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City of **Chicago** | Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

Coyote Management & Coexistence Plan

Prepared by Chicago Animal Care and Control

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About the Plan: As animals such as coyotes situate in cities, it is essential that effective urban wildlife management strategies are developed. The City of Chicago recognizes that interactions with wildlife are a part of everyday life for urban residents and navigating human-animal relationships is an important municipal affair. The City promotes coexistence and utilizes strategies to best minimize the potential for negative interactions with wildlife and ensure a positive relationship between people and coyotes, as there is currently a well-established coyote population in the Chicago Metropolitan Area. Strategies and approaches taken by the Department of Animal Care and Control for managing Chicago’s coyote population are outlined in this plan.

Submitted To: The City of Chicago and the Aldermen of the City. Additionally, this plan is meant for the public and any other interested parties.

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Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) provides assistance when wildlife is considered to be a threat to safety and/or a nuisance. CACC receives approximately 450 service requests annually involving coyotes. Requests for service involving coyotes must be handled in accordance with Illinois Law and in line with best practices. CACC partners with wildlife rehabilitation groups that provide assistance when relocating wildlife and CACC provides education to the public on how to live with wildlife. This plan outlines feasible strategies and tactics to prevent negative encounters with coyotes in the City of Chicago. Coyotes in Illinois are not considered to be a major public health and safety concern and there has only been one reported and confirmed coyote attack on a human in recent years. Considering that there is an established urban coyote population and there is a possibility for conflict as with other forms of wildlife, it is important to consider the ways in which residents and the Department of Animal Care and Control may promote coexistence.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNING LAW, CACC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In Illinois, coyotes are classified as a furbearer and protected by the Illinois Wildlife Code which means they require a license to harvest. Coyotes in urban areas that become problematic may be removed if a nuisance wildlife permit is issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources district wildlife biologist or if a nuisance wildlife control operator holding a permit is hired for removal.

Pursuant to (520 ILCS 5/2.30) Coyotes may be hunted year-round by licensed hunters except during the firearm deer season, when only licensed deer hunters may take them. They may be trapped from November through February. Illinois Department of Natural Resources biologists monitor the number of coyotes in Illinois to ensure that hunting and trapping do not negatively impact the population. For full hunting and trapping regulations, visit the IDNR's [Hunting Regulations, Licenses, Permits and Applications](#) site.

MCC 7-12-365 requires that the executive director of CACC maintains a coyote management program and response guide based on research and best practices and uses public education followed by humane hazing as primary management methods. The executive director or his/her designees professionally determines how humane hazing can be applied in specific instances. The Department shall use any and all tools available to remove the coyote only if a coyote becomes a threat to public safety. The executive director shall provide a progress report to the City Council Committee on Health and Environmental Protection on or before October 15th of each year in the event there is any new information regarding coyote management efforts during that year.

Coyotes, wolves, foxes and domestic dogs belong to the Canidae family. Most coyotes weigh approximately 30-35 pounds, although their long legs and thick fur may generate a larger appearance. A coyote's diet is usually composed of small rodents, rabbits, fruit, and birds. As coyotes are opportunistic, some may prey on larger animals or other food sources depending on resources in a given area. In an urban setting, a coyote typically lives up to the age of 3, although in captivity their lifespan is much longer. The most common cause of death for urban coyotes is motor vehicle collisions.

Urban Coyote Ecology

Coyotes are now found in all states in the U.S. except Hawaii and have become well established in nearly every ecosystem. It is important to keep in mind that coyotes have been interacting with and adapting to human expansion since early development across North America. Due to their intelligence and adaptability, coyotes began situating in cities in the latter part of the 20th century and are now common in metropolitan areas across the country. Coyotes tend to prefer areas with natural shielding from human activity. It is not rare for an individual or pack to settle in an urban park offering greenspace and preferred habitat. Consequently, virtually all of Chicago's greenspaces are utilized by coyotes. Coyotes are experiencing success in Chicago exemplified by relatively high survival and reproduction rates. According to the Principal Investigator of the Cook County Coyote Project, Dr. Stan Gehrt, the population in Cook County is stable and not expected to decline in the near future.

Social Tendencies

Coyote populations contain packs that inhabit select territories across a landscape and solitary individuals that span across overlapping territories. The species have home ranges that vary depending on the environment from about 2-5 square miles and, in the city, about 7-8 square miles. Group sizes and pack characteristics may also shift depending on environmental contexts and food supply. Generally, packs are made up of an alpha male and female responsible for most of the breeding and several other individuals that defend the territory. Normally, each pack is a territorial family group that varies in number from about 3-6 coyotes. Wandering individuals usually occur in cases where coyotes are searching for mates or unoccupied spaces.

Behavior Patterns

Urban coyotes tend to be highly adaptive and capable of developing altered characteristics and behavior traits in response to the city's environment. Even in densely populated urban regions, coyotes maintain an avoidance of people making them almost completely undetectable to most urban residents. Urban coyotes are known to adapt nocturnal behavior traits in response to navigating the urban setting and shifting activity to hours of less human presence (Gehrt, 2011). Coyotes are naturally very skittish and afraid of humans, rarely seen during the day in heavily populated areas. Often, it is only howling and yipping that alerts us to the presence of this canid in our neighborhoods.

Generalizing coyote behavior is challenging due to the potential for large trait variations between urban and rural coyotes. While many coyotes tend to remain elusive and fearful, rarely individuals may exhibit bolder characteristics. This is exacerbated if there is any kind of human feeding involved. These coyotes are more inclined to approach people, and may cause a threat to domestic pets and residents.

Have Coyotes Increased in Chicago?

The early rise of U.S. metropolitan areas alienated coyote populations; however, they began situating in cities in the late 20th century, beginning in states like California and moving eastward. The urban presence of coyotes is a nationwide phenomenon, as is the case in Chicago (Gehrt 2011). Coyotes pose as a species adapting especially well to densely populated urban spaces. In 2020, expert Dr. Stan Gehrt estimated Cook County's coyote population at 3,700 and put the City of Chicago's estimate in the low hundreds. While rising in the early and mid 2000's, coyote populations in the Chicago Metropolitan area are now well established while not necessarily experiencing increasing numbers. Coyotes have no existing predators in urban spaces and have shown a capacity to adapt around human populations.

Threat to Humans

There have been few confirmed cases of attacks in the Chicago metropolitan area. The average is low across the U.S. and events of conflict are usually influenced by either intentional or non-intentional human feeding. There have been nearly 150 documented attacks in North America in entirety, mostly in California and Arizona, and only two fatalities (Cook County Coyote Project). According to White and Gehrt (2009), Coyote attacks can be categorized as either predatory (aggressive pursuit of an individual), investigative (attack on a resting, unthreatening person as a potential prey source), rabid (coyote tests positive for rabies), pet-related, or defensive (to protect itself, den or pups). Their research also shows that majority of attacks are predatory and that there is a correlation between increase of overall attacks and coyote pup-rearing seasons, and many attacks involve feeding.

Attacks on Pets

Although there are few documented human attacks, there have been higher numbers of attacks on household pets in the last 20 years. Smaller breeds of dogs or cats are more likely to be victims of coyote attacks. Encouraging people to keep cats inside and leash dogs will lessen the likelihood of coyote-pet conflicts.

Coyote Attractants in Urban Areas

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

1. **Food.** Urban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes, which primarily eat small rodents. However, coyotes can be further attracted into urban neighborhoods by human-associated food such as pet food, unsecured compost or trash, and fallen fruit in yards. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with 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 (or any other kind of wildlife)
- b. Avoid feeding pets outside and remove sources of pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly
- c. Securely bin or contain compost if outside
- d. Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders to help discourage coyote activity near residences

- e. Remove fallen fruit from the ground
- f. Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into
- g. Bag especially attractive food wastes such as meat scraps or leftover pet food. If it is several days before garbage will be picked up, freeze temporarily or take to a dumpster or other secure storage container

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, etc., which support 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, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, etc., 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 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.** Pets are a normal part of an urban landscape. Within their territory, coyotes may consider pets as potential prey or potential competitors.

- a. Free-roaming pets, cats and small dogs may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to minimize risk to pets is to not leave them outside unattended and to leash them when in public.
- b. Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit, free-roaming outdoor cats may also be seen as eligible prey by coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on cats are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people. The only way to protect cats from coyotes (and the other dangers of outdoor life such as cars, disease, dogs and other wildlife) is to keep cats indoors.



Reporting, Monitoring, and Collecting Data

Reporting, monitoring and data collection are critical components of CACC wildlife management. This is best accomplished with input from both residents and city officials. The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen and gather statistics on how many coyotes are within an area. CACC has recently initiated a system through Salesforce that categorizes coyote complaint calls made by residents into *sighting*, *encounter*, or *attack* categories. These distinctions allow officers to tailor responses to each event. Additionally, this detailed data is mapped and hotspots of activity are identified based off these categories. Gathering specific data on incidents will allow CACC to target conflict mitigation efforts to specific areas of need. It also makes it possible for the department to measure coyote related activity in specific areas over time.

To report coyote sightings, residents must call 311 and make a formal report. The resident must provide contact information, including the date, time, name, address and phone number of the individuals making the report as well as specific information about the incident to include the most current location of the coyote. This information is collected and stored by CACC through Salesforce.

Coyote Management Approaches

A. Education and Outreach

A critical element of a successful coyote management plan is taking steps to promote the education and awareness of residents. Educating residents on local coyote populations will guide individuals in making appropriate decisions regarding their safety and managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing food attractants, taking precautions with pets and creating tolerance of normal coyote behavior. To foster coexistence between coyotes and humans, it is important to inform people and provide them with the facts about urban coyotes and the steps they can take to reduce potential for negative interactions. Residents must understand the role they play in shaping the behavior of local coyote populations and the importance of their responses to encounters and incidents. Unfortunately, some individuals may become enamored by the presence of coyotes and intentionally feed them as a means of attracting the animals. This behavior should be strictly condemned in all educational programs. People should also be encouraged to avoid instances of unintentional feeding, such as leaving trash out for extended periods of time. In addition to

limiting access to food, residents should also be taught how to behave in the case of a human-coyote encounter or incident.

Educational programs are necessary in teaching residents about coyote behavior and addressing people's fear.

An educational campaign should focus on how residents can coexist with coyotes successfully. Outreach opportunities include:

1. *Educational materials*

Brochures, E-Newsletters, informational postcards mailed or hand-delivered to specific neighborhoods with a high number of coyote sightings and interactions, detailed information and appropriate links made available on the City of Chicago website and social media accounts

2. *Community outreach*

CACC employees participating in ward meetings and other scheduled speaking events, CACC director leading open forums in response to instances of conflict, officers responding to complaint calls and educating residents on removing coyote attractants on their property

B. Hazing

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Coyotes in urban and suburban environments, however, may learn that neighborhoods provide easy sources of human-associated food while presenting few real threats. In rare cases where animals exhibit bold characteristics, it may be beneficial to counter this behavior with *hazing* strategies. These techniques are outlined below.

Hazing is an activity or series of activities that are conducted with the intention of changing or reversing behavior of habituated coyotes to re-instill a fear of people. These efforts can be directed at individual coyotes, or multiple coyotes. A habituated coyote is a coyote that has become uncharacteristically comfortable around humans. A coyote that has lost fear of people and no longer avoids human interaction may be the result of either intentional or non-intentional human feeding. Habituation can increase the likelihood of conflict and is important to avoid. Hazing techniques include generating loud noises (air horn), spraying water or products with a human odor (ammonia), shining bright lights, throwing objects, shouting, etc. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards, greenbelts and play spaces. Hazing is not proven to alter the behavior of coyotes, and may not work in a case where an individual has become especially comfortable around people and residential areas or is demonstrating aggressive behavior. If undertaken by many community members, however, it is possible that the behavior will promote distance between coyotes and humans.

A hazing program encourages the use of harassing actions without employing weapons or causing bodily harm to the coyote. The more often a coyote is hazed by different people and in different locations, the more potentially effective hazing becomes. Being highly intelligent animals, coyotes who are hazed quickly learn to avoid neighborhoods, people and pets. The goals of hazing are to:

- Reverse the habituation of coyotes to people, teaching them to once again fear and avoid humans
- Discourage coyotes from entering public areas such as parks, playgrounds and yards when people are present
- Discourage coyotes from approaching people and pets
- Empower residents by giving them tools to use when they encounter a coyote, thereby reducing their fear of coyotes

- Increase awareness about coyote behavior among residents and involve the community in coyote management efforts

Basic hazing: Consists of directly facing the coyote and being “big and loud” by waving your arms over your head, making loud noises or squirting the coyote with water until the coyote(s) chooses to leave. Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical because coyotes can become desensitized to the continued use of just one technique, sound or action (see Appendix B). Basic hazing can be performed by anyone and includes the following techniques:

- Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote
- Making loud noises with whistles, air horns, megaphones, soda cans filled with pennies, pots and pans
- Throwing projectiles such as sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls or rubber balls at the direction of the coyote
- Squirting water from a hose, water gun or spray bottle (with vinegar water)

C. Physical Removal

Physical removal should only be considered in extreme cases, when a coyote is a threat to the safety of residents. Targeted removal is a more effective approach than large-scale removal of local coyote populations as it is often an individual problematic coyote in cases of multiple attacks on pets or humans. Coyotes are an extremely resilient species, regardless of human attempts to manage them. Moreover, their inclusion in the Illinois Wildlife Code means that they are classified as furbearers and require a license to remove. Nuisance coyotes may be removed by either CACC or a nuisance wildlife control operator holding a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. CACC will only remove coyotes if there is proof of imminent danger to a human’s life or property and, since coyotes tend to be elusive creatures, these cases are rare (Illinois General Assembly). When it is decided that a particular coyote poses a pressing threat to the safety of residents, Chicago Animal Care and Control will use trapping and/or chemical immobilization to safely capture and remove the threatening coyote and work with partner, Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Barrington, IL. The city relies on these partnerships in these cases as CACC does not have the resources to accommodate wild animals on-site. In a case of human attack, a coyote will be held at Flint Creek while awaiting results of DNA testing and other processes outlined in the *2020 CACC Human Coyote Conflict Protocol*. It is protocol for the city to utilize lethal removal in cases of human attack, considering the correct coyote is identified. In extreme cases, and at the judgement of Animal Control officers and inspectors, lethal removal may be immediately necessary at the site of the incident. This action may extend to cases where a coyote expresses an immediate threat and where particularly aggressive behavior is demonstrated when officers arrive to the scene.

Local Ordinances

In addition to the suggested responses above, the following community-wide ordinances may be helpful:

Leash Law. Enforcing leash laws and monetary fines for off-leash dogs can help address problematic behavior that could lead to coyote-pet conflicts. Residents should be instructed to keep pets on a leash six feet long or less.

Anti-Feeding Ordinance. Banning the feeding of wildlife and establishing a monetary fine may be helpful in addressing problematic feeding behavior that can lead to the habituation of coyotes. This is something wards should consider implementing, as feeding often leads to habituation which increases the potential for conflict.

Further Considerations

Partnerships and Research

To monitor Chicago's coyote population, the city is partnering with Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation (Barrington, IL) and Cook County Animal and Rabies Control. In addition, the City will use information from local wildlife researchers to guide management practices. The Cook County Coyote Project and the Lincoln Park Zoo Urban Wildlife Institute serve as major resources to the city. The Cook County Coyote Project, led by Dr. Stan Gehrt, utilize information and data collected from radio-collared coyotes in the Chicago area to inform the longest ongoing study on urban coyotes. The Urban Wildlife Institute has numerous cameras set along transects in the city to regularly monitor local wildlife populations. Both groups are very useful points of reference when it comes to informing the city on best practices for urban coyote management. Their research is a necessary component for managing coyote populations and in the decision-making process when addressing removal or relocation in cases of conflict. In addition, relationships with the IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) and USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) are instrumental to processes in regard to coyote attack protocol. Dialogue with these agencies allows the city to carry out thorough and effective wildlife management practices.

Department Coordination

Chicago Animal Care and Control will coordinate and exchange communication with other city departments (Streets and Sanitation, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Fire Department), sister agencies (Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools) and Aldermanic Offices for effective and productive coyote management efforts.

Habitat Modification and Research Initiatives

In areas where coyotes most likely traverse, modifications to the environment may help steer them away from direct encounters with humans. Regularly mowing the spaces alongside trails may deter coyotes from walking and running paths. Efforts to trim vegetation will create less space for coyotes to seek shelter in a natural space. Removing brush in areas may also reduce coyote activity. In communities experiencing high numbers of coyote complaint calls, it may be useful to coordinate with the Parks Department and supply signage to public spaces. These signs may be used to promote awareness and include information about leashing pets or general in tips for coexisting with coyotes.

Coyote complaint calls are monitored regularly by CACC. In the events of multiple pet attacks, officers are encouraged to monitor locations of reports closely. Attacks on pets are rare and may indicate the presence of a habituated individual coyote, especially if incidents take place in the same vicinity. Habituation can lead to an increased potential for conflict, so cases of coyote-pet encounters call for extra attention on the part of CACC as they may indicate the possibility for an attack on a person. If a human attack is reported, officers must follow coyote removal protocol. Coyote behavior classification and appropriate responses are outlined in the table below to guide CACC officers on appropriate responses for different types of coyote encounters. An officer report form is provided to further aid officers in devising proper responses to incidents.

Definitions

Observation: Signs of a coyote are present, but a coyote may not be physically or visibly present

Sighting: Coyote is visibly observed by an individual during any time of the day or night

Encounter: A direct meeting between a human and a coyote(s) with no physical contact made

Incident: A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote demonstrates any number of these threatening characteristics: growling, teeth baring, lunging, raised back fur, nipping, making contact and/or other displays of visibly threatening behavior – but where the human is not bitten

Human attack: A human is bitten by a coyote or multiple coyotes and can either be:

- a. Provoked: The human involved has encouraged the coyote to engage (i.e. hand fed, approached coyote with pups, or intervened in a coyote attack on a pet)
- b. Unprovoked: The human involved does not engage with the coyote or encourage a direct physical encounter

Pet Attack: Coyote injures or kills a domestic pet that is either:

- a. Attended: Pet is leashed and is within six feet of a person
- b. Unattended: Pet is roaming free, off leash, and is more than six feet from a person

CACC Coyote Response Table

Coyote Behavior	Classification	Response
Normal Coyote heard; scats or tracks seen	Observation	Distribute educational materials and information on coyote behavior.
Normal Coyote seen moving through area during day or night	Sighting	Distribute educational materials and information on coyote behavior.
Normal Coyote seen resting in an area during day or night	Sighting	If area frequented by people, educate on normal coyote behavior and directions for hazing to instill fear in the animal. Look for and eliminate attractants.
Normal Coyote entering a yard	Sighting	Educate on coyote attractants and provide hazing information and yard audit
Normal Coyote encounters a person and clearly exhibits fear by running	Encounter	Educate on hazing techniques. Look for and eliminate attractants
Habituated Coyote following or approaching human, or human with pet, with no incident	Encounter	Educate on hazing techniques and pet management. If in open area, post educational signs to alert other residents to leash dogs and initiate hazing. Inform Parks staff if encounter occurred in public, open space or park.
Habituated Coyote entering a yard, no incident	Encounter	Educate on coyote attractants and pet management, provide hazing information and yard audit. Encourage residents to look for and eliminate attractants.

<p>Habituated</p> <p>Coyote entering a yard with people and pets present, no incident</p>	<p>Encounter</p>	<p>Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on coyote attractants and pet management, provide hazing information and yard audit</p>
<p>Habituated or dangerous</p> <p>Coyote attacks unattended pet in yard</p>	<p>Unattended pet attack</p>	<p>Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on coyote attractants and pet management, providing hazing information and yard audit.</p>
<p>Habituated or dangerous</p> <p>Coyote attacks pet off-leash in open space area</p>	<p>Unattended pet attack</p>	<p>Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on coyote attractants and pet management, providing hazing information and yard audit. Post educational signs in open area to alert other residents to leash pets. Inform Parks staff if encounter occurred in public space or park.</p>
<p>Habituated or dangerous</p> <p>Coyote attacks attended pet on or off leash</p>	<p>Attended pet attack</p>	<p>Gather information on persons and animals involved. Educate on pet management and hazing. Look for and eliminate food attractants. Post educational signs in open area to alert other residents to keep dogs on leash and to haze coyotes. Inform Parks staff if encounter occurred in public, open space or park.</p>
<p>Potentially Dangerous</p> <p>Coyote exhibits threatening behavior toward a human</p>	<p>Incident</p>	<p>If the coyote exhibits dangerous behavior (growling, teeth baring, lunging, raised back fur, nipping, or making contact) involved, CACC determines if removal is necessary. Education of residents, communication with parks staff, signage, and hazing efforts employed.</p>
<p>Dangerous</p> <p>Human encouraged coyote by hand feeding, approaching coyote with pups, intervening during attack etc.</p>	<p>Provoked human attack</p>	<p>Identify and gather information detailing attack (see form below). Human attacked must seek out advice of physician concerning rabies vaccination. Education of residents, communication with parks staff, signage, and high intensity hazing efforts employed. Levy fines for wildlife feeding or leash laws if possible. If the coyote exhibited dangerous behavior (growling, teeth baring, lunging, raised back fur, nipping, or making contact) involved, CACC determines if removal is necessary.</p>
<p>Dangerous</p> <p>Coyote has bitten human without encouragement</p>	<p>Unprovoked human attack</p>	<p>The coyote will be lethally removed. CACC reviews instance and finalizes decision for lethal control. Signage, high intensity hazing, education and further public outreach efforts are employed. CACC staff will return to the place of the attack, and the investigation will move forward.</p>

Official Incident Report Form

Date: _____ Time of incident: _____ Duration of event: _____

Name of reporting party:

Address of reporting party:

Phone number of reporting party:

Address of Incident:

Location Type (*park, residential property, commercial property etc.*)

Type of Interaction and Classification (*observation, sighting, encounter, incident, pet attack, human attack*)

Activity of reporting party at time of incident (*i.e. walking, running, riding bike, walking pet etc.*)

Was the coyote provoked?

Yes__ No__

Was the coyote visibly injured?

Yes__ No__

Was the Coyote intentionally fed?

Yes__ No__

Was there any type of food present?

Yes__ No__

Was there a pet present?

Yes__ No__

If so, What kind?

Cat__ Dog__ Other__

Description of pet: _____

Description of Interaction:

Actions taken by reporting officer (*none, hazed coyote, called for further patrol of site*):

How did the coyote respond to the officer's efforts (*was the coyote present upon arrival? Did the coyote flee after hazing techniques were followed? Did the coyote remain on the site despite the officer's efforts?*)

Outcome of incident

Human injuries:

Rabies vaccine recommended?

Yes__ No__

Pet injuries:

Coyote injuries:

Euthanized?

Yes__ No__

Relocated?

Yes__ No__

Suggestions for Targeting Specific Coyotes in Cases of Attack

Locating an individual coyote can prove to be extremely challenging, especially in the context of a city like Chicago where the local coyote population is estimated at 300 (and nearly 4,000 county-wide). In order to limit resources used while still providing the public with a sense of assurance and safety, it is important that CACC streamline its responses in cases of coyote-human conflict to navigate the best outcome for both residents and coyotes alike. Below are some suggestions for the department when considering best approaches.

Flag Pet Attacks

Since attacks on pets can be an indicator of a habituated coyote, it is important to flag these events. When a pet attack is reported and investigated by an officer, this should be logged and the general area where the attack happened should be monitored closely. It is also important to supply members of the local community with coyote related information to aid them in potential encounters. When pet attacks are called in through 311, they will be categorized and the maps of this data will reflect areas where there are high rates of pet attacks over a given period of time. In hotspots, CACC will devote extra resources to these areas of particular need.

Target Resources to Specific Locations

In the event of a human attack, officers should concentrate efforts to the general vicinity of the attack. If the officers respond to an attack relatively shortly after the incident, the likelihood of trapping the animal in the general area may be higher. However, coyotes can have relatively large ranges, even in cities, so it is difficult to locate individual coyotes. Due to that fact, officers should also patrol regions outside the general location of the attack such as large greenspaces or areas where coyotes may be present.

Coordinate with Local Researchers Conducting Wildlife Monitoring Projects

Another useful tool in the event of an attack is connecting CACC to local wildlife researchers. Initiatives such as the Lincoln Park Zoo Urban Wildlife Institute's camera monitoring project have resources that may aid CACC in locating an individual coyote. After an attack, it may be useful to loop in these researchers so they can aid by potentially setting up cameras in green spaces where they know coyotes frequent based on past data. A rapid response on the part of willing researchers could lead to flooding an area with a grid of cameras around the radius of the incident. If using data enabled cameras, devices can be checked remotely and researchers can work alongside the city and pool resources, generating a more targeted response to conflicts.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOMEOWNERS AND COMMUNITIES

(The resources below are provided by the Humane Society of the United State)

Homeowner Yard Audit Checklist

	OK	FIX	Ways to Mitigate
FOOD			NEVER hand-feed or intentionally feed a coyote!
Pet Food			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
Water Sources			Remove water attractants (such as pet water bowls) in dry climates.
Bird Feeders			Remove bird feeders or clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.
Fallen Fruit			Clean up fallen fruit around trees.
Compost			Do not include meat or dairy among compost contents unless fully enclosed.
BBQ Grills			Clean up food around barbeque grills after each use.
Trash			Secure all trash containers with locking lids and place curbside the morning of trash pickup. Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors.
LANDSCAPING			Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places and potential denning sites.
Structures/Outbuildings			Restrict access under decks and sheds, around woodpiles, or any other structure that can provide cover or denning sites for coyotes or their prey.
FENCING			Enclose property with an 8-foot fence (or a 6-foot fence with an additional extension or roller-top) to deter coyotes. Ensure that there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground 6 inches or is fitted with a mesh apron to deter coyotes from digging underneath.
PETS			Never leave pets unattended outside.
			Never allow pets to “play” with coyotes.
			Fully enclose outdoor pet kennels.
			Walk pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length.

We encourage you to take steps to eliminate attractants on your property in order to minimize conflicts with coyotes. We also urge you to share this information with friends and neighbors because minimizing conflicts is most effective when the entire neighborhood works together.

Coyote Hazing Tips for Success

1. Hazing is most effective when an individual coyote is hazed by a variety of people using a variety of tools and techniques.
2. The coyote being hazed must be able to recognize that the potential threat is coming from a person. Therefore, hiding behind a bush and throwing rocks or hazing from inside a car or house (for example) isn't effective.
3. When hazed for the first time, a coyote may not respond at first or may run a short distance away. If this happens, it is important to continue hazing (and intensify the hazing if possible) until the coyote leaves the area. Otherwise, the coyote will learn to wait until the person gives up. Inconsistent hazing will create an animal more resistant to hazing instead of reinforcing the notion that "people are scary."
4. Make sure to provide an escape route for the coyote. Do not corner the coyote or chase the animal in the direction of traffic or other people.
5. A group of coyotes should be hazed in the same manner as a single coyote. In a group, there will always be a dominant coyote who will respond first, and once he runs away, the others will follow.
6. Hazing efforts should be exaggerated at the beginning of a hazing program, but less effort will be needed as coyotes learn to avoid people and neighborhoods. Coyotes learn quickly, and their family members and pups will emulate their behavior, leading to a ripple effect throughout the local coyote population.
7. Certain levels of hazing must always be maintained so that coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits.
8. Obviously sick or injured coyotes should not be hazed by the general public. In these cases, police or animal control officers should be contacted.
9. People should never run from or ignore a coyote. Running from a coyote can initiate a chasing instinct, while ignoring a coyote creates habituation and negates the positive effects of hazing.
10. It is important to identify and remove possible coyote attractants in conjunction with hazing. Hazing will be less effective if food attractants are plentiful in a neighborhood.

Tips for Hazing (Courtesy of University of Wisconsin Urban Canid Project)

- <https://youtu.be/JIC8KTDiIRs>

Resources

- Photo credit: Janet Kessler, coyoteyipps.com
- University of Illinois Wildlife in Illinois: <https://www.wildlifeillinois.org/gallery/mammals/cat-like-or-dog-like/coyote/>
- Cook County Coyote Project: <https://urbancoyotereseach.com/>
- Final Report: Assessment of Human-Coyote Conflicts: City and County of Broomfield, Colorado
<https://www.broomfield.org/DocumentCenter/View/1282>
- Urban Coyote Ecology and Management, Gehrt
<https://urbancoyotereseach.com/sites/default/files/UrbanCoyoteManagementPDF.pdf>

Other Sources

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