



# *CA Fish & Game Commission Coyotes in Your Backyard: A Novel Challenge of Wildlife Conflict Management*

Dr. Eric Strauss, President's Professor of Biology  
Dr. Melinda Weaver, Post Doctoral Fellow  
Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience

LMU Cures photo of two coyotes in  
Ballona Freshwater Marsh, across  
the street from Playa Vista, CA





# Cat Fatalities in Culver City over the Past Three Years (n=83)

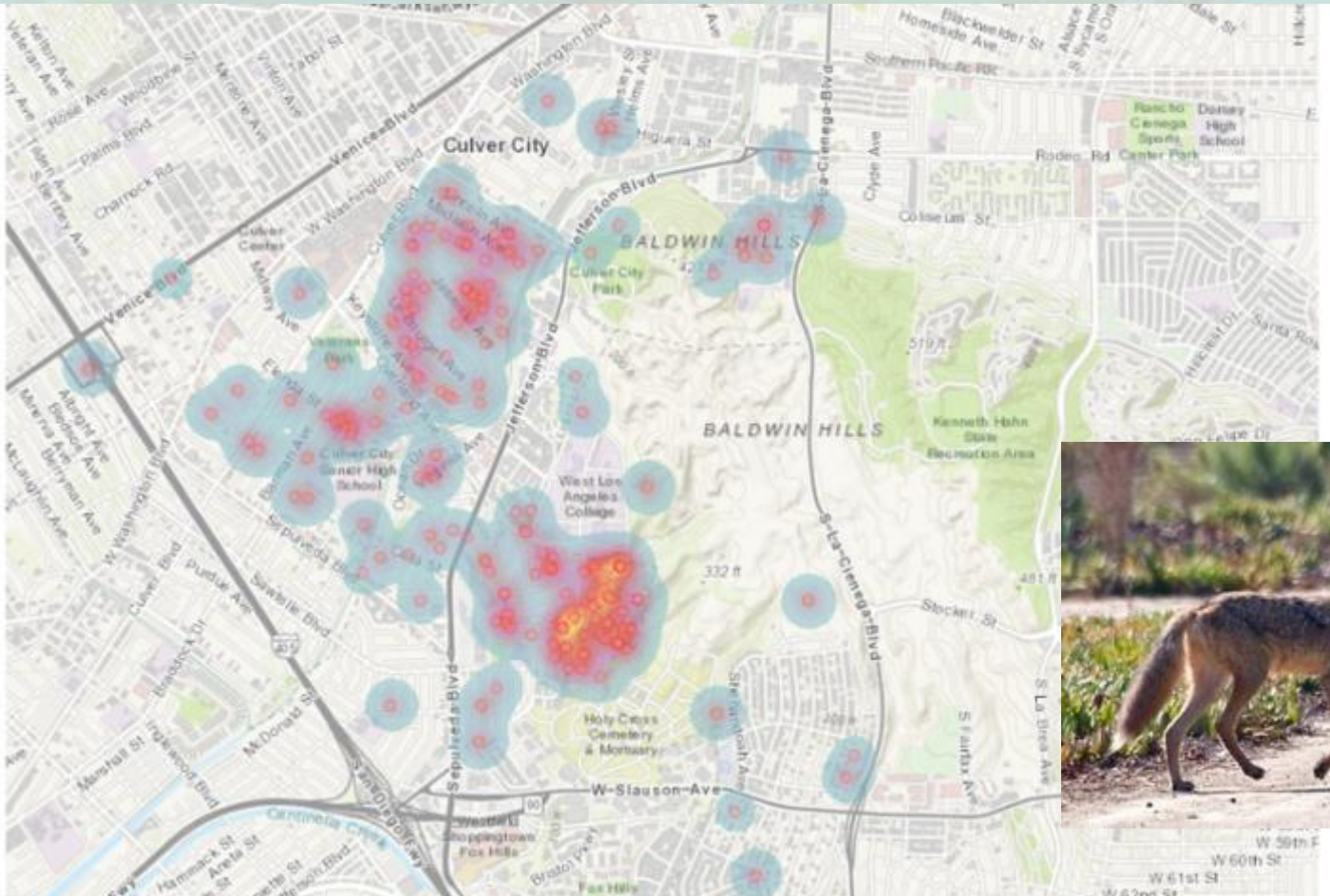


Photo by Carl Richards

The missing and fatally wounded cats are clustered around the Ballona Creek sluceway and Baldwin Hills Reserve

# The Characteristics of Urban Ecological Communities?



30.15 inHg - 62°F 08/23/2018 03:27AM CAMERA 1



# Coyote natural history suggests management approaches will be context dependent

- *Very adaptive meso-predator*
- Population increase and expansion over the last century – following suppression of larger mammalian carnivores
- *Usually live in family groups*
- *Omnivorous – very wide diet niche (think – teenage boy)*
- *Courser – travel long distances while foraging – highly opportunistic*
- *Can live 10+ years, but greatly reduced in cities as a result of anthropogenic forces*
- *Vary in size from 25-60lbs*
- *Males disperse from natal group*
- *Reproductive ecology drives temporal variation in foraging behavior*



Photo by Carl Richards



Coyote aggressiveness is scalar and follows predictable patterns in urban communities

Table 1. Sequence of increasingly aggressive coyote behaviors.

**Increasing Aggression**

1. Increase in coyotes on streets and in yards at night
2. Increase in coyotes approaching adults and/or taking pets at night
3. Coyotes on streets, and in parks and yards, in early morning/late afternoon
4. Coyotes chasing or taking pets in daytime
5. Coyotes attacking and taking pets on leash or near owners; chasing joggers, bicyclists, other adults
6. Coyotes seen in and around children's play areas, school grounds, and parks in midday
7. Coyotes acting aggressively toward adults in midday

The categorization presented by Timm, et al. (2004) provides a typical interpretation of increasing risks as considered by municipalities

These patterns vary by location, seasonality and the likely ecological history of individual coyotes in a given neighborhood

Timm, R. M.; et al., "Coyote Attacks: An Increasing Suburban Problem" (2004). Proceedings of the Twenty-First Vertebrate Pest Conference (2004).  
1. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/vpc21/1>



Education, both formal and informal is a crucial element of successful management interventions

1. Community engagement must have full participation
2. Hazing efforts must be consistent
3. Yard risk assessment and management (Safety survey)
4. Formal Curriculum *Urban Eco Lab*



*Right:* Dr. Melinda Weaver, Postdoctoral Fellow at CUREs,  
Leading Coyote Management Study in Culver City, CA

*Left:* Dr. Numi Mitchell, Conservation Agency in Rhode Island, with Los  
Angeles area high school and college student researchers from CUREs



# Management Approach

- Introduction to philosophy and our management tool kit
  - Local scale decision making – coyote population abundant
  - Ecological studies as a tool for management and local engagement
  - Human social ecology
  - Formal and informal education
- Specific Social Tools
  - Social Survey
  - Backyard Survey
  - Urban *EcoLab* Curriculum
  - Willing to work in local communities
  - Science, education and local empowerment





## Social Survey From Previous Project in Long Beach

1) How long have you lived in the City of Long Beach? Years: \_\_\_\_ Months (if less than 1 year): \_\_\_\_

2) Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:

|   | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Not Sure | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------|-------|----------------|
| I think about coyotes in my neighborhood often.                     |                   |          |          |       |                |
| I see coyotes in the way I see raccoons, opossum, and skunks.       |                   |          |          |       |                |
| I have an understanding of coyote behavior.                         |                   |          |          |       |                |
| I believe that coyotes should be allowed in the City of Long Beach. |                   |          |          |       |                |
| I am aware of where coyotes live and travel in the City.            |                   |          |          |       |                |
| I have heard about the City's coyote management activities.         |                   |          |          |       |                |
| I believe that coyotes and humans can live in the same places.      |                   |          |          |       |                |
| I am satisfied with the City's coyote management activities.        |                   |          |          |       |                |

3) Have you encountered any coyotes in your neighborhood? (circle one) YES / NO

How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

When was your last encounter? Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following best describes your encounter(s)? (choose all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sighting Only                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Dead Coyote             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote threat to another animal / pet       | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote threat to human  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote injury to another wild animal / pet  | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote injury to human  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote killing of another wild animal / pet | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote killing of human |

4) Do you know anyone else who has encountered a coyote(s) in your area? (circle one) YES / NO

Approximately how many people? \_\_\_\_\_

5) Do you have any of the following pets? (check all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other indoor animal Please specify: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cat (circle one) Indoor / Outdoor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other outdoor animal Please specify: _____ |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not have any pets                 |

Do you have concerns about coyotes and the safety of your pet(s)? (circle one) YES / NO

Aggregate, but incomplete data from multiple studies suggest that lethal removal can result i

## Social Survey Result Highlights... A very complex outcome

- A. One-third (33%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I think about coyotes in my neighborhood often.”
- B. The majority (54%) of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they “see coyotes in the way I see raccoons, opossum, and skunks.”
- C. While 46% agreed or strongly agreed that “I have an understanding of coyote behavior,” over half of respondents disagreed or were not sure.
- D. Forty percent (40%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “I believe that coyotes should be allowed in the City of Long Beach.” Another 31% of respondents were not sure, and 29% agreed or strongly agreed.
- E. Approximately half (51%) agreed or strongly agreed that they were “aware of where coyotes live and travel in the City.” The remaining 49% of residents strongly disagreed, disagreed, or were not sure.
- F. A large majority (74%) of respondents strongly disagreed, disagreed, or were not sure if they had “heard about the City’s coyote management activities.”
- G. Most respondents either agreed or strongly agreed (41%) or were unsure (25%) about the statement “I believe that coyotes and humans can live in the same places.” Another one-third (33%) of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.



# Coyote Risk Backyard Assessment

- Quality of fence
- Location of pet food
- Water source
- Trash/compost security
- Fruit trees
- Bird feeders
- Any animals/scat observed
- Pets allowed outdoors



# *Urban EcoLab* Educational Modules

Module 1: Introduction to Urban Ecology



Module 2: Land Use



Module 3: Energy & Climate Change



Module 4: Hazardous Waste



Module 5: Public Health & Water Quality



Module 6: Urban Biodiversity



Module 7: Animal Adaptation & Behavior



Module 8: Urban Environmental Action



Module 9: Human-Animal Interactions



Module 10: Garden Ecology



Module 11: Bird Migration



Module 12: Urban Wildlife



Module 13: Birds in the Urban Landscape



- Coyote Ecology and Resiliency
- Coyote Population Dynamics
- Coyote Traits, Adaptations & Behavior
- Canid Biodiversity
- Coyote Wildlife Management





# Urban EcoLab Educational Modules

## Instructional Sequence (4 class periods):

### **Activity 3.1 (1<sup>st</sup> class; 15 minutes): Video & PowerPoint – Evolution of Canids**

- **Step 1:** Show video and present introductory PowerPoint slides to students (first 7 slides). These will introduce students to speciation, genetic variation in *Canid* species and evolution of *Canid* species.
- **Step 2:** Have students jot down anything that interests them as they will be using this to start their posters.
- **Step 3:** Allow time for questions and clarify understanding and any misconceptions.

### **Activity 3.2 (remainder of 1<sup>st</sup> class): Activity – Build a *Canid* Poster**

- **Step 1:** Divide students into 10 groups.
- **Step 2:** Explain to them that they will be creating an informational

Student Diet and Activity Tracker

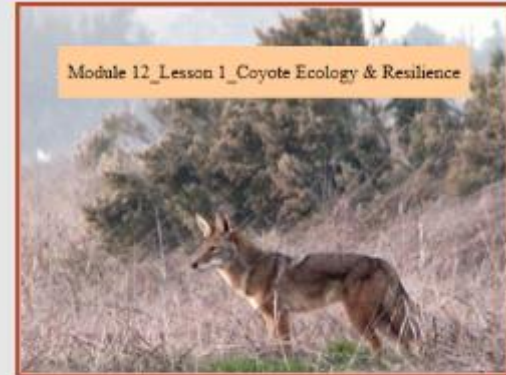
Student Handout M12\_L2\_A2.1\_SH2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Day 1:

| What I Ate (include time of day) | What I Did (include time of day) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                  |                                  |

1



2

**Coyote: The Myth**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJO\\_WEBnZgs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJO_WEBnZgs)

3

**Coyote: Wisdom or Trickster?**

- Myth of coyote strong in Native American cultures
- Seen by some as wise, lucky for hunting, cunning
- Also seen as deceitful, delighting in chaos
- Stories designed to teach lessons
- Creator of death?

# Urban EcoLab Educational Modules

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Coyote Wildlife Management Science Probe

Directions: In your group, read the information below about the damage coyotes can do in urban and rural areas. Then, read the scenario question you have been given and come up with a possible solution. Be prepared to present your solution to the group.

*Excerpt from "Managing Coyote Problems", Los Angeles Animal Control, November 2016:*

### **DAMAGE**

Coyotes can cause substantial damage. In rural areas they oftentimes kill sheep, calves and poultry. In some parts of the state they cause damage to drip irrigation systems by biting holes in the pipe. In other areas they cause considerable damage to watermelons, citrus fruits and avocados. Aircraft safety is often jeopardized when coyotes take up residence on or near runways. Coyotes have also been known to prey on various endangered/threatened species including the San Joaquin kit fox and the California least tern. In urban and suburban areas, coyotes commonly take domestic house cats, small dogs, poultry and other domestic animals. Coyotes have been known to attack humans.

Scenario: You are a rancher. Several of the newborn calves on your ranch have been killed by coyotes. In response, you have trapped and killed several coyotes. Several days later, two more calves are killed. Other ranchers in a 100 square mile area are experiencing the same losses in their cattle herds. Even though you have killed several coyotes, more calves are still being killed.

Task: A community meeting of ranchers is taking place in a few days. Your group of ranchers is asked to propose a solution to this problem.



# Local Community Empowerment







**Michelle L. Lute, PhD**  
**May 28, 2021**

# **Project Coyote Education Programs**



**Promoting coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science and advocacy**



## EASY TIPS FOR COEXISTENCE

### DO NOT FEED COYOTES



keeping coyotes wild  
is the key to coexisting

### REMOVE ATTRACTANTS



feed pets inside, contain waste,  
compost & pick up fallen fruit

### SUPERVISE YOUR PETS



walk dogs on leash &  
keep cats inside for safety

### KEEP COYOTES WARY



if you are approached  
act big & make loud noises

### APPRECIATE COYOTES



at a distance

### SHARE INFORMATION



Education. Science. Advocacy.  
[www.projectcoyote.org](http://www.projectcoyote.org)

## COYOTE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES™

Emphasize public education  
and collaboration with  
communities

Coexistence and appreciation  
of wildlife



# Conflict to Coexistence

A photograph of three young coyote pups in a natural, grassy environment. The pups are brown and white, looking towards the camera. They are surrounded by tall grasses and green shrubs. The background is slightly blurred, showing more vegetation and a clear sky.

## **TOOLS:**

**Consistent messaging, agency collaboration, and community empowerment**



# Best Practices for **Public** **Education**



Coyotes are **native** and  
contribute to **healthy ecosystems**





# Empowering Effective Change: Proactive learning & addressing myths

## **FACT:**

It's normal to see  
coyotes during the  
day



## **FACT:**

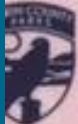
Attacks [by coyotes]  
on humans are  
extremely rare



**Model communities:**  
**Marin County,**  
**San Francisco**  
**and Calabasas**

# Marin County



 **COYOTE ADVISORY**

**PLEASE BE SAFE: KEEP YOUR DOG LEASHED**

**It is breeding season for coyotes. They may bark, howl, arch their backs and snarl. This is a show intended to keep intruders (particularly other dogs) away. If your dog approaches a coyote, the aggressive behavior may escalate. For the safety of your pet and for the benefit of all creatures that call this area home, we recommend keeping your dog leashed at this time while in this preserve.**

[marincountyparks.org](http://marincountyparks.org)

### DOGS AND COYOTES



**What you need to know**  
Coyotes are common in urban areas. Understanding canine behavior and modifying our own behavior is essential to peaceful coexistence with our wild neighbors.

**UNDERSTANDING COYOTE BEHAVIOR**

- Most encounters with coyotes in urban areas result from the presence of a dog, and/or from recreational or recreational-looking activities.
- Coyotes are shy-like our domestic dogs and share similar behaviors. Coyotes are shy and often vocalized in a "yip," "howl" or "scream."
- Coyotes are naturally wary but may show dogs as a threat or as competitors for resources, and be aggressive. They may behave less tame, than friendly, and more unpredictable during seasons when and/or during mating season (spring & summer). Understanding they have a young family is critical.
- Coyotes may attempt to snarl or bark your dog away from a site or a food resource. Coyotes do not seem to trigger themselves, so they may put on a show to get your dog to move along, including a full charge or lunging at the back, dropping the head and lowering the tail. These "threat displays" are intended to keep your dog away without the risk of making physical contact. If the dog doesn't move away or engage the coyote, the threat may escalate. Be sure to read the Coyotes in the News page only 18-20 minutes.
- Coyotes' primary food sources in our area include rabbits, garden mice, fish, bird feces and pig feces, and other small mammal species. In some cases, these animals are taken as a byproduct of their hunting.
- Many conventional behaviors are observed and/or occur as a result of food-seeking behavior.

**Open spaces and urban areas belong to all of us — people, dogs and wildlife. By being responsible dog guardians and recognizing dog interactions with coyotes, we can give each other "breathing room" and peacefully coexist.**

[PROJECTCOYOTES.ORG](http://PROJECTCOYOTES.ORG)

### DOGS AND COYOTES:

**NORMAL URBAN COYOTE BEHAVIOR**

- Hearing or the sight of a coyote
- Barking or howling
- Arching their backs or snarling
- Drooping their heads and lowering their tails
- Yipping or "yip" sounds
- Barking or howling
- Following you and your dog with curiosity from a considerable distance
- Following you and your dog with curiosity from a considerable distance
- "Staring" your dog away from identifying food or their family and moving toward you
- Not changing your dog in an attempt to make one disappear from view. Hiding dog means coyote hunting is current.
- Standing in the ground adjacent to your attempt to escape from your dog. This is a warning sign. Ignoring it is a mistake.
- Drooping of dog's tail to lower their heads
- Tearing down grass
- Head down or nose touching ground to grazing on grass
- Hearing coyotes howling or barking that are growling, whining, or barking continuously when heard from away. Their dogs and heads but they "yelp" with the coyote howl.


**WHEN TO TAKE ACTION (HAZARD):**

- For coyote aggression or curiosity, stop you (not a coyote) and give your dog a command (sit, down, or heel). Do not run. Instead, run the opposite way. Do not fight. Instead, run the opposite way. Do not fight. Instead, run the opposite way.
- When coyotes are persistent in the field and are curiously sniffing or barking, but they are not appearing to be a threat.
- Coyotes in your yard indicate that there could be a den in your vicinity.

**OHANA COYOTES MAKING YOU!!**

- Coyotes will come up, snarl, or bark and make noise to get your dog's attention and make you nervous. Do not panic. Do not yell. Do not run. Do not fight.
- Stand up your dog and put your dog's head down. Do not let your dog see your face. Do not let your dog see your face.
- Stand with your dog and put your dog's head down. Do not let your dog see your face. Do not let your dog see your face.
- Stand with your dog and put your dog's head down. Do not let your dog see your face. Do not let your dog see your face.

[PROJECTCOYOTES.ORG](http://PROJECTCOYOTES.ORG)





# San Francisco



## ALIMENTANDO FAUNA SILVESTRE:

Es difícil resistir alimentar a los animales salvajes, pero por favor no lo hagas – por su salud y su seguridad.

### SU SALUD

- Los animales originarios de esta área, incluyendo coyotes, pájaros, ardillas, mapaches, y otra fauna silvestre, necesitan una dieta natural para mantenerse sanos.
- La comida humana es “comida rápida” para la fauna silvestre. Alimentarlos, aún si es con buenas intenciones, puede causarles enfermedades, lesiones, y hasta la muerte.
- Proporcionar comida no natural incita a la fauna silvestre a congregarse en grandes números, lo cual conduce a peleas territoriales, ataques por depredadores, y a ser atropellados por carros.
- Los animales que alimentas hoy pueden ser matados como “plagas” mañana. No la hagas daño a la fauna silvestres con tu bondad. Ayúdalos a permanecer sanos, salvos y libres.

### SU SEGURIDAD

- Los animales salvajes que comen comida humana:
- Pueden morder, arañar o amenazar a otras visitantes.
  - Pueden entrar en conflicto con tus mascotas.
  - Pueden propagar enfermedades.



LA FAUNA SILVESTRE ALIMENTADA ES FAUNA SILVESTRE MUERTA. SI TE IMPORTA, NO LES DES DE COMER.



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG



## 喂飼野生物:

抗拒喂飼野生物是難的,但請不要這樣做——為了牠們的健康和你的安全。

### 牠們的健康

- 在此生活的本地動物,包括郊狼、雀鳥、松鼠、浣熊和其他野生物,均需要自然的膳食以保持健康。
- 人類提供的食物,對野生物來說是「垃圾食物」。好心的給予食物,可能會導致動物生病,受傷或甚至死亡。
- 提供非天然的食物可鼓勵野生物群集,引起爭地,捕食者之襲擊和被汽車撞倒。
- 你今天喂飼的動物,可能明天以「害蟲」原因而被殺。請不要讓你的仁厚愛心傷害野生物...幫助牠們保持健康、安全和自由。

### 你的安全

- 吃人類提供食物的本地動物:
- 可能會咬、抓或威脅其他遊人。
  - 可能和你的寵物有衝突。
  - 可能傳播疾病。



被喂飼的野生物是死的野生物。如你关心的話,請不要喂飼牠們!



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG



## FEEDING WILDLIFE:

It's hard to resist feeding the wildlife but please don't – for their health and your safety.

### THEIR HEALTH

- The native animals who live here, including coyotes, birds, squirrels, raccoons, and other wildlife, need nature's diet to be healthy.
- Human food is “junk food” for wildlife. Well-intentioned handouts may cause disease, injury, and even death for the animals.
- Providing unnatural food encourages wildlife to congregate in large numbers, predators, and being hit by cars.
- Animals you feed today may be killed as “pests” tomorrow. Don't harm wildlife with your kindness ... help them remain healthy, safe, and free.

### YOUR SAFETY

- Wild animals who eat human food:
- May bite, scratch or threaten other visitors.
  - May come into conflict with your pets.
  - May spread disease.



Report a DEAD wildlife to the city, now or later!

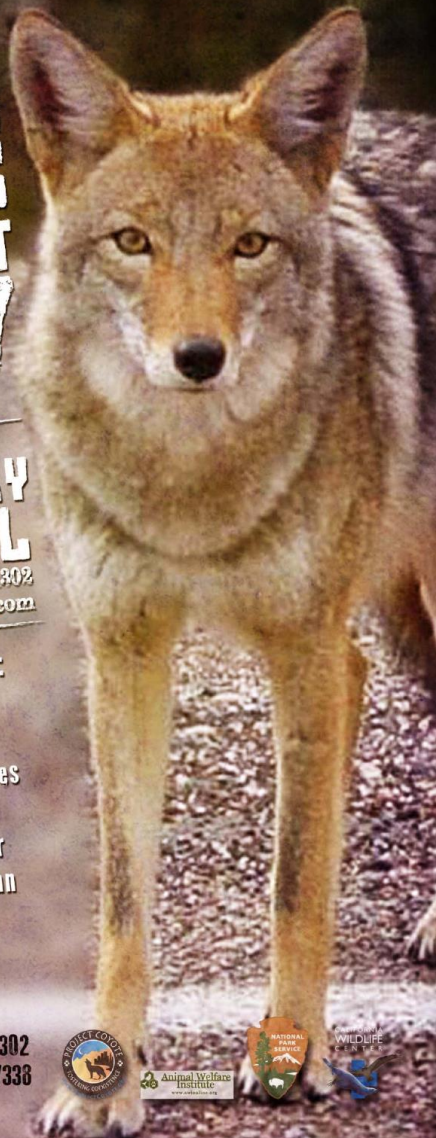
Feeding wildlife is illegal. San Francisco Park Code Sec. 5.07.(b)  
Report wildlife feeding to SF Animal Care & Control, 415.554.9400



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG




# Calabasas







**CITY OF CALABASAS**  
**COYOTE**  
**EDUCATION NIGHT**  
**FEBRUARY 27**  
**7PM**  
**CALABASAS LIBRARY**  
**FOUNDERS HALL**  
200 Civic Center Drive, Calabasas, CA 91302  
Please RSVP to [coyotes@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:coyotes@cityofcalabasas.com)

**Evening Program To Include:**

- Coyote ecology
- How to behave near coyotes
- Do's and Don'ts living near coyotes
- Protect homeowner property
- Actions to change animal behavior
- Calabasas Coyote Management Plan

  
CITY of CALABASAS  
100 Civic Center Way, Calabasas, CA 91302  
Tel: (818) 224-1600 Fax: (818) 225-7338  
[www.cityofcalabasas.com](http://www.cityofcalabasas.com)



**Thanks!**  
**info@projectcoyote.org**





# Coyote Management Plans (Process & Planning)





# Coyote Management Plans



## CDFW ROLE

- CDFW is a trustee agency (public trust)
- Support lead agency & community in all aspects of wildlife management
- Help local communities to reduce human-wildlife conflicts

## WILDLIFE WATCH

- Help develop integrated wildlife management plans
- Increase respect & stewardship of local wildlife
- Increase cooperation between community & government officials
- Program model vs. Educational campaign



# Coyote Management Plans



## Wildlife Watch

- Develop public safety wildlife guidelines / policies utilizing authority from Fish & Game Code § 4152 (a)
- Develop a communications plan within divisions and branches
- Route plan to all key municipal agencies & departments for comments & legal review before submitting plan for approval
- CDFW Conservation Coaches help establish Wildlife Watch programs at community level





# Coyote Management Plans



## Wildlife Watch

### Municipal-Agency Level

- City Leaders
- Public Safety
- Code Enforcement
- Animal Services
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Works
- City/County Planning
- School District
- Legal (General Counsel)

### Community level

- Neighborhoods
- Homeowner's Associations
- Community Groups
- Private Organizations
- Mobile Home & Apartment Complexes
- Retirement Communities



# Coyote Management Plans

- Approved plans provide the strategic framework to address conflicts
- Successful plans are adaptive, transparent, accountable

## FOUR KEY AREAS

- I. Education
- II. Enforcement
- III. Reporting
- IV. Incident Response





# Coyote Management Plans



## I. EDUCATION

- How specifically will city educate the public?
- What specific resources & tools will be available?
- When will the program start?
- How long will it run?
- Which Department(s) will coordinate?



# Coyote Management Plans



## Key Representatives

- Lead Agency Representatives
- Local Public Officials (as appropriate)
- Agency Volunteers (e.g., C.E.R.T, Neighborhood Watch)
- Other Agency Partners



# Coyote Management Plans



## Public Workshops & Meetings

- Community level to prevent human/ wildlife encounters
- Local Ordinances & Laws (e.g., No feeding, leash)
- Feral cat feeding areas
- Informational brochures
- Coyote hotline and mapping
- Coyote presentations by NRVP volunteers at community level
- “No Feeding” wildlife programs
- 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



# Coyote Management Plans



## II. ENFORCEMENT

- Public needs to know WHO, WHEN & HOW laws will be enforced
- Who will enforce wildlife-related policy/ordinance?
  - ✓ (E.g., Code Enforcement, Animal Control)
- What ordinances, codes & regulations exist?
- What new ordinances might be needed?





# Coyote Management Plans



## ORDINANCE EXAMPLES

- Feeding Wildlife
- Harassment of Wildlife
- Trapping (Requirements vs. Restrictions)
- Animal Husbandry (To Prevent Conflict)
- Animal Cruelty
- Feral Cat Feeding (Requirements vs. Restrictions)
- E.g., Wildlife Pilot Study – Wildlife Protection Ordinance (City of LA)



# Coyote Management Plans



## Challenges & Considerations

- Municipalities do not always have enforceable regulations on potential violations (e.g., feeding of wildlife).
- Violations often require an 'intentional act' or specific intent, such as feeding of wildlife, which is sometimes hard to establish
- Addressing wildlife feeding & other potential violations requires community-based education at the agency level.



# Coyote Management Plans



## III. REPORTING

- City website should clearly outline (1) how to report, (2) what to report, and (3) how each report will be followed up on
- Volunteers & staff must be trained to follow-up on all reports
- Standard Reporting Options
  - ✓ Telephone (Call line / Hotline)
  - ✓ Online Reporting
  - ✓ Social media – acceptable reporting venue? (e.g., Agency Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor)



# Coyote Management Plans



## Incident Reporting & Tracking

- Wildlife call from public received via law enforcement, Animal Services, or CDFW via Dispatch
- Agency records call & sends to personnel for response, as needed
- Identify & Monitor Human-Coyote “conflict hotspots”
- Wildlife Watch Block Captain notified for follow-up, if appropriate
- Maintains Master Database of incidents, partners & participants





# Coyote Management Plans



## IV. INCIDENT RESPONSE

- One of the most important sections
- FIRST establish wildlife policy & identify public safety thresholds
- Standardize incident response categories:
  - ✓ Sightings vs. Incidents
  - ✓ Encounter vs. Contact
  - ✓ Physical contact with pet
  - ✓ Imminent Threat vs. Immediate Threat



# Coyote Management Plans



## Example - Neighborhood Patrols

- Meet with Block Captain(s) & lead agency representative(s):
  - ✓ Understand policies, procedures for reporting
  - ✓ Obtain checklist or other tools
  - ✓ Conduct backyard inventories (if desired)
  - ✓ Identify possible “designated hazers”
  - ✓ Maintain Awareness - Talk to residents about wildlife, attractants, feeding & how to proactively address conflict





# Coyote Management Plans



## INCIDENT RESPONSE

### Example – Targeted Removal

- Public Safety Animal
  - ✓ Selective Trapping (Wildlife Forensics Protocol)
- Animal Welfare (Sick/Injured)
  - ✓ Selective Trapping
  - ✓ Net/Hand Capture & transport to wildlife rehabilitator
- Animal Welfare (Orphaned)
  - ✓ Net/Hand Capture & transport to wildlife rehabilitator



**WILDLIFE WATCH**  
"A Leadership Response to Human-Wildlife Interaction"

# Coyote Management Plans



## OVERVIEW

Agency leads work together to guide management plan activities & response

### Liaisons:

- Animal Services
- Local Law Enforcement
- Other Agency Partners
- Community Stakeholders
- Diverse Public
- CDFW (Conservation Coaches)



# Coyote Management Plans



## INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- Obtain & distribute educational materials to residents in assigned area
- Educate residents on incident categories, reporting & response protocol
- Compile monthly report for Leadership Team & interagency partners
- Share information to inform residents & team members of activity
- Work closely with lead agency to understand reporting policies & protocol
- Map reports to identify HWC “Hot Spots”

# Coyote Management Plans



## KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Establish program objectives & track progress
- Monthly reporting & tracking system
- Prepare quarterly or annual progress report
- Establish interagency data sharing partnerships
- Coordinate communications & outreach strategy
- Strong community & neighborhood engagement

# Coyote Management Plans



## KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Plan special community events
- Host public meetings or workshops
- Provide consistent guidance & information
- Cooperation & Communication between agency partners
  - ✓ Divisions/branches understand respective roles
  - ✓ Annual meetings to review and/or modify plan, as needed
  - ✓ Total commitment to program by key players



# Coyote Management Plans



## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- Is the plan comprehensive & strategic?
- Is the plan integrated in its approach to address human-wildlife interactions?
- Is the plan transparent & responsive to the needs of the community?
- Does it outline a policy change, standardized procedures or protocol?

# Coyote Management in San Francisco's Presidio

Jonathan Young

Presidio Trust Wildlife Ecologist



Presidio  
Trust



# Historical Context

- Last S.F. coyote documented 1925, returned 2003
- Why they returned: societal (human) shifts and coyotes' intelligence/biology

THEN



NOW





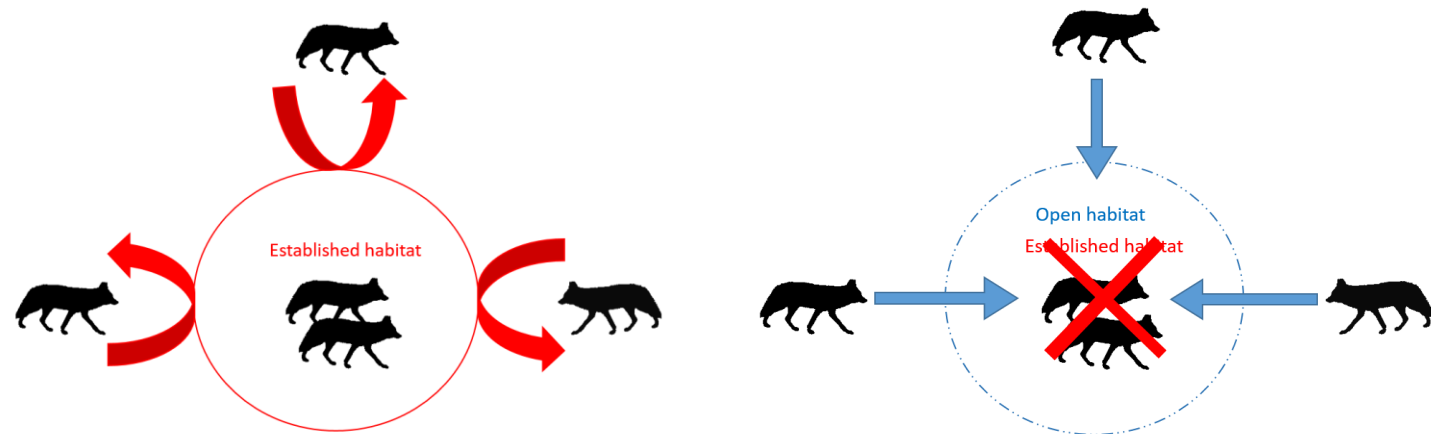
# Coyotes in the context of urban national park

*“Native animals will be preserved and protected in all cases, except when... unacceptable level of damage to resources, or they pose significant/unavoidable threat to health or safety of park users.” –Presidio Trust*

- Role in ecosystem (supports park’s goals of biodiversity)
- FAQ: eradication/removal (not legal, not practical)



Photo: Doc Miles



# Coyote working group

- 2004 relevant agencies got together to discuss
- Purpose and results
  - Operational framework: conflict management
  - Defining terms: e.g. observation vs incident vs attack
  - Consistency in fact gathering/interviewing/responding
  - Refine Presidio policy
    - drivers of conflict e.g. pets, human feeding/trash
- Still regularly working across city jurisdictional boundaries with SF gov/NPS



# Management tools

- Presidio is still experimenting, learning, and refining
- Gradient of options (w/ caveats + depends on context)
  - Hazing (different levels)
  - Physical barriers
  - Landscape changes
  - Sensory stimulation
  - Lethal removal
- Human management is most important
  - signage/outreach
  - residential/tenant policies

mild/opportunistic



Intensive/targeted

1. Yelling
2. Throwing objects/spray with hose
3. Paintballs



Wildlifehelp.org



NO PET FOOD OUTDOORS



OUTDOORS

## COYOTE AWARENESS



### Coyotes are Regularly Seen in this Area

After a long absence, coyotes returned to the Presidio in 2002 and are now seen regularly in the park, including in this area. They are also found in communities across the nation, from Los Angeles to New York City.

Coyotes are typically wary of people but are wild animals and should be treated with appropriate respect. Follow the guidelines below to help minimize conflict.

### Coyote Guidelines

- 1. Be aware of your surroundings.** Coyotes are typically active in the morning and evening, though it is not abnormal or uncommon to see them throughout the day. Stay alert.
- 2. Keep pets on leash and under control.** It is irresponsible and dangerous to allow your pet to interact with these animals.
- 3. Keep your distance.** Do not approach a coyote. In the unlikely event that a coyote approaches you, shout in a loud and aggressive voice, wave your arms, and throw small objects (to scare, not injure).
- 4. Never feed coyotes.** Keep wildlife wild.

Learn More about coyotes in the Presidio at [www.presidio.gov/coyote](http://www.presidio.gov/coyote).

**Report an Incident of Concern**  
(aggressive behavior, visitors feeding a coyote)  
Presidio Trust Wildlife Ecologist  
(415) 561-4148  
[coyote@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:coyote@presidiotrust.gov)



**iNaturalist**

**Share Your Observations**  
Sightings from the public help us understand the behaviors and movements of coyotes so we can improve our management strategies. Share a coyote sighting with us and with the community at [www.iNaturalist.org](http://www.iNaturalist.org).



# Pupping season management

- Important season for human(dog)-coyote conflict
- Den monitoring & signage/trail closures (to dogs)



Ⓜ Pres live 01 50°F10°C



05-16-2021 11:16:02





# Presidio monitoring program

- Collaring/tagging program
- Informs management/coexistence
- Not practical for all urban areas
  - but has helped inform other agencies
  - Federal land/project did not require state permit
- Camera traps are a cheap easy way to monitor
  - have limits





# CITY OF ARCADIA COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MAY 28, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

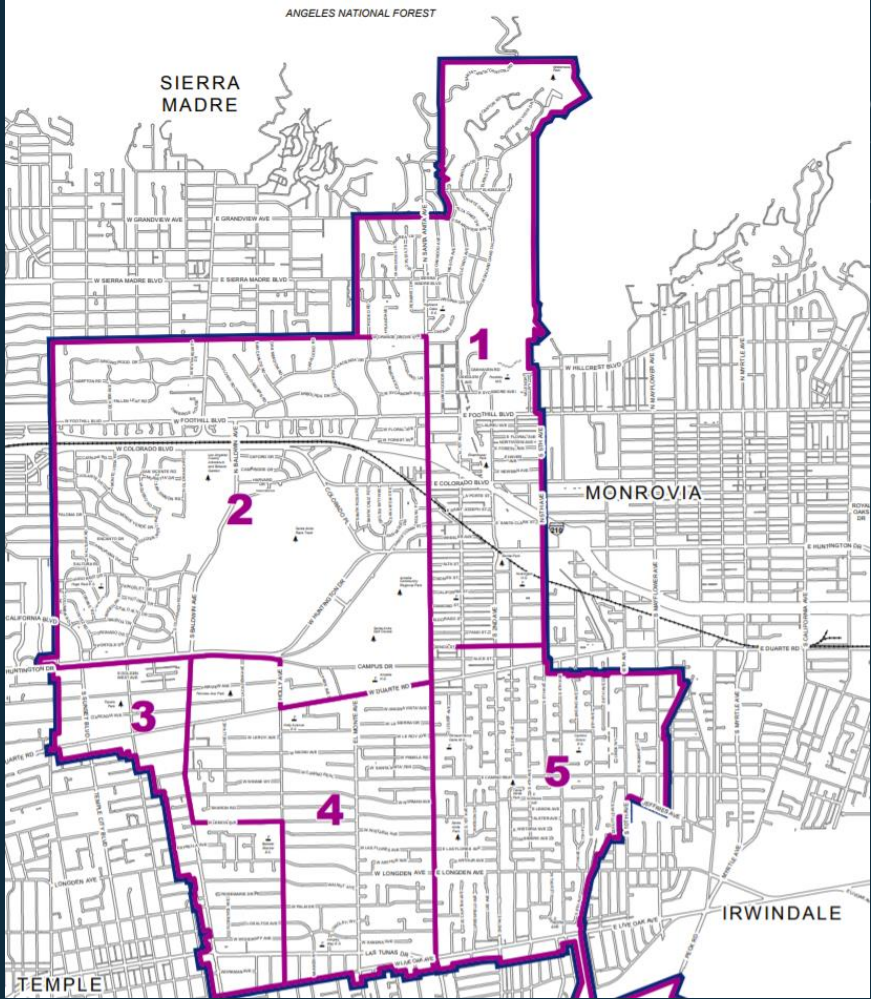


# BACKGROUND

- Arcadia is a foothill community; i.e. coyotes live here
- Previous attempts at abatement yielded little results
  - In 2011 the City embarked on a trapping program
  - PETA and local Native American tribes protested
  - After killing several coyotes and due to public pressure, the City Council backed off
- Since 2011, the City has provided coyote safety tips through our traditional public outreach efforts.

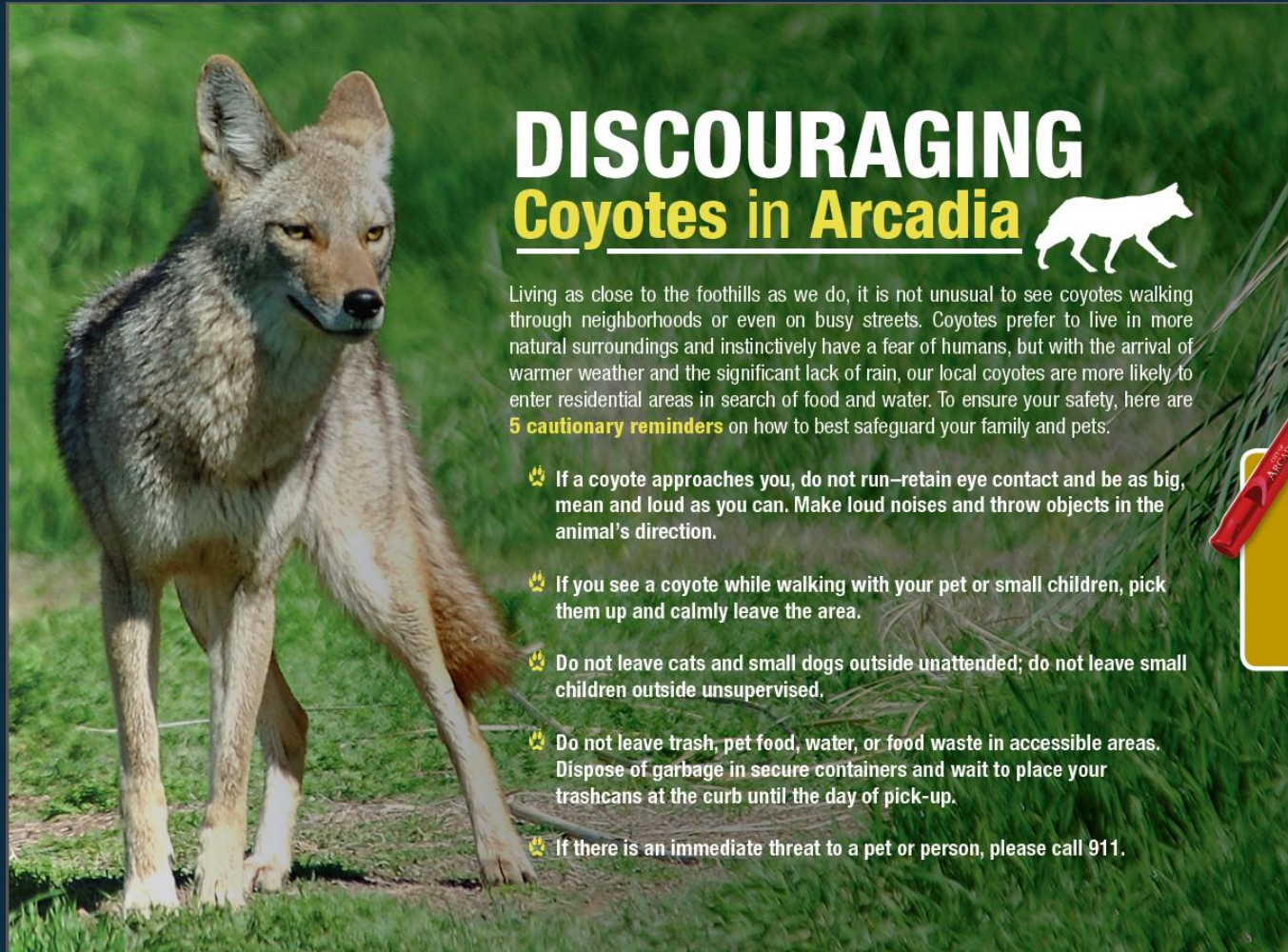


# COYOTES IN ARCADIA





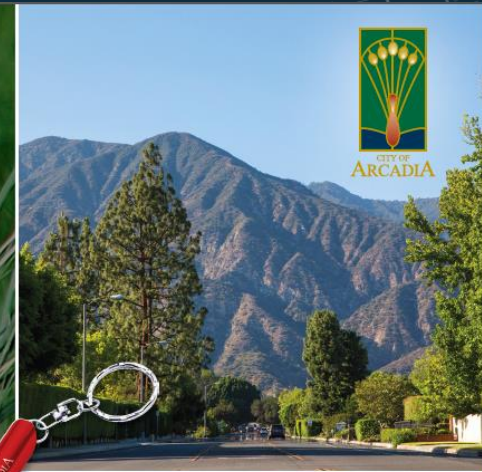
# COYOTES IN ARCADIA



## DISCOURAGING Coyotes in Arcadia

Living as close to the foothills as we do, it is not unusual to see coyotes walking through neighborhoods or even on busy streets. Coyotes prefer to live in more natural surroundings and instinctively have a fear of humans, but with the arrival of warmer weather and the significant lack of rain, our local coyotes are more likely to enter residential areas in search of food and water. To ensure your safety, here are **5 cautionary reminders** on how to best safeguard your family and pets.

-  If a coyote approaches you, do not run—retain eye contact and be as big, mean and loud as you can. Make loud noises and throw objects in the animal's direction.
-  If you see a coyote while walking with your pet or small children, pick them up and calmly leave the area.
-  Do not leave cats and small dogs outside unattended; do not leave small children outside unsupervised.
-  Do not leave trash, pet food, water, or food waste in accessible areas. Dispose of garbage in secure containers and wait to place your trashcans at the curb until the day of pick-up.
-  If there is an immediate threat to a pet or person, please call 911.



**AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION**, the City is offering safety whistles at Arcadia City Hall. Stop by the cashier's desk to pick up your free whistle that can be attached to any keychain or leash.

► For more precautionary tips and information about deterring coyotes from your neighborhood, please visit:

[ArcadiaCA.gov/coyotes](https://ArcadiaCA.gov/coyotes)





# COYOTES IN ARCADIA



**Coyotes, the buffet is closed!**

**Discouraging Coyotes in Arcadia**

 City of Arcadia | 540 plays

# COYOTES IN ARCADIA



- Council requests a report on December 6, 2016
- Staff provides an overview on February 7, 2017
  - Option 1: Trap and euthanize coyotes
  - Option 2: Learn to coexist and continue public outreach
- Council authorizes \$20,000 for coyote trapping program

# COYOTE TRAPPING



- A professional services agreement is brought forward for Council approval on February 21, 2017 for \$15,000 with Animal Pest Management, Inc. for coyote trapping services
- The staff report does not contain language related to CEQA
- Council unanimously approves the coyote trapping contract



# ARCADIA COYOTE LITIGATION



- On March 2, 2017, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and an Arcadia resident filed a Petition for Writ of Mandate against the City of Arcadia in Los Angeles Superior Court.
- The lawsuit challenged the City's February 21, 2017 approval of a professional services agreement with Animal Pest Management Services, Inc. for coyote trapping services.

# ARCADIA COYOTE LITIGATION



- **Issues alleged in PETA's Petition:**
  - The City did not comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
  - PETA claimed the City's decision to implement a project to trap and kill coyotes with snare traps was a discretionary decision subject to mandatory CEQA review under Public Resources Code § 21080(a) and State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15002(d) and (i).
  - The City's actions constituted approval of "projects" under CEQA that would have significant adverse environmental impacts on wildlife in the City and surrounding areas.

# ARCADIA COYOTE LITIGATION



- **PETA requested that the Court:**

- Require the City to set aside its decisions to appropriate funds for a coyote trapping program and approve the related professional services agreement.
- Require the City to comply with the requirements of CEQA prior to any future approval of the program/ contract/funding.
- Prohibit the City and consultant from installing, utilizing, or maintaining any coyote traps pursuant to the professional services agreement.



# ARCADIA COYOTE LITIGATION



- **Resolution of Litigation:**

- City Council voted to rescind the appropriation for a professional services contract related to coyote trapping and as well as its direction to City staff to enter into a professional services agreement with Animal Pest Management Services for coyote trapping services.
- Because the City's action rescinded the approvals at issue in the litigation, the parties agreed that the litigation was rendered moot.
- City paid PETA \$15,000 in attorneys fees and costs.

# COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



- On April 4, 2017, the City Council rescinds the actions of February 7, 2017 and February 27, 2017 to “cure” the coyote issue
- The City Council directs the City Manager to develop a Coyote Management Plan within 90 days
- Staff returns to City Council on June 20, 2017 with a draft Plan

# COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



- Provide guidance to the community
- Adhere to federal, state, and county regulations
- Maintains legal rights of Arcadia residents to protect private property
- Based on research and best practices



# GOAL

- Discourage the habituation of coyotes in an urban environment
- Increase knowledge and understanding of how coyotes behave
- Manage or reduce human/coyote conflict
- Behavior modification to encourage natural relocation to native environment



# STRATEGY

The strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect and protection of wildlife without compromising public safety:

- *Education*
- *Enforcement*
- *Safety Response Plan*



# EDUCATION

- Coyote awareness education for informed decision making
- Create reasonable expectations of coyote behavior
- Continued public outreach and education
- Leverage community partners (Pasadena Humane Society, Parent/Teachers Association, Arcadia Association of Realtors, etc.)
- Coyote hazing team training for Neighborhood Watch Captains
- Pasadena Humane Society to provide additional training and individualized yard audits



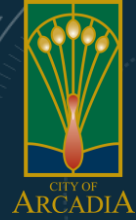


# OUTREACH

- Thousands of coyote safety whistles distributed
- Dozens of citywide mailers
  - Coyote safety articles in Hot Sheets and Newsletters
- 26 coyote warning signs placed near County wash entrances
- Coyote “Hot Spot” letter mailed to residents per quarter



# COYOTE WARNING SIGNS



**WARNING!**

**COYOTES**



COYOTES ARE WILD ANIMALS  
AVOID TRAILS AT DUSK AND DAWN  
KEEP YOUR PET ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES

**KEEP THEM AT A DISTANCE!  
NEVER FEED COYOTES!**

Report coyote sighting to the  
City of Arcadia Coyote Hotline at (626) 574-5463  
If a coyote is being bold or aggressive, dial 9-1-1

 [ArcadiaCa.gov/coyotes](http://ArcadiaCa.gov/coyotes) 

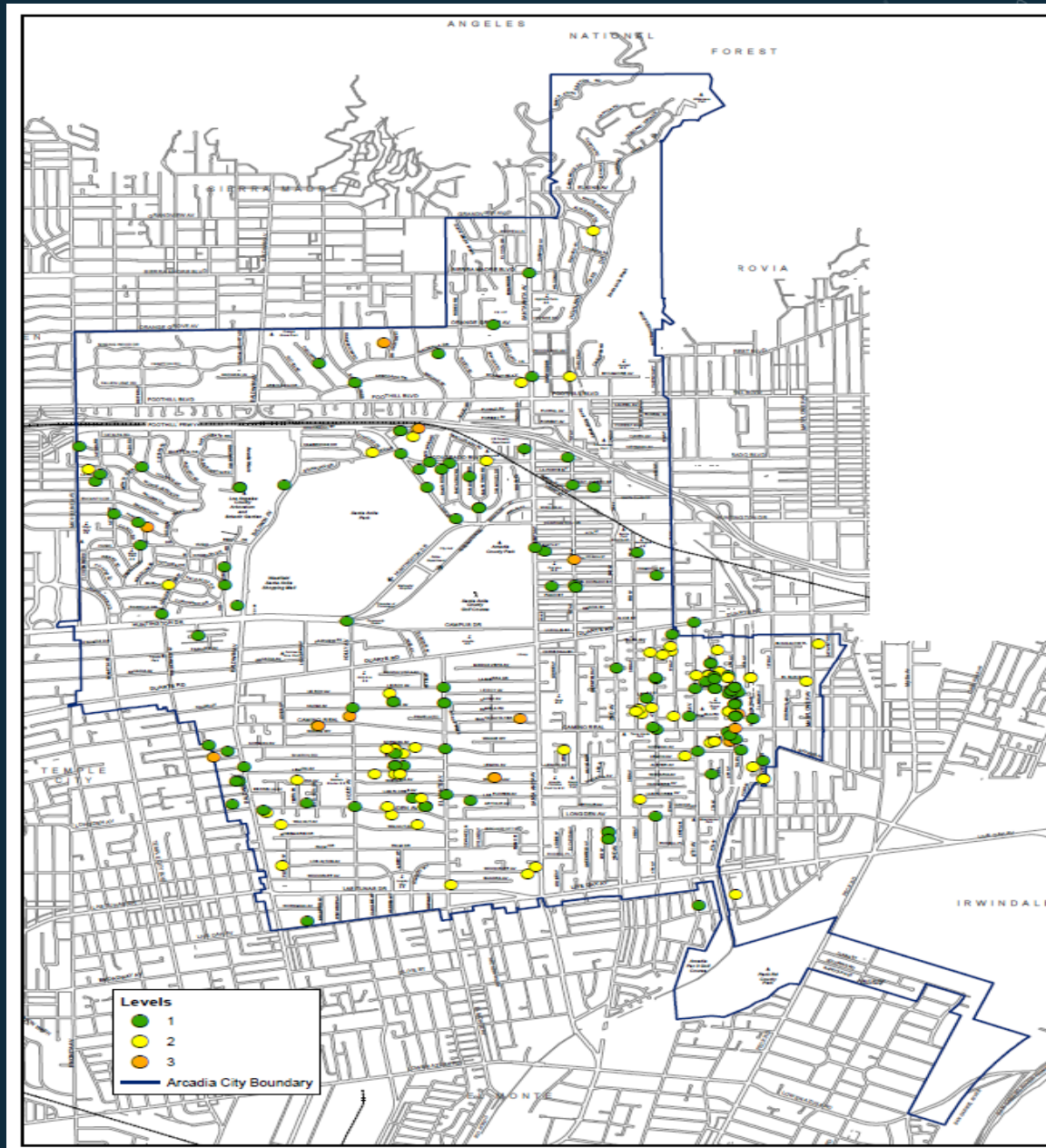
# COYOTE REPORTING



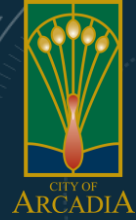
- MyPD Mobile App
- City of Arcadia Website – [www.arcadiaca.gov/coyotes](http://www.arcadiaca.gov/coyotes)
- Coyote Hotline – (626) 574-5463
- Email – [coyotes@arcadiaca.gov](mailto:coyotes@arcadiaca.gov)



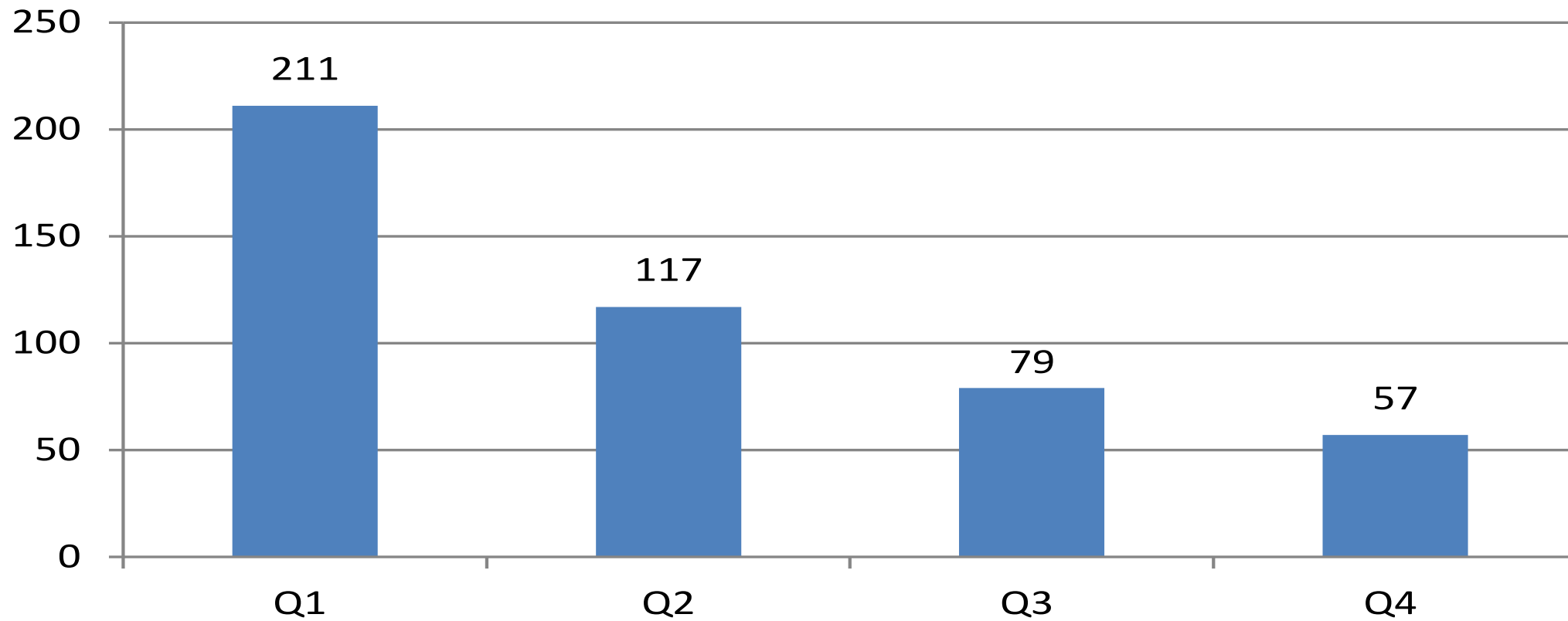
# COYOTE MAPPING



# COYOTE REPORTING



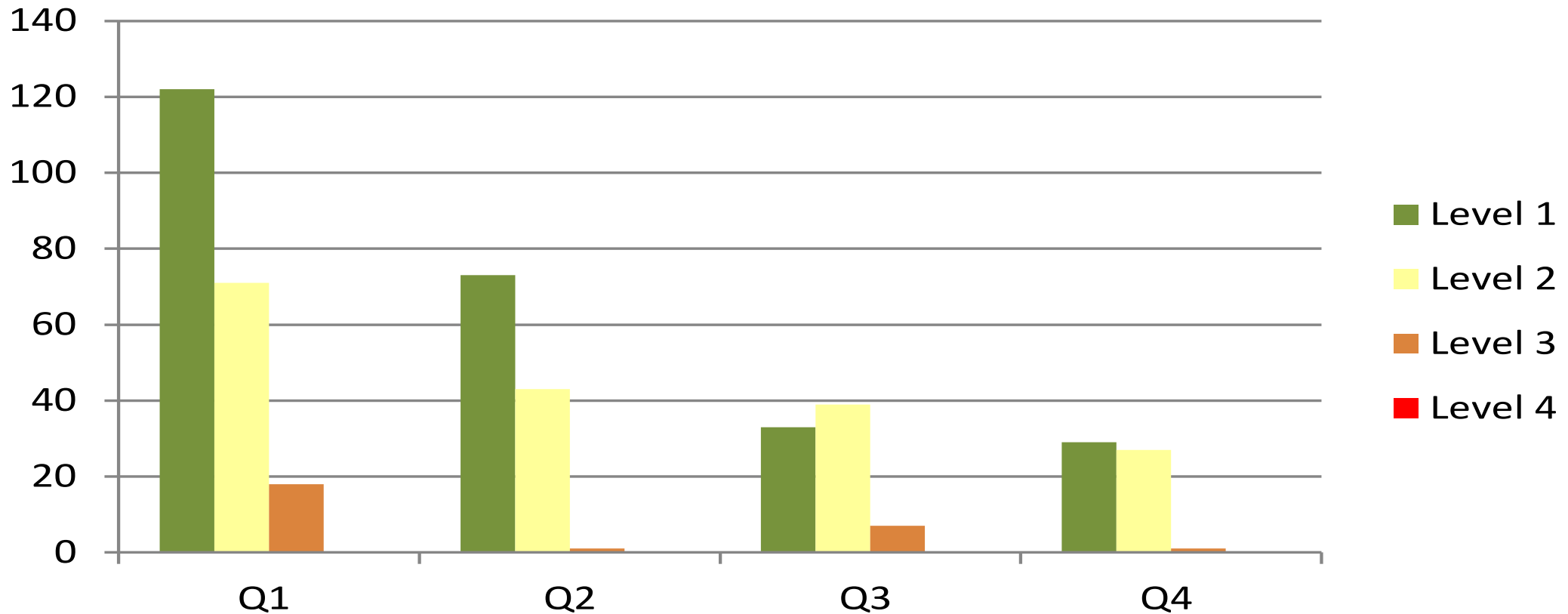
## Number of Reports by Quarter (FY18)



# COYOTE REPORTING



## Reports by Intensity (FY 18)







# ENFORCEMENT

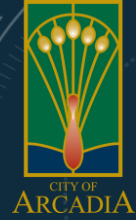
- Existing laws and ordinances regarding the care and feeding of wild animals will be enforced
  - California Code of Regulations
  - Los Angeles County
  - Arcadia Municipal Code
- Unoccupied Residence Registration
  - Unoccupied properties shall be maintained as to not become a refuge for coyotes
  - 120+ homes have been registered to date

# SAFETY RESPONSE

- Mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of human/coyote interactions
- Tiered response (Levels 1 to 4)
- Use of force is recommended for Level 4 interactions



# SAFETY RESPONSE PLAN – LEVEL 1



| COYOTE BEHAVIOR                           | RESPONSE LEVEL | RECOMMENDED ACTION  |
|---|----------------|---|
| <b>Coyote heard</b>                       | 1              | Provide educational materials and info on normal coyote behavior. |
| <b>Coyote seen moving in public area</b>  | 1              | Provide education materials and info on normal coyote behavior.   |
| <b>Coyote seen resting in public area</b> | 1              | Educate on hazing techniques, what to do tips.                    |

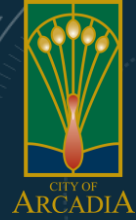


# SAFETY RESPONSE PLAN – LEVEL 2



| COYOTE BEHAVIOR   | RESPONSE LEVEL | RECOMMENDED ACTION  |
|---|----------------|---|
| <b>Coyote seen resting in public area with humans present</b> | 2              | If area frequented by people, educate on normal behavior and haze to encourage coyote to leave. Look for and eliminate attractants. |
| <b>Coyote entering a yard to a home without pets</b>          | 2              | Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, provide hazing info.   |
| <b>Coyote entering a yard to a home with pets</b>             | 2              | Educate on coyote attractants, yard audit, hazing info, pet safety.   |

# SAFETY RESPONSE PLAN – LEVEL 3



| COYOTE BEHAVIOR   | RESPONSE LEVEL | RECOMMENDED ACTION   |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Coyote entering a yard and injuring or killing attended or unattended pet</b>    | 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. |
| <b>Coyote biting or injuring a unattended pet/pet on a leash longer than 6 feet</b> | 3              | Gather info on specific animals involved, report circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, and pet safety.                             |
| <b>Coyote following or approaching a person and pet (Stalking)</b>                  | 3              | Educate on hazing techniques and what to do tips and pet safety.   |



# SAFETY RESPONSE PLAN – LEVEL 4

| COYOTE BEHAVIOR   | RESPONSE LEVEL | RECOMMENDED ACTION   |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Coyote following or approaching a person without a pet (Stalking)</b>    | 4              | Educate on hazing techniques and what to do tips. Use of force may be considered.  |
| <b>Coyote biting or injuring attended pet/pet on a leash 6 feet or less</b> | 4              | Gather info on specific animals involved, document circumstances, educate on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing, pet safety. |



# SAFETY RESPONSE PLAN – LEVEL 4



| COYOTE BEHAVIOR  | RESPONSE LEVEL | RECOMMENDED ACTION   |
|--|----------------|--|
| <b>Coyote behaving aggressively; showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without contact and/or with or without pet present</b> | 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.  |
| <b>Coyote entering a home; biting or injuring a human</b>  | 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. |

# RESULTS



- More informed public on normal coyote behavior
- Less fear, more empowerment on coyote mitigation techniques
- Less high intensity interactions reported, fewer reports over time
- More visibility on coyote activity, more direct resource allocation
- Less political pressure to solve an unsolvable problem

# QUESTIONS

[ArcadiaCA.gov/coyotes](https://ArcadiaCA.gov/coyotes)

