balls, pepper balls, sling shots, clay pellets or pepper spray at the coyote. High-intensity hazing should only be carried out by trained professionals such as animal control and police officers. High-intensity hazing should be used in specific areas and only in response to more egregious incidents.

Lethal control

Lethal control programs may seem like a quick fix to problems among coyotes, people and pets. However, removal programs are not effective in reducing coyote populations or addressing the root causes of conflicts. Coyote removal programs are costly (due to the difficulty of catching coyotes) and controversial among the public.

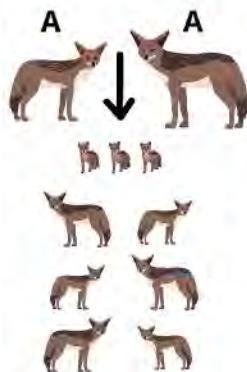
When implementing lethal control, it is extremely difficult to ensure that problem-causing coyote(s) will be the ones located and killed. Since firearms are usually unsafe to use in urban and suburban areas, traps (which are by design non-selective for particular coyotes) are generally the

Why coyote killing doesn't work

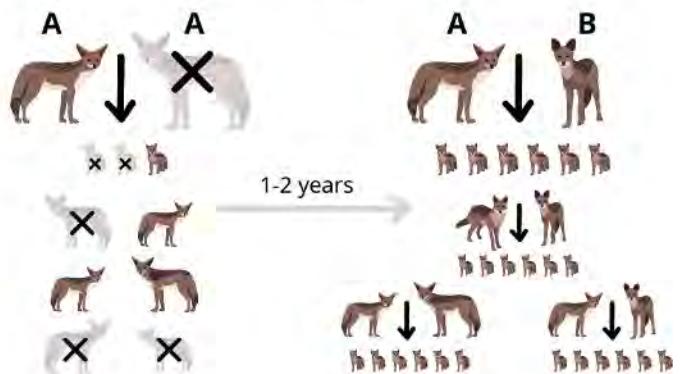
If you shoot, trap or poison coyotes, you will have just as many again (or more!) within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes (B) will move in to mate, young coyotes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



Without killing = Stable family group
Only the alpha pair reproduces, and litter sizes are small.



With killing = Family group disrupted by lethal control
Cuts numbers by half, but only temporarily. Surviving females, joined by males from outside, breed at earlier ages and have larger litters. Pups experience a higher survival rate, and the population grows.



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method used. Because coyotes are so intelligent and wary of human scent, it is very difficult to catch any coyote in a trap, never mind the problem-causing coyote.

Research has shown that when lethally controlled, coyotes exhibit a “rebound effect” (a surge in their reproductive rates), allowing for quick regeneration of their population numbers. The disruption of their family group structure leads to an increase in the number of females breeding in the population, and the increase in available resources leads to larger litter sizes, earlier breeding ages among females and higher survival rates among pups. This allows coyote populations to bounce back quickly, even when as much as 70 percent of their numbers are removed through lethal control efforts. For these reasons, lethal programs are not effective at reducing coyote populations, and non-selective coyote trapping programs are not effective at solving conflicts.

In addition, coyotes removed from an area will quickly be replaced by transient coyotes looking for a vacant home range. If the root causes of human-coyote conflicts have not been addressed, incoming coyotes may quickly become nuisance coyotes as well. It is far better to have well-behaved resident coyotes who will hold territories and keep transients at bay than to risk having to deal with newcomers who do not know the “rules.”

Lethal responses (coyote removal) should be considered only in the event of an unprovoked, confirmed attack on a human. If implemented, lethal control efforts should focus on the offending coyote(s) only, rather than the coyote population at large. This requires significant surveillance efforts to make sure that the correct animal(s) is targeted and removed.

Lethal control should be considered as only one of a suite of management interventions (e.g., removal of attractants, hazing, etc.) that involve an array of humane and non-lethal measures. It is worth remarking that if non-lethal control techniques are effective enough to reduce human-coyote interactions and conflicts to acceptable levels, then the lethal control limited option may remain in the toolbox without being used.

Local ordinances

In addition to the suggested responses below, the following community-wide ordinances may be helpful:

Leash law

Implementing a leash law and monetary fine for off-leash dogs can help address problematic behavior that could lead to coyote-pet conflicts. Residents should be instructed to keep pets on a leash 6 feet long or shorter.

Anti-feeding ordinance

Banning the feeding of wildlife (exceptions may be made for bird feeders) and establishing a monetary fine may be helpful in addressing problematic feeding behavior that can lead to the habituation of coyotes.



Coyote conflict classification and recommended responses

Coyote behavior	Classification	Response
Coyote heard; scat or prints seen	Observation	Distribute educational materials and information on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen moving through the area (day or night)	Sighting	Distribute educational materials and information on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen resting in area (day or night)	Sighting	If area is frequented by people, educate on normal coyote behavior and how to haze to encourage animal to leave. Look for and eliminate attractants.
Coyote entering a yard (no person present)	Sighting	Educate on coyote attractants; provide hazing information and yard audit*.
Coyote following or approaching a person with no incident	Following	Educate on hazing techniques. Look for and eliminate attractants.
Coyote following or approaching a person and pet with no incident	Following	Educate on hazing techniques and pet management. If in an open area, post educational signs to alert other residents to keep dogs on leashes and to haze coyotes. If it is pup season and there is a known den nearby, consider blocking off the path or area until pup season is over.
Coyote entering a yard with pets, no incident	Encounter	Educate on coyote attractants and pet management; provide hazing information and yard audit*.
Coyote entering yard with people and pets, no pet attack occurring	Encounter	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on coyote attractants and pet management; provide hazing information and yard audit*.
Coyote injures or kills unattended pet in back yard	Unintended pet attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on coyote attractants and pet management; provide hazing information and yard audit*.

Coyote behavior	Classification	Response
Coyote injures or kills pet off-leash in open space area	Unintended pet attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management and hazing, Look for and eliminate food attractants. Post educational signs in open area to alert other residents to keep dogs on leash and to haze coyotes. If it is pup season and there is a known den nearby, consider blocking off the path or area until pup season is over.
Coyote injures or kills farmed animal	Farmed animal loss/depredation	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on proper husbandry of farmed animals (including the use of secure enclosures, guarding animals and/or proper fencing).
Coyote injures or kills pet off-leash with human nearby (within 6 feet)	Attended pet attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management, coyote attractants and hazing. Perform yard/neighborhood/ public area audit*. Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area. Implement high-intensity hazing techniques (by ACOs, police, etc.), using rubber bullets, paintball guns, etc.
Coyote injures or kills pet on-leash (within 6 feet)	Attended pet attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management, coyote attractants and hazing. Perform yard/neighborhood/ public area audit*. Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area. Implement high-intensity hazing techniques (by ACOs, police, etc.), using rubber bullets, paintball guns, etc.
Coyote aggressive toward person, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without contact	Aggression toward humans	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management, coyote attractants and hazing. Perform yard/neighborhood/ public area audit*. Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area. Implement high-intensity hazing techniques (by ACOs, police, etc.), using rubber bullets, paintball guns, etc.

Coyote behavior	Classification	Response
Coyote has bitten human. (Human encouraged coyote to engage by hand feeding, approaching coyote with pups, intervening during pet attack, etc.)	Provoked human attack	Identify and gather information on all details of attack (including action of victim before and after attack, whether feeding or pets were involved, action of victim towards coyote and how incident was resolved). Any human bitten by a coyote(s) will need to seek the advice of their physician concerning the administration of a post-exposure rabies vaccination. If the offending coyote is killed, he/she should not only be tested for rabies, but should be also given a full necropsy (to determine general health and whether feeding was involved). Educate residents on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing and pet management. Levy fines (for wildlife feeding or leash law violations) when appropriate. Implement high-intensity hazing techniques (by ACOs, police, etc.), using rubber bullets, paintball guns, etc. for any other habituated or bold coyotes in area.
Coyote has bitten human. (Human did not encourage coyote to engage.)	Unprovoked human attack	Identify and gather information on all details of attack (including action of victim before and after attack, whether feeding or pets were involved, action of victim towards coyote and how incident was resolved). Any human bitten by a coyote(s) will need to seek the advice of their physician concerning the administration of a post-exposure rabies vaccination. If the offending coyote is killed, he/she should not only be tested for rabies, but should be also given a full necropsy (to determine general health and whether feeding was involved). Lethal control efforts, if implemented, should focus on the offending coyote(s), rather than the coyote population at large. Educate residents on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing and pet management. Levy fines (for wildlife feeding or leash law violations) when appropriate. Implement high-intensity hazing techniques (by ACOs, police, etc.), using rubber bullets, paintball guns, etc. for any other habituated or bold coyotes in area.

* (See Appendix D)

Appendices

Appendix A:

Coyote activity report form

Date: _____ Time of activity: _____ Duration of activity: _____

Name of reporting party: _____

Address of reporting party: _____

Phone number of reporting party: _____

Address of activity: _____

Location type (park, commercial property, residential property, natural preserve, vacant land, other):

Type of activity: *observation, sighting, encounter, following, pet attack: attended/unattended, human attack: provoked/unprovoked?* (See pg. 21 for definitions) _____

Activity of reporting party prior to interaction (e.g., walking, running, riding bike): _____

Was the coyote being intentionally fed? Yes No

Was there pet food present? Yes No

Was unsecured garbage present? Yes No

Were other food attractants present? Yes No

(e.g., bird seed, compost, fruit, etc.) If yes, describe: _____

Was a pet involved? Yes No

Type of pet: Cat Dog Other _____

Breed/weight of pet: _____

Was pet on leash? Yes No

(If yes, was leash longer than 6 ft.?) Yes No

Description of activity/what happened: _____

Actions taken by reporting party (e.g., ran away, hazed coyote, none, etc.): _____

How did coyote respond? (e.g.,* ran away, approached, etc.) _____

Office use only:

Outcome of incident:

Human injuries: _____

Post-exposure rabies vaccination recommended: Yes No

Pet injuries: _____ Pet killed: Yes No

Coyote injuries: _____ Coyote euthanized: Yes No

Coyote necropsy results:

Stomach contents: human food: Yes No

Sign of disease: Yes No

If yes, describe: _____

Appendix B:

Definitions:

Term	Definition
Observation	The act of noticing signs of a coyote, such as tracks, scat or vocalizations (howl), without visual observation of the coyote.
Sighting	A visual observation of a coyote. A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.
Encounter	A direct meeting between a human and/or pet with a coyote with no physical contact and no aggressive behavior on behalf of the coyote.
Following	A meeting between a human and coyote resulting in the coyote following/tracking the movement of the human and/or pet*.
Aggression toward humans	A meeting between a human and coyote resulting in one of the following types of behaviors by the coyote: growling, baring teeth or lunging. A human is not bitten, scratched, or injured by the coyote.
Attack on humans	<p>A meeting between a human and coyote resulting in biting, scratching or injury of the human by the coyote.</p> <p>Provoked: An attack where the involved human encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include a human hand-feeding a coyote, approaching a coyote with pups or intervening in a coyote attack on a pet.</p> <p>Unprovoked: An attack where the involved human does not encourage the coyote to engage.</p>
Pet/farmed animal-related attack on humans	A coyote biting, scratching or injuring a human while the human was trying to prevent or intervene in a pet or farmed animal attack.
Aggression toward pets	A meeting between a pet and coyote resulting in one of the following types of behaviors by the coyote toward the pet: growling, baring teeth or lunging.
Attack on pets	<p>A pet is physically bitten, injured or killed by a coyote.</p> <p>Attended: A pet is on a leash less than 6 feet long or is in the presence of a human less than 6 feet away.</p> <p>Unattended: A pet is free-roaming, walking off-leash more than 6 feet from a human or on a leash longer than 6 feet.</p>
Farmed animal loss/depredation	A coyote kills or injures a farmed animal.

*This behavior usually occurs during breeding or pup season and indicates that a den is nearby.

Appendix C:

Guidelines for implementing a community-based hazing program

Because coexisting with wildlife involves the community, the most successful coyote hazing programs involve residents and volunteers.



Residents are best equipped to respond consistently and at the most opportune times in their own neighborhoods, greenbelts, 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 home ranges.

Involving the community in coyote hazing efforts has the additional benefit of empowering residents and reducing their fear of coyotes by giving them tools to address coyote conflicts themselves.

Before attempting to haze coyotes on their own, residents should first be properly trained on the following topics:

- Basic coyote ecology and behavior.
- Seasonal behavior changes—breeding season, pups, denning behavior.
- Influences of human behavior on coyotes.
- How to identify and remove food attractants.
- Safety tips for pets.
- Hazing techniques, tools and tips for success.

When possible, in-person trainings and meetings are the best way to relay this information to residents and to train them in coyote hazing techniques. Supplemental materials, such as handouts, brochures and websites, can also provide this information when necessary.

Creating a volunteer hazing team

A group of volunteers trained in coyote hazing techniques can be quite useful to respond to coyote conflicts in public areas (such as parks, playgrounds, etc.). The following guidelines are suggested for managing a volunteer hazing team:

1. Volunteers should be trained in proper coyote hazing techniques (as discussed above).
2. Volunteers should be added to a community citizen volunteer email list, from which they will be notified of "hot spots" and asked to haze in the area.
3. Updates, additional coyote information, electronic flyers and handouts should be sent to members of the community citizen volunteer group to disseminate to the general public.
4. Volunteers should fill out a hazing interaction report after each hazing activity.
5. Hazing interaction reports will include the following details:
 - Date, location, time of day, number of coyotes.
 - Initial coyote behavior, hazing behavior, coyote response.
 - Effectiveness ratings.
 - Tools and techniques used.
 - Additional details/comments.



Coyote hazing tips for success

1. Hazing is most effective when an individual coyote is hazed by a variety of people using a variety of tools and techniques.
2. The coyote being hazed must be able to recognize that the potential threat is coming from a person. Therefore, hiding behind a bush and throwing rocks or hazing from inside a car or house (for example) isn't effective.
3. When hazed for the first time, a coyote may not respond at first or may run a short distance away. If this happens, it is important to continue hazing (and intensify the hazing if possible) until the coyote leaves the area. Otherwise, the coyote will learn to wait until the person gives up. Inconsistent hazing will create an animal more resistant to hazing instead of reinforcing the notion that "people are scary."
4. Make sure to provide an escape route for the coyote. Do not corner the coyote or chase the animal in the direction of traffic or other people.
5. A group of coyotes should be hazed in the same manner as a single coyote. In a group, there will always be a dominant coyote who will respond first, and once he runs away, the others will follow.
6. Hazing efforts should be exaggerated at the beginning of a hazing program, but less effort will be needed as coyotes learn to avoid people and neighborhoods. Coyotes learn quickly, and their family members and pups will emulate their behavior, leading to a ripple effect throughout the local coyote population.
7. Certain levels of hazing must always be maintained so that coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits.
8. Obviously sick or injured coyotes should not be hazed by the general public. In these cases, police or animal control officers should be contacted.
9. People should never run from or ignore a coyote. Running from a coyote can initiate a chasing instinct, while ignoring a coyote creates habituation and negates the positive effects of hazing.
10. It is important to identify and remove possible coyote attractants in conjunction with hazing. Hazing will be less effective if food attractants are plentiful in a neighborhood.



Appendix D:

Coyote yard audit checklist

(For municipal or homeowner use)

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

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

Appendix E:

Example coyote resolution

Resolution no. _____

A resolution approving a coyote management plan

Whereas, the city of _____ has a duty and responsibility to its residents to protect the public health, safety and welfare of its residents; and

Whereas, the city of _____ desires to identify and achieve a balance between the importance of human safety and the ecology of the region; and

Whereas, due to the varied interests of persons and organizations regarding actions that can be taken in the management of coyotes, a written management plan is desirable to ensure that the varied interests are evaluated and considered when seeking to address conflicts with coyotes; and

Whereas, the city of _____ has developed a Coyote Management Plan to provide recommendations for educating the community regarding living and interacting with wildlife and addressing perceived or actual conflicts with coyotes including sightings, attacks on pets, aggressive behavior of coyotes and a general fear of harm to life and property caused by coyotes; and

Whereas, the purpose of the Coyote Management Plan is to provide effective solutions to coyote conflicts, including a behavior classification and recommended response chart, to resolve and reduce human-coyote conflicts within the city in a humane and effective manner; and

Whereas, a combination of education and hazing have been found to be the most effective methods to alleviate the potential dangers that may result from coyote-human interactions; and

Whereas, the _____ is directed to utilize non-lethal methods, including education and hazing methods, as primary methods in coyote management, considering lethal responses (coyote removal) only in the event of an unprovoked attack on a human,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by _____, that: The Coyote Management Plan attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby approved. The resolution shall be effective immediately.

Approved and adopted this _____ day of _____

Attest: _____

About us

Together, we tackle the root causes of animal cruelty to create permanent change.

With millions of supporters and work happening in over 50 countries, Humane World for Animals—formerly called the Humane Society of the United States—addresses the most deeply entrenched forms of animal cruelty and suffering. As the leading voice in the animal protection space, we work to end the cruelest practices, care for animals in crisis and build a stronger animal protection movement.

Driving toward the greatest global impact, we aim to achieve the vision behind our name: a more humane world.

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