



City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

July 19, 2011
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN REGARDING HOW THE COMMUNITY CAN PROACTIVELY PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM COYOTES

Submitted by Raymond R. Cruz
Public Services General Manager

Approved by Clifford W. Graves
Interim City Manager

I. SUMMARY

At its July 5, 2011, meeting, the City Council was notified by a resident of coyote activity in the city. She noted the limitations on what regulatory agencies can do to eradicate coyotes in the community, and instead suggested that the city undertake an educational campaign informing residents of steps they can take to protect themselves. This report is intended to provide more information about reported coyote incidents that have occurred so far this year, and the city's response to these activities.

II. RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE and FILE report.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

Recently, there have been a number of reports of coyote activity in the city. Most of these incidents have taken place in the northern area of Carson, in the neighborhoods around University Drive. The following briefly summarizes what has reportedly occurred in the city so far this year:

- An Animal Control officer observed two coyotes roaming between the golf course at Victoria Park and the Home Depot Center.
- A second Animal Control officer has received five reports of coyote activity in the Carson area since January.
- An animal was killed by a coyote on Turmont Avenue.
- Near the intersection of Annalee Avenue and University Drive, cat remains were found.
- Near the intersection of Millmont and University Drive, a dog was killed at night in the backyard of a home.
- Recently, a jogger observed three coyotes during his early morning run.

As coyotes are classified as wild animals, the city’s ability to respond to a coyote incident is limited. Should a coyote be identified and found roaming the community, the Department of Agriculture would be the lead agency in this situation. Animal Control would be contacted only in the event of one being captured.

City staff is working toward educating the community about coyotes in Carson. An article will be published in the next issue of the Carson Report. Additionally, pamphlets detailing preventative measures the public can undertake will be distributed throughout the city (Exhibits 1 and 2).

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. *Coping with the Urban Coyote* Pamphlet. (pgs. 3-4)
2. *Keep Me Wild* Pamphlet. (pgs. 5-6)

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TO:Rev032811

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	<u>City Treasurer</u>
<u>Administrative Services</u>	<u>Development Services</u>
<u>Economic Development Services</u>	<u>Public Services</u>

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Much of the material contained in this publication is based on information and recommendations by Lila Brooks, Director, California Wildlife Defenders, as a public service.

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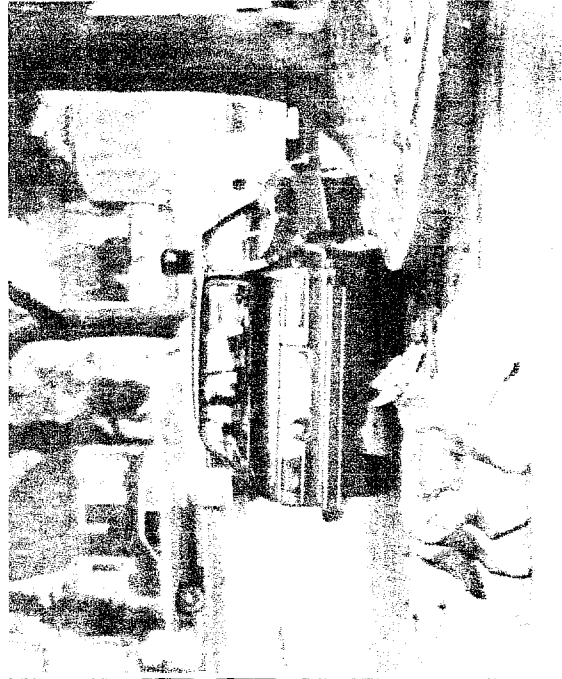
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



EXHIBIT NO. 01

COPING WITH THE URBAN COYOTE

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



FOR RESIDENTS LIVING WITHIN THE FOOTHILL COMMUNITIES

EVERYONE enjoys observing wildlife in its natural environment. However, many well-meaning residents of urban hillside or rural areas have promoted an unnatural boldness in coyotes by intentionally offering them food, or by carelessness in the handling of pet food and garbage.

Because of the interesting menu available in the form of handouts, dog and cat food, or easy-to-open garbage cans, the highly adaptable coyote is flourishing in intensely populated areas.

Where other natural predators have retreated, rats, mice, and other small animals have increased. In such a situation the coyote is beneficial, if residents would cease providing him with even more convenient meals.

This native member of the dog family closely resembles a medium-size German shepherd dog, with the exception of its elongated snout, and its bushy, black-tipped tail, which is carried straight out as it walks. During the night the coyote's high-pitched, yodel-like yapping can frequently be heard – especially following the sound of sirens from passing emergency vehicles.

The animal Mark Twain called “the most friendless of God's creatures” is also the most adaptable. The coyote can survive on whatever food is available, from rodents to rubbish, from insects to fruit to carrion. He can also be a threat to family pets, and, in isolated but tragic cases, has attacked small children.

Essentially unopposed by control measures, and lured by abundant food sources provided by people, he has become accustomed to the sight and sounds of humans, readily adopting residential properties as his territory.

DO'S AND DON'TS

DO feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meals outside. Store bags of pet food indoors.

DO clear brush and dense weeds from around property. This deprives rodents of shelter and reduces protective cover for coyotes. Use traps and rodenticides, if needed.

DO use trash barrels equipped with tight clamping devices on the lids, which will prevent spills should they be tipped over by large animals.

DON'T feed or provide water for coyotes or other wild life. This practice abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds, snakes, and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.

It is against the law for residents of Los Angeles County to feed coyotes. (County Code: Section 10.84.010)

DON'T put trash cans out the night before scheduled pick-up. Put them out in the morning. This will give the coyote less time to scavenge, and he won't have the cover of darkness.

DON'T use plastic bags as garbage containers. Coyotes can readily rip them open and scatter the contents.

TO PROTECT PETS

Construct six-foot fences with extenders facing outward at the top of each post. (Extenders can be purchased from local fence dealers.) Install two or three strands of wire, extending out at an angle for about 14 inches, completely around fence. This will prevent easy scaling by coyote.

Keep small pets – cats, rabbits, small dogs indoors. Don't allow them to run free at any time. They are easy, favored prey.

Large dogs should be brought inside after dark and never allowed to run loose.

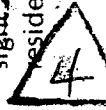
Don't leave domestic pet food outside. Wildlife will soon depend upon it.

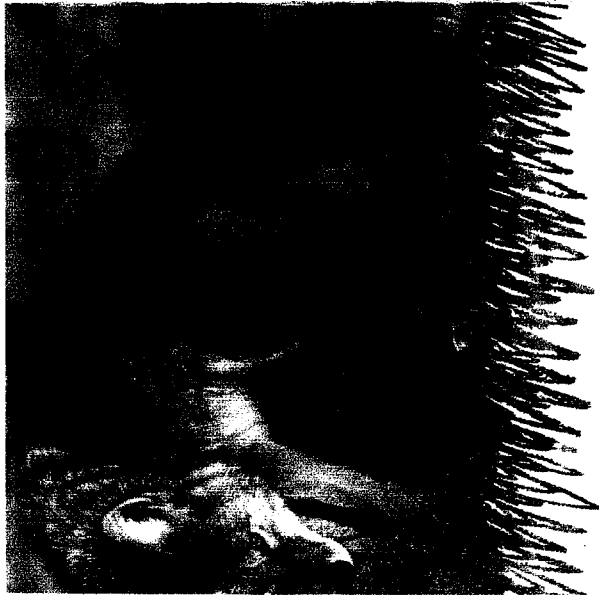
TO PROTECT POULTRY AND RABBIT

Run chicken wire from the bottom of chicken coop fence, out about a foot, parallel to the ground. Secure it well. Or bury cinder block under fence around the coop. Outfit a rabbit hutch with a solid bottom. A hutch standing above ground, with only a wire bottom, makes your rabbit an easy mark.

ABOVE ALL PROTECT CHILDREN. Never leave small children unattended in areas known to be frequented by coyotes.

If you have carefully followed the suggestions in this brochure, but problems with coyotes continue, please contact your local Animal Control agency, or the County's Agricultural Commissioner for further assistance.





Stash Your Food and Trash

Allowing coyotes access to human food and garbage is reckless and deadly.

Coyotes primarily hunt rodents and rabbits for food, but will take advantage of whatever is available, including garbage, pet food, and domestic animals.

- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- Bring pets in at night, and do not leave pet food outside.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, etc.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these tips.
- Ease respect and protect wild animals. Help them wild.

www.keepmewild.org



For More Information
Contact the California Department of Fish and Game
Sacramento Headquarters, (916) 653-6420 ODA
Northern California, North Coast Region
Redding, (530) 225-2300
Sacramento Valley, Central Sierra Region
Rancho Cordova, (916) 358-2900
Central Coast Region
Napa, (707) 944-5500
San Joaquin Valley, Southern Sierra Region
Fresno, (559) 243-4005 ext. 151
South Coast Region
San Diego, (858) 467-4201
Eastern Sierra, Inland Deserts Region
Ontario, (909) 484-0167

Alternate communication formats are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed contact the Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-6420, ibernard@dfg.ca.gov or the California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



KEEP ME WILD™

**Feeding Wildlife
is Dead Wrong.**



California Department
of Fish and Game

Wild Animals Ruined, Even Killed by People's Carelessness!

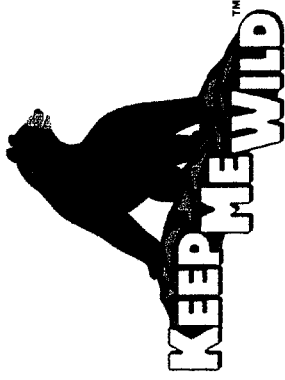
Wild animals are in trouble, and the problem is people who are careless with food and garbage.

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are by nature fearful of humans.

If coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear. They may cause property damage. They might threaten human safety. They might be killed.

Relocating a problem coyote is not an option because it only moves the problem to someone else's neighborhood.

Help prevent deadly conflicts for these beautiful wild animals.



A campaign for all wild animals.

"Coyote country" precautions

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes. The result may be deadly conflicts with pets or livestock, or serious injuries to small children.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Be aware that coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young.
- If followed by a coyote, make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.
- If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Game or law enforcement office.

Stash Your Food and Trash



Coyote-Proof Containers

Use garbage cans that have a locking mechanism on the lid. Use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object so that it cannot be tipped over.

New Laws

Feeding coyotes is illegal in some communities. Many local ordinances make wildlife feeding punishable by fines and requirements to install wildlife-proof garbage containers.

The coyote's range covers the entire state of California. Most conflicts occur along borders between urban and wild areas.



You Can Help

Please visit www.keepmewild.org for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other *Keep Me Wild*™ materials.