



**The City Of Torrance  
Updated Coyote Management Plan**

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## **Introduction**

The intent of this plan is to provide guidance for dealing with coyotes in Torrance. Guidelines and provisions of this plan do not supersede federal, state and county regulations and policies. Furthermore, the provisions of this plan do not apply to Torrance residents, businesses, or homeowner associations in pursuit of their legal rights in dealing with coyotes.

## **Background**

The City of Torrance does not own or have any control of wild animals found within its boundaries. The City is not responsible for the actions or damage caused by them. These animals are part of the ecosystem, biosphere, and the circle of life. The Community Services Department Animal Control Section was originally created under the Torrance Police Department to deal with problems arising from stray dogs and to enforce laws pertaining to them. To a small degree, handling some aspects of the wildlife was included in the scope of their services. Needs have arisen, primarily due to the proximity of natural habitat and the occasional wild animal involvement in distressed situations.

In the beginning of 2016, the City of Torrance, along with other municipalities in Southern California, observed an increase in the number of coyote encounters. These encounters included attacks by coyotes on pets that were off leash and in residential backyards, and an upsurge in sightings in areas populated by people (sightings included observations in daylight hours). The encounters created a general sense of fear in Torrance residents and a desire to manage the increased coyote activity in neighborhoods.

Coyotes have historically existed in Torrance and the South Bay, finding safe haven in areas including the sumps and marsh land. Additionally, other areas within the City where dense brush is prevalent also provide locales where coyotes build dens and reproduce. It is also believed that the prolonged drought has limited potential food sources for the coyotes and have drawn the coyotes to residential neighborhoods in search of food and water.

Coyotes are opportunistic, versatile carnivores that primarily eat small mammals, such as rabbits, ground squirrels, and mice. Coyotes tend to prefer fresh meat, but will eat significant amounts of fruits and vegetables during the autumn and winter months when their typical food sources are scarce. As a species, coyotes thrive, in part, because of their dietary adaptability. This dietary flexibility, coupled with a lack of prey and closer proximity to residents, has led coyotes to seek alternative food sources, such as small pets, pet food, fallen fruits and vegetables found in backyards and in the vicinity of homes, and even garbage. Coyotes are generally reclusive animals and avoid human contact. However, coyotes have become more urbanized and have realized there are not many threats in suburban environments. This has resulted in coyotes approaching people or feeling safe visiting yards when people are present.

In response to the rise of more aggressive coyote activity in neighborhoods, City staff researched responses from surrounding communities, reviewed existing Coyote Management Plans, analyzed the Coyote Guidelines from the Humane Society of the United States, and researched coyote ecology to better understand and create an appropriate plan for the City of Torrance. This Plan enables the City to manage the amplified presence of coyotes with an emphasis on education, hazing, and employs lethal means of removal when the safety of the public is at risk.

The Plan is guided by the following principles:

1. Human safety is a priority in managing human-coyote interactions.
2. Preventive practices such as reduction and removal of food attractants, habitat modification and responding appropriately when interacting with wildlife are key to minimizing potential interaction with coyotes.
3. Solutions for coyote conflicts must address both problematic coyote behaviors (such as aggression towards people and attacks on pets) and the problematic human behaviors (intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes and leaving pets outside unattended) that contribute to conflicts.
4. A community-wide program that involves residents is necessary for achieving co-existence among people, coyotes and pets.

The suggested actions in the Plan are designed to increase residents' knowledge and understanding of how coyotes behave and make clear how such behavior can be managed to reduce or eliminate conflicts with coyotes. The Plan requires active participation on the part of the entire community including residents, homeowner associations, volunteers, and City staff.

### **Difficulties Managing Wildlife**

Although Torrance places a high value on its wildlife, species that have adapted to urban environments have the potential to cause problems and conflicts in specific situations.

In cases where problems with wildlife are associated with human behavior (leaving garbage exposed or intentional wildlife feeding), ordinances and enforcement may be enacted to minimize conflict. In some cases, traditional management tools are ineffective. For example, relocation of animals is not ecologically sound and is not allowed in California without permission from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Generally, relocated animals do not survive the transfer. If they do, they rarely stay in the relocation area and tend to scatter to other locations where they may cause problems and be involved in territory disputes or introduce disease. In some instances, the dispersed wildlife, especially coyotes, will go to great lengths to return to their previous territory and may adversely affect residents. For these reasons, the CDFW rarely allows relocation of wildlife.

Attempts made by local, state and federal agencies as well as private organizations over the past century to eradicate coyotes by lethal control measures have proven to be ineffective. Moreover, during the past century, coyotes have expanded their territories to include every continental state.

### **What Role do Coyotes play in the Environment?**

Coyotes have an important natural role in the urban ecosystem. They are predators of geese eggs, squirrels, mice, rabbits, rats, gophers, and other small animals. Rodents make up a majority of their diet.

### **How do Humans Perceive Coyotes?**

People respond to coyotes in various ways: some observe them with enjoyment, others with indifference, and some with fear or concern. Personal experiences with coyotes may influence their perceptions. Experiences range from animal sightings without incident, to stalking, killing of pets, or, at the extreme, an attack on a person.

Because wild animals conjure fear, actual sightings and perceptions may become exaggerated or misconstrued (see Appendix A for description of types of coyote encounters). The wide range in perceptions of urban coyotes from Torrance residents supports the need for strong and consistent educational messages to clarify and teach management techniques.

### **How many Coyotes are in Torrance?**

It is difficult to establish an exact increase in numbers of coyotes in the area as there is no accurate tracking data prior to 2016. What is known is that coyotes can become habituated, or lose their fear of humans, if they are intentionally or unintentionally fed, which can lead to bolder behavior as coyotes lose their fear of people. Coyotes, like all predators, will stabilize their populations if they are not constantly exploited. In general, coyotes regularly roam an area of about 2-5 square miles, or whatever it takes to find enough food for the pack members. Normally, each coyote family group is territorial and varies in number from 3 to 10 members. A portion of the area the family inhabits is the pack's territory, which they defend from other coyotes. The number of mature coyotes in the family is linked to the amount of food resources in the territory. The family system keeps coyotes from getting too numerous because the families defend the area they need to survive.

A coyote family usually has one breeding (or alpha) female. This female produces more pups than are ultimately wanted in the family. Young coyotes may leave the family at about 9-11 months of age but dispersal patterns are highly variable. These coyotes become transients. Other types of transients include older individuals that can no longer defend their role as upper level family members and leave the family.

Transients move all over in narrow undefended zones that exist between territories searching for an open habitat to occupy or group to join. They often die before they succeed (many are hit by cars). It is largely because of these transients, that coyote eradication programs are unsuccessful.

Removing a group of territorial coyotes may create an undefended area into which the transient coyotes will flow. At all times of the year, numbers of transients may be available to replenish any voids created by killing the resident coyotes. Further, if either the alpha male or alpha female in a pack is killed, that may result in ovulation in other breeding-age females in the family and an increase in the number of litters as well as the number of pups per litter.

## **Monitoring and Collecting Data**

Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective coyote management plan. This is best accomplished with input from residents and the community at-large. The Community Services Department records and tracks coyote sightings and incidents (See Appendix A for definitions). Reports of coyote sightings/incidents should be submitted to official City of Torrance reporting channels:

For a coyote behaving aggressively or attacking a person:

- Call 9-1-1

For sightings or other incidents:

- Complete a report on the Coyote Management Portal [https://torrancecoyote.customerportal.help/en](https://torrancecoyote.customerportal.help/en;);
- Call the 24-Hour Hotline at (310) 618-3868; or
- Use the myTorranceCA app.

The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen 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.

## **Coyote Management Plan**

### **Management Strategy**

The City of Torrance strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect and protection for wildlife and their habitats without compromising public safety. The main strategy is comprised of a three-pronged approach consisting of public education designed around co-existence with coyotes, enforcement of laws and regulations prohibiting the feeding of wildlife and ensuring public safety by implementing a combination of responses to coyote and human interactions which includes lethal removal. This plan requires active participation on the part of the entire community including residents, homeowners associations, businesses, volunteers, and the Community Services Department.

### **Education**

Education is vital to residents making appropriate decisions regarding their safety, and that of their property and pets, by decreasing attractants, reshaping coyote behavior through hazing, and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior. Dissemination of information to residents, businesses and schools will be accomplished through the use of the City and Community Services Department websites, Torrance City Cable, social media, MyTorrance App, local press, mailers, flyers and handouts, and other communication platforms.

Learning how to respond to a coyote encounter empowers residents and supports reshaping undesired coyote behavior. The public should understand what normal coyote behavior is when living in close proximity with coyotes. For example, vocalization is normal acceptable behavior and does not indicate aggression.

### **Enforcement**

The act of feeding wildlife is known to lead to an increase in wildlife activity. Feeding can attract coyotes and their prey to an area leading to an increased likelihood of creating habituated coyotes and resulting in increases in coyote - human interactions. California law prohibits feeding wildlife. The Torrance Police Department will strictly enforce the State law(s) pertaining to this activity.

### **Response Plan**

A detailed tiered response plan has been developed to provide a mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of human and coyote interactions.

## **Coyote Attractants in Urban Areas**

While attacks on humans are very rare, urban landscape development, habituation through intentional and unintentional feeding, pet related incidents, and media attention have led some urban residents to fear coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on free-roaming and unattended small pets are normal coyote behavior and do not necessarily indicate a danger for people.

Coyotes usually become habituated when they learn and associate people and/or neighborhoods with sources of food. These behaviors are reinforced when people do not react appropriately when interacting with a coyote. Steps must be taken to address safety concerns and misconceptions and to ensure appropriate responses to potential threats to human safety. It is important to remember that coyotes have been in and around Torrance (and other parts of Southern California) for a very long time.

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

1. **Food** – Urban areas host a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes such as rodents and other small mammals. Coyotes are also attracted to suburban neighborhoods as a result of food sources associated with human life, such as pet food, unsecured compost or trash, fallen fruit in yards and occasionally small pets. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans and neighborhoods with easily available food, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people, and pets. To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:



- a) Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote.
  - b) Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove sources of pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, promptly remove the bowl and any leftover food.
  - c) Never compost any meat or dairy, unless the compost is fully secured.
  - d) Maintain good grounds keeping to discourage coyote activity near residences, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders and removing fallen fruit around any vegetation.
  - e) Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. If there is a coyote sighting near you, place trash cans curbside in the morning of collection. If left out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.
  - f) Bag attractive food waste such as meat scraps or leftover pet food before discarding.
2. **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, and more, which are accessible for 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.
3. **Access to Shelter** – Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, sumps, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, crawl spaces, and other open green areas 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 their 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.
4. **Unattended Pets** – Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats and will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Animals that are approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit, including small cats and dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods.
- a) The best way to minimize risk to pets from coyotes (and the other dangers of outdoor life such as cars, disease, dogs and other wildlife) is to keep small pets indoors (or only let them outside in a secure enclosure or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness).

- b) It is important to either keep dogs on a leash six feet long or shorter when outdoors or to stay within six feet of them when outside. Coyotes may view a dog on a leash longer than six feet as an unattended pet.
  - c) 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 this time, it is especially important not to let dogs outside unattended and to keep them on leashes (six feet long or less) when in public areas.
5. **Feral Cats** – People who feed feral cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well founded, as coyotes can be attracted to the outdoor pet food. Although there is no sure way to protect feral cats from coyotes, please remember:
- a) California laws prohibit feeding wildlife. Do not encourage feral cat behaviors and populations.
  - b) Haze coyotes seen on the property (see *Appendix B*). Making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.

Other domestic animals kept outside, such as rabbits, may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect outdoor animals from coyotes (and other predators) with protective fencing, by ensuring that they are confined in sturdy cages.

Residents are encouraged to use the At-Home Coyote Prevention Checklist (Appendix C) as a tool to help recognize and remove attractants in their yards and neighborhoods.

## Hazing and Behavior Change

Some coyotes have become too comfortable in the close proximity of people. To safely coexist, it's important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. Habituated coyote behavior needs to be reshaped to encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans and pets.

Hazing – also known as “fear conditioning” is the process that facilitates this change and is by necessity a community response to negative encounters with coyotes. It is one tool of a comprehensive coyote management strategy to reduce human-coyote conflict. The more often an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing coyote behavior.

Hazing employs immediate use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage undesirable behavior or activity. Deterrents include loud noises, spraying water, shining bright lights, throwing objects near the coyote, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and discourage them from entering neighborhoods, such as backyards and play areas. Hazing does not harm or damage animals, humans or property. Behavioral change also involves human activities such as how to identify and remove attractants and how to responsibly protect pets.

### **Foundation of Hazing**

- a) It is not economically, ecologically or in other ways efficient to try and eradicate all coyotes from the urban ecosystem.
- b) Hazing is one piece of a long-term plan in creating safe and acceptable living situations, increasing understanding and reducing conflict between coyotes and people.

### **Goals of Hazing**

- a) To reshape coyote behavior to avoid human contact in an urban setting. Human behavior can shape animal behavior, in either a negative or positive manner. People living in close proximity to coyotes can remove coyote attractants, identify potentially dangerous situations for their pets and themselves, and respond in a manner designed to change coyote behavior.
- b) To provide residents information and tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support feeling safe in their parks and neighborhoods. This can be accomplished by teaching residents hazing techniques.
- c) To model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes among other residents, friends and family.
- d) Monitor hazing to assess its effectiveness and determine if further action or more aggressive hazing is needed.
- e) Develop long-term community based hazing programs.

### **General Considerations**

1. Hazing must be more exaggerated, aggressive and consistent when first beginning a program. As coyotes "learn" appropriate responses to hazing, it will take less effort from hazers. Early in the process, it is extremely common for coyotes not to respond to hazing techniques. Without a history of hazing, they do not have the relevant context to respond in the desired outcome (to leave).
2. Techniques and tools can be used in the same manner for one or multiple coyotes. Usually there is a dominant coyote in a group who will respond - others will follow its lead. DO NOT ignore, turn your back or avoid hazing because there are multiple coyotes instead of a single individual.
3. The more often an individual coyote is hazed by a variety of tools and techniques and a variety of people, the more effective hazing will be in changing that animal's future behavior.

4. Hazing must be directly associated with the person involved in the hazing actions. The coyote must be aware of where the potential threat is coming from and identify the person.
5. Coyotes can and do recognize individual people and animals in their territories. They can learn to avoid or harass specific individuals in response to behavior of the person and/or pet.
6. Coyotes can be routine in habit. Identifying their normal habits can help target which habits to change. For example, the coyote patrols the same bike path at the same time in the morning three to five days a week. Hazers should concentrate on that time and place to encourage the animal to adapt its routine to decrease contact with people.
7. Certain levels of hazing must always be maintained so that future generations of coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits related to habituation to people.
8. Human behavior must change to support hazing and continued identification and, if necessary, remove possible attractants.
9. Education about exclusion techniques including how to identify and remove attractants, personal responsibility in pet safety and having reasonable expectations are critical parts of a coyote hazing plan.
10. Coyotes are skittish by nature. Habituated behavior is learned and reinforced by human behavior. Coyotes as a rule do not act aggressively towards aggressive people. The one exception is a sick or injured animal. Engaging a sick or injured animal can result in unpredictable behavior. If this is suspected, people should not engage and remove themselves from the situation, then immediately contact the Torrance Animal Control or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
11. Individuals involved in hazing need to be trained or educated in explaining hazing to residents who witness the process. They also need to explain the difference between hazing and harassment of wildlife and goals of appropriate behavior for coexistence.

## Enforcement

The act of feeding wildlife is known to lead to an increase in wildlife activity. Feeding can attract coyotes and their prey to an area leading to an increased likelihood of creating a habituated coyote(s) resulting in increases in coyote and human interactions. **California law prohibits feeding wildlife.** The Torrance Police Department will strictly enforce the State law(s) pertaining to this activity

### **CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 14**

#### **§251.1 – Harassment of Animals**

Except as otherwise authorized in these regulations or in the Fish & Game Code, no person shall harass, herd or drive any game or nongame bird or mammal or furbearing mammal. For the purposes of this section, harass is defined as an intentional act which disrupts an animal's normal behavior patterns, which includes, but is not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering.

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE TITLE 10**

#### **§10.84.010 – Providing Food for Certain Rodents or Predator Animals Prohibited**

- A.** Except as otherwise provided for herein, no person shall feed or in any manner provide food to a non-domesticated rodent or a non-domesticated mammalian predator.
- B.** For purposes of this chapter:
  - 1. “Rodent” includes ground squirrels;
  - 2. “Mammalian predators” includes coyote, raccoon, fox and opossum.

### **TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE**

#### **41.12.1 – Torrance Adoption of Los Angeles County Code Title 10**

- It is unlawful to violate any provision of Los Angeles County Code Title 10

## Response Plan

A detailed tiered response plan has been developed to provide a mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of human and coyote interactions.

The Torrance Animal Control will respond to calls that involve sighting of coyotes including sick or injured coyote(s). However, if there is a public safety issue, the Torrance Police Department will respond to calls involving coyote(s), such as a coyote(s) threatening people or resting in an area frequented by people, such as a yard, park, playground, school, etc.

If a human is attacked and physically injured by a coyote, the Community Services Department along with the Torrance Police Department will work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to thoroughly investigate the incident, identify and lethally remove coyotes in the geographic area. Lethal removal will also be considered if there is a public safety issue.

### **Threat Level Tiered Response**

#### Level Green:

Behavior – A coyote is seen or heard in an area. Sighting may be during the day or night. Coyote may be seen moving through the area.

- Response – Education and hazing needed.

#### Level Yellow:

Behavior – A coyote appears to frequently associate with humans or human related food sources, and exhibits little wariness of human presence. Coyote is seen during the day resting or continuously moving through an area frequented by people.

- Response – Education and aggressive hazing needed, volunteer hazing team created, and yard audits by homeowners or other authorized persons.
- Response – Lethal removal may be considered if the City determines there is a public safety issue.

#### Level Orange:

Behavior – A coyote is involved in an incident where there is an attended or unattended domestic animal loss; or a coyote biting, injuring, or killing an unattended pet or a pet on a leash of more than 6 feet. Several level orange incidents in the same general area may indicate the presence of a habituated coyote(s).

- Response – Education and aggressive hazing needed and public awareness of incident(s) and circumstances discussed. If multiple level orange incidents have occurred in the same vicinity within a short amount of time, lethal removal will be conducted if the area is conducive to trapping.

#### Level Red:

Behavior – A coyote has been documented in either a provoked or unprovoked close encounter or attack on humans; including biting, injuring, or killing an attended pet in an enclosed yard or a pet on a leash of 6 feet or less.

- Response – The Community Services Department will contract a abatement services vendor to conduct trapping services as long as the area is conducive to trapping and legally allowed. The Community Services Department may work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for any other lethal removal of the coyote(s).

### **Active Trapping Season**

Annually, coyote trapping season is usually from October to March. In the City of Torrance, trapping will occur year-round in 2022 by actively placing traps in allowable areas within the City's boundary and euthanize all coyotes caught as legally mandated.

## Incident Defined

An incident is described as a conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: coyote approaches a human and growls, bares teeth, or lunges; injures or kills an escorted/on-leash pet. This includes if an attended pet is attacked, but not human injury. When human injury occurs, it is defined as an “attack.” The California Department of Fish and Game will investigate the incident if a human is physically injured.

### **Circumstances Determine the Response**

If an attack is unprovoked there exists a continued threat to human safety, the City of Torrance will trap and euthanize coyotes in the geographical area.

In a provoked attack, the City of Torrance may nonetheless trap and euthanize coyotes in the geographical area.

If snares are determined to be necessary, the Community Services Department will coordinate with the contract trappers and advise them on location, duration, and details of trapping attempts.

If there is immediate danger that requires shooting, the Torrance Police Department will respond. No private individual is authorized to discharge a firearm within the City of Torrance, according to County and City Municipal Code.

If a coyote is lethally removed, the Community Services Department will evaluate and determine what educational measures and hazing techniques need to be modified in order to decrease any reoccurrence.

## Appendix A

### Definitions of Coyote Interactions

**Active coexistence:** Humans and coyotes exist together. Communities decide on community spaces, such as open spaces, where coyotes are appropriate, and do not haze, feed, or interact with them in these areas. Humans take an active role in keeping coyotes wild by learning about coyote ecology and behavior, removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, and hazing coyotes in neighborhood or community spaces (except for predetermined coyote appropriate areas).

**Attack:** A human is injured or killed by a coyote.

**Provoked** - A human-provoked attack or incident where the human involved actively or passively encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include dog off-leash in an on-leash area; dog on leash longer than 6 feet in length; or a human intentionally approaches or feeds a coyote.

**Unprovoked** - An unprovoked attack or incident where the human involved does not encourage the coyote to engage.

**Pet Attack:**

**Attended animal loss or injury** - When a pet is attacked or injured by a coyote even though a person is within 6 feet of it and on a leash.

**Domestic animal loss or injury** – When a coyote injures or kills a pet or animal that is unattended, or is a free-roaming animal. This includes “depredation” - predation on domestic pets. Free-roaming animal loss or injury is normal behavior for a coyote.

**Encounter:** An unexpected, direct meeting between a human and coyote that is without incident.

**Feeding:**

**Intentional feeding** - A resident or business actively and/or intentionally feeds coyotes, including intentionally providing food for wild animals included in the coyote’s food chain.

**Unintentional feeding** - A resident or business unintentionally provides coyotes access to food. Examples include leaving accessible compost outdoors, leaving fallen fruit or produce from trees and vegetation, left open sheds and doors, and pet food left outdoors.

**Unintentional feeding – bird feeders**: A resident or business with bird feeders that may provide food for birds, squirrels, or other small creatures. Bird feeders must be kept high enough from the ground so a coyote is unable to reach the feeding animals. The area under the bird feeder must be kept clean and free of residual feed.



**Hazing:** Physical actions meant for immediate use as deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing techniques include loud noises, shouting, spraying water, bright lights, and throwing objects. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and play spaces. Hazing does not damage animals, humans, or property.

**Threat Incident:** A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: approaches a human and growls, bares teeth, or lunges; injures or kills an attended domestic animal. A human is not injured.

**Stalking Incident:** A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: follows a person who may or may not have an attended pet on leash. A human is not injured.

**Observation:** The act of noticing or taking note of tracks, scat, or vocalizations.

**Sighting:** A visual observation of a coyote(s). A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.

**Unsecured Trash:** Trash that is accessible to wildlife, e.g. individual garbage cans or bags, uncovered or open dumpsters, trash cans over-flowing, or where trash scattered is outside the receptacle.

## Appendix B

### Overview of Hazing

Human actions can shape animal behavior, both in a negative or positive manner. Actions such as removing coyote attractants, understanding and identifying potentially dangerous situations for pets and themselves, and responding with hazing intent are all positive behavioral choices designed to change and shape coyote behavior.

**Hazing is a process** whereby individuals and volunteers make actions to make a coyote uncomfortable and choose to leave the environment where their presence is unwanted.

**Basic hazing** consists of standing your ground, never ignoring or turning your back to a coyote, yelling and making unpleasant, frightening noises until the animal(s) leave.

**More aggressive hazing** consists of approaching an animal quickly and aggressively, throwing projectiles, and spraying with a hose or water gun, all of which are used for creating fear of contact so the animal leaves the situation.

**Hazing must continue once it begins until the animal leaves**, otherwise, the coyote will learn to “wait” until the person gives up. Not following through with hazing will create an animal more resistant to hazing instead of reinforcing the image that “people are scary.”

**Hazing should never injure the animal**. An injured animal becomes less predictable, whereas a normal, healthy one responds to hazing in a consistent and predictable manner.

**Hazing should be conducted in a manner that allows the coyote to return to its normal habitat** in a direction that would minimize harm to the animal. Hazing the animal in the direction of other houses and busy streets should be avoided.

**Hazing uses a variety of different hazing tools**. This is critical as coyotes can become accustomed to individual items and sounds.

- Noisemaker: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, “shaker” cans, pots, pie pans
- Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls
- Deterrents: hoses, spray bottles with vinegar, pepper spray, bear repellent, walking sticks

A common concern with hazing involves potential danger to the hazer. A coyote’s basic nature is very skittish and the nature of the species is what makes this technique successful. A normal, healthy coyote will not escalate a situation with an aggressive person. Hazing is NOT successful with every species of wild animal because different types of animals have different traits

## Appendix C



### At-Home Coyote Prevention Checklist

Urban coyotes prefer to live in undeveloped green space but can travel 15 miles using shelter to cross city boundaries for easily accessible food and water. Preventive practices, such as removing attractants, modifying habitat near residential areas and hazing (scaring) coyotes are key to minimizing conflict.

REMOVE COYOTE ATTRACTANTS:		
	Accomplished: Date (month/year)	RECOMMENDATIONS
Food		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEVER feed wildlife. It is illegal. Leaving food outside your home invites coyotes and their prey (rodents and small mammals).</li> </ul>
Pet Food		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed pets indoors. Coyotes have a keen sense of smell. Pet food can attract them to your yard.</li> <li>• Store pet food indoors or in tight fitting containers.</li> </ul>
Trash		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure trash containers with locking lids and place curbside morning of trash pick-up.</li> <li>• Don't overflow trash bins. It's a health hazard and provides easy access to coyotes and other foraging animals.</li> <li>• Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors.</li> </ul>
Compost		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully enclose compost bins.</li> <li>• Do not include meat or dairy among compost.</li> </ul>
Ripened Fruit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick ripened fruit from trees and ground.</li> <li>• Protect fruit with tree netting.</li> </ul>
Water		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove water attractants, such as pet water bowls.</li> </ul>
BBQ Grills		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean food around barbeque grills after each use.</li> </ul>
Bird Feeders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean fallen seed to avoid the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.</li> </ul>
Overgrown Landscaping		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trim vegetation/brush to clear hiding places and potential denning sites, especially before coyotes den (March).</li> </ul>
SAFEGUARD PETS:		
Dogs & Cats		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep pets indoors when not supervised.</li> <li>• Walk pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length.</li> <li>• Pets can enjoy time outdoors with the use of fully enclosed dog kennels and cat patios (catios).</li> </ul>
PREVENT POTENTIAL HABITAT:		
<p>Micro urban habitats are small areas within a city that provide food, water, or shelter for wildlife to survive. Coyotes take advantage of these areas to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hunt prey where small mammals gather, such as green belts, brush piles, overgrown gardens, and crawl spaces.</li> <li>• hide and move about using shelter as thoroughfares in their search for food.</li> </ul> <p>When possible secure or remove potential habitat near your home: under decks, sheds, around woodpiles, shrubbery or any other structure that provide cover or dens for coyotes and their prey.</p>		

More information: [www.TorranceCA.Gov/coyotes](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/coyotes)

Last Revised: November 9, 2021