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
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
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