



WILDLIFE WATCH

A Leadership Response to Urban Wildlife Conflict



Wildlife Watch...What is it?

- A leadership development program
- A theoretical model that teaches agencies and communities how to minimize urban wildlife conflicts
- An educational program that emphasizes understanding/application of principles
- A catalyst to promote agency policy formation for urban wildlife



Agency Coaching

Takes place at two different levels:

Municipal government/agencies

- City Leaders
- Police Department
- Animal Services
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Public Works



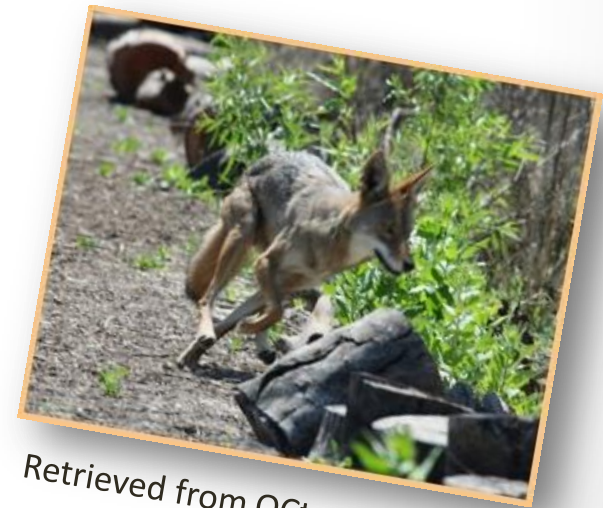
Community level

- Homeowner's Associations
- Private Organizations
- Mobile Home Residents
- Apartment Complexes
- Retirement Communities
- Suburban Neighborhoods

Agency Coaching

Encourages and guides agency management to:

- Develop public safety wildlife guidelines/policies utilizing authority from FG 4152 (a)
- Develop a communications plan within divisions and branches
- Start at the top
- Ends at the community level



Retrieved from Octrackers.com

Agency Coaching

Convene a meeting with management from divisions/ branches to include:

- City Manager
- Legal Staff
- Law/Code Enforcement
- Animal Services
- Public Works
- Parks And Recreation/Golf Courses
- Utility/Electricity/Power Easements
- Landscape Maintenance
- Sanitation
- Planning Department



Agency Coaching

Roles and Responsibilities:

City Manager

- Communicates with mayor and city council to formulate wildlife conflict policy.



Roles and Responsibilities:

Legal Staff

- Need to know legal basis for “no-feeding” ordinance as infraction
- What exists now (current state)?
- Trapping liabilities reviewed
- Define a public nuisance
- Imminent threat lower threshold in public eye
- City attorney and magistrate are supportive of enforcement
- Goal is to emphasize education

Roles and Responsibilities:

Law Enforcement/Code Enforcement

- Officers are often first responders in public safety wildlife emergencies.
- Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Coaches set up Wildlife Watch programs at the community level.



Roles and Responsibilities:

Animal Services

- Officers have direct communication with public
- They are aware of feral cat and wildlife feeders in community whether intentional or unintentional
- They know wildlife routes and areas of complaints



Roles and Responsibilities:

Public Works


- Know/maintain flood control channels and run-off tributaries
- Know transportation routes for coyotes/habitat
- Gate/Fence repair or modifications are important solutions
- Homeless encampments are food sources along flood control channels



Roles and Responsibilities:

Parks and Recreation/Golf Courses

- Creates suitable habitat for coyotes
- Maintenance of trash receptacles is important
- Need help to eliminate feeding of waterfowl at lakes and feral pigeons throughout city

**Please . . .
don't feed
waterfowl.** 

REGULAR FEEDING CAN CAUSE:

- Poor nutrition
- Spread of disease
- Unnatural behavior
- Pollution
- Overcrowding
- Delayed migration

Many people enjoy feeding waterfowl, but the effects of this seemingly generous act can be harmful. If you care about waterfowl, please stop feeding them . . . allow them to return to their natural habits.

Support Federal, State, and Private Organizations and their efforts to conserve waterfowl and their natural habitats.

For more information about the effects of feeding waterfowl, contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation office nearest you.

 **Keep wildlife wild.**

For more information, or to print a copy of this sign, visit the Region 8 Wildlife website at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/hq8/wild>.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Utility/Electricity/Power Easements

- Maintain land which provides habitat and transportation routes for coyotes
- Brush reduction, tree trimming and awareness of dens and hiding areas is important information



Roles and Responsibilities:

Landscape Maintenance

- Greenbelt areas provide transportation routes and access points to neighborhoods
- Maintaining grass, brush, tree and irrigation to reduce food, water, shelter for coyotes is critical



Roles and Responsibilities:

Sanitation

- Be aware of trash receptacle maintenance
- Trash pick up is a service to the public
- Does trash go to landfill within city limits or transfer facility?
- Trash and refuse are attractants for wildlife
- Emphasis is on scent reduction
- Like bears, coyotes know pick-up schedule



Roles and Responsibilities:

Planning Department

- Provides charts/schematics for mapping purposes
- Knows movement of wildlife throughout city



Coaching Sessions

Topics include:

- Community level to prevent human/ wildlife encounters
- No feed ordinance
- Leash laws
- Feral cat feeding areas
- Informational brochures
- Coyote hotline and mapping
- Coyote presentations by NRVP volunteers at community level
- No feeding programs (feral pigeons and waterfowl)
- Title 14 CCR section 251.1, harassment of animals
- School programs
- Coyote incident reporting system and database
- Hazing (When and How)
- Lethal removal
- Causes of human/coyote conflicts

Keys to Success

- Total commitment to program by city top management
- Cooperation between all government divisions and branches
- Divisions/branches understand respective roles
- Solid communications plan both internally and externally
- Monthly reporting and tracking system



In Summary

Wildlife Watch has been designed to:

- Support you in all aspects of wildlife management
- Reduce wildlife conflicts with humans
- Increase respect between community and city government

