



**City of Dallas**

# **Coyote Management Plan Update**

**Quality of Life Committee  
October 17, 2022**

Paul Ramon, Assistant Director (i)- Field  
Ann Barnes, Asst. General Manager – Field  
Jacqueline Sutherland, Animal Services Officer – Field  
Brett Johnson, Urban Wildlife Biologist  
*City of Dallas*

# Objectives



**Provide Current Status of Coyote Operations**



**Introduce Draft Coyote Management Plan**



**Answer Questions & Receive Feedback**



# Update on Coyote Response



- Four (4) coyotes removed & tested for rabies
  - All tested negative
- Coyote Hotline created for information gathering
  - More than 800 calls received within Dallas
  - Over 50 calls received outside of Dallas
- Neighborhood Meetings
  - Neighborhood meetings held in District 10, 12 & 14
- Worked with Code Compliance to address problem areas
- Coyote Management Plan drafted and reviewed by relevant city departments
- Progress made towards interactive online mapping and online sighting submissions





- The Coyote Management Plan aims to provide:
  - Standardized guidelines on the levels of coyote behavior
  - Information on coyote behavior management techniques
  - Clear program from reducing human-coyote conflicts that prioritizes human safety
- Coyote Management Plan is based on:
  - Scientific research
  - Thorough understanding of urban coyote ecology and behavior
  - Best-known management practices and tools



# Guiding Principles



1. Human safety is a priority
2. Coyotes serve a vital role in the ecosystem
3. Prevention is critical
4. Solutions must address problematic human and coyote behaviors
5. Non-selective coyote removal plans are ineffective
6. A community-wide program is necessary





# SECTION I: Coyote Information





# Coyote Ecology & Facts



- Found in 49 states and nearly every ecosystem
- People can live among coyotes and never see them
- Naturally skittish
- Most active at dawn and dusk
- Small groups can distort their voices to sound like a large group
- Territorial families roam 1-5 square miles
- Transient coyotes roam up to 10 square miles





- Opportunistic omnivores:
  - Hunt small mammals and rodents
  - Eat insects and berries
  - Scavenge road-kill
- Urban coyotes known to eat:
  - Pet food
  - Unsecured garbage and compost
  - Unattended domestic pets
- Prevented by:
  - Reducing human-associated food attractants



# Breeding



- Where do they den?
  - Steep banks
  - Rock crevices
  - Underbrush
  - Open areas
- Seasons:
  - **Breeding season:** January – March
  - **Pup season:** April – August
    - Often seen during the day
  - **Dispersal season:** September – December
    - Often seen during the day
    - Yearlings become transient; increase in coyote sightings



# Reducing Coyote Attractants



- Food
  - Never deliberately feed a coyote, including tossing food or leaving food out for them
  - Avoid feeding pets outside or promptly remove bowls and leftover food
  - Never compost meat or dairy
  - Maintain good housekeeping

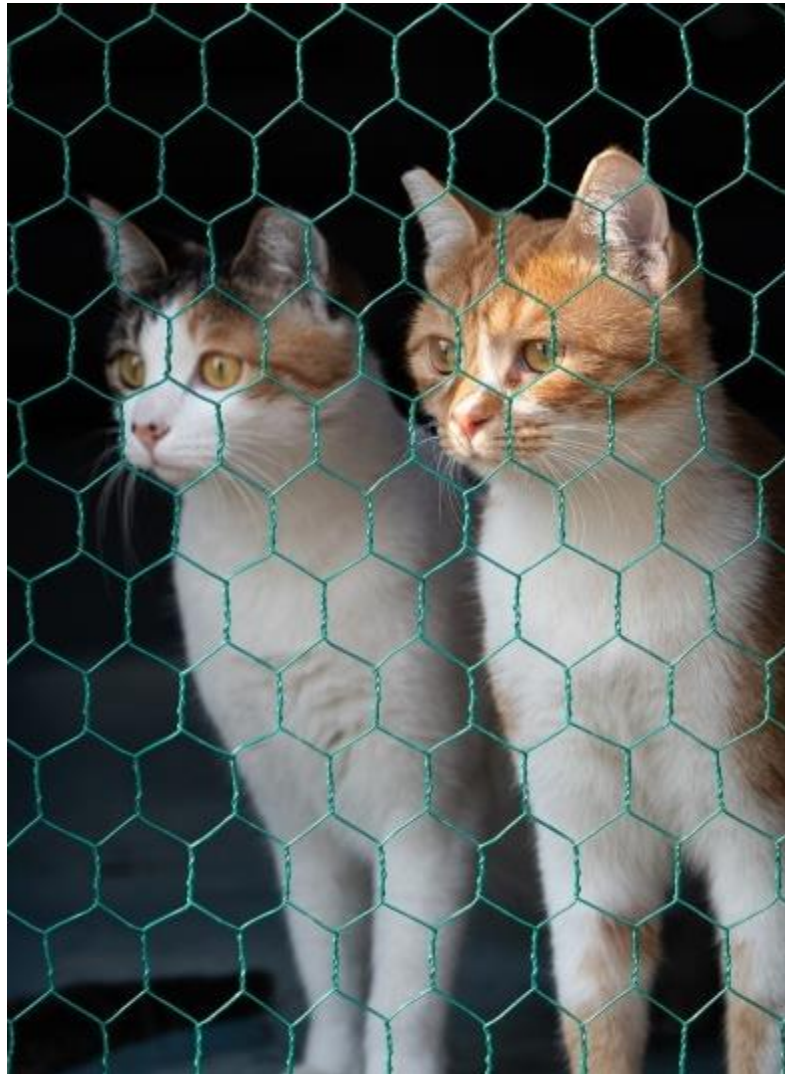


- Birdfeeders:
  - Only put out one day's worth of food
  - Rake regularly around them
- Remove fallen fruit from the ground
- Trash:
  - Use high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids
  - Only place them curb or alley side the morning of collection
  - Tightly bag attractive food such as meat and leftover pet food

- Shelter
  - Address building issues: sheds, decks, crawl spaces



# Pets & Coyotes



- Free-roaming pets attract coyotes
- Minimize risk by **never leaving them outside unattended**
  - Cats
    - Attacks on free-roaming cats are **normal coyote behavior**; does not indicate danger to people
    - Protect cats by:
      - Keeping them indoors
      - Creating a secure, coyote proof enclosure
      - Letting them out on leash and harness with a person
    - Protecting Community Cats – register your colony!
      - Feed cats only during the day and at a set time; pick up leftovers immediately
      - Provide escape routes for cats
      - Haze coyotes when seen





# Pets & Coyotes



- Dog attacks
  - Typically involve coyotes already habituated to people
  - Small, unattended dogs are most susceptible
  - Larger dogs are usually not attacked unless viewed as a threat
    - Most common during breeding season January - March
  - Dogs can be protected by:
    - Accompanying your dog when it is outside
    - Walk your dog on a non-retractable leash 6 feet or shorter.
      - Coyotes may view pets on longer leashes as unattended
    - Make your fence coyote-proof



# Pets & Coyotes



- Other Pets
  - Chickens, ducks, and rabbits are viewed as prey/food
  - Protect them with:
    - Protective fencing
      - Both structural and electric
    - Ensuring they are in sturdy cages or pens at night
    - Using livestock guardian animals







# SECTION II:

# Coyote Action Plan



# Human-Coyote Conflict Definitions



- **OBSERVATION**: Noticing signs of a coyote(s), such as tracks, scat, or vocalizations, but without visual observation of the coyote(s).
- **SIGHTING**: A visual observation of a coyote(s). A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.
- **ENCOUNTER**: A direct meeting that is between humans and coyote(s) with no physical contact and that is without incident.
- **INCIDENT**: A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits any of the following behaviors: growling, baring teeth, lunging, or making physical contact with the person. A human is not bit.
- **HUMAN ATTACK**: A human is bitten by a coyote(s).
- **AGGRESSIVE COYOTE BEHAVIOR**: Aggressively approaching, entering personal space, or attacking humans or pets.
- **HABITUATION**: Occurs by repeated exposure to humans absent any negative consequences.



# Community Outreach & Education



- Coyote sighting and behavior flyers and social media graphics
- Coyote informational handout
- Website: [bedallas90.org/coyotes](http://bedallas90.org/coyotes)
- Signage
  - Notifying residents of coyote sightings & to leash pets
  - Temporary signage has been deployed by Parks & Recreation
  - DAS is working to finalize permanent signage
    - Locations to be informed by Coyote Hotline
- Neighborhood meetings & education

## COYOTE SIGHTINGS IN YOUR AREA

**Typical Urban Coyote Behavior** —→ **What to do:**

- May be heard or spotted at a distance during the day or night
- May cross through yards or driveways when humans are NOT present
- Skittish and easily scared off by noise or approaching humans

**Concerning Coyote Behavior** —→ **What to do:**

- Enters yards, porches, picnic areas, or other spaces frequented by humans
- Is not easily scared off or startled
- Steals food off of porches

*What to report: Address of coyote encounter, time of encounter, description of encounter, whether hazing efforts were successful in startling and scaring off the coyote, if the coyote was spotted eating trash or food meant for humans or pets, whether children or pets were present, and any signs of illness or injury.*

**Aggressive Coyote Behavior** —→ **What to do:**

- Aggressively approaching, entering personal space, or attacking humans or pets

**AVISTAMIENTOS DE COYOTES EN SU ÁREA**

**Comportamiento Típico de los Coyotes Urbanos** —→ **Qué hacer:**

- Pueden ser escuchados o vistos a distancia durante el día o la noche
- Pueden cruzar patios o entradas de vehículos cuando NO hay humanos presentes
- Son asustadizos y se espantan fácilmente por ruidos o por humanos que se acercan

**Comportamiento preocupante de un coyote** —→ **Qué hacer:**

- Entra en patios, porches, áreas de picnic u otros espacios frecuentados por humanos
- No se ahuyenta ni se asusta fácilmente
- Comportamiento preocupante de un coyote

*Qué informar: Dirección del encuentro con el coyote, hora del encuentro, descripción del encuentro, si los intentos para ahuyentarlo lograron atemorizar y espantar al coyote, si se vio al coyote comiendo basura o alimentos para humanos o mascotas, si había niños o mascotas presentes, y cualquier signo de enfermedad o lesión.*

**Comportamiento Agresivo del Coyote** —→ **Qué hacer:**

- Se acerca agresivamente, ingresa al espacio personal o ataca a humanos o mascotas





# Community Outreach cont. (signage)




## COYOTES ARE IN THE AREA

Coyotes are intelligent, wild animals that have adapted to city life. If you see a coyote, please remember:



- ✗** Do NOT approach or feed coyotes.
- ✓** Walk your dog on a leash at all times.



Coyote Sighting Hotline: 469-676-9813  
For more information and tips, please visit [www.BeDallas90.org/coyotes](http://www.BeDallas90.org/coyotes).

SCAN ME

### If a coyote approaches you:

- Jump up and down, wave your arms
- Yell and make noise
- Do not run away. Move slowly towards other people.

## BE AWARE!

### INCREASED COYOTE PRESENCE IN THIS AREA



### BE RESPONSIBLE

KEEP DOGS ON 6-FOOT LEASH AND CATS INDOORS.

### BE ALERT

STAY AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS. SUPERVISE CHILDREN WHEN PLAYING OUTDOORS.

### BE CONFIDENT

IF YOU SEE A COYOTE, DO NOT WALK OR RUN AWAY - LET THEM KNOW THEIR BOUNDARIES. STAND YOUR GROUND. YELL AND WAVE YOUR ARMS TO SCARE OFF THE COYOTE.

SCAN TO REPORT A COYOTE SIGHTING, OR CALL 469-676-9813.



SCAN ME

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT URBAN COYOTES IN DALLAS.



SCAN ME

[WWW.BEDALLAS90.ORG](http://WWW.BEDALLAS90.ORG)



# Hazing



- Humans may encourage bad behavior in coyotes by not reacting when they come too close
- Community-Based Hazing Programs are the best solution
- Hazing is humane and reinstalls a healthy fear of people; should not hurt coyote
- Basic hazing includes:
  - Shouting and making loud noises
  - Spraying water
  - Shining bright lights
  - Throwing objects *near* them
- High intensity hazing should be utilized only by animal control officers and trained animal specialists





# Goals of Hazing



- **Teach coyotes to fear & avoid people.**
- **Discourage coyotes from entering public areas when people are present.**
- **Discourage coyotes from approaching people and pets.**
- **Empower residents.**
- **Increase awareness and involve the community in coyote management.**

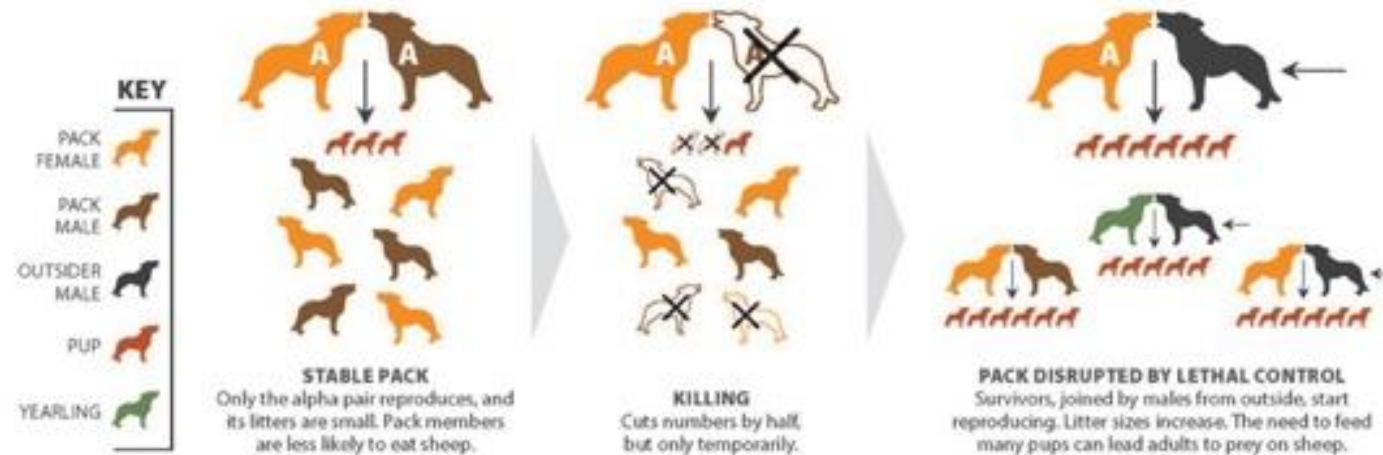


# Lethal Control: The Last Resort



## Why **KILLING** Doesn't Work

Shoot or poison coyotes and you will have just as many again within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring sooner, and litter sizes will grow.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

[humanesociety.org/coyotes](http://humanesociety.org/coyotes)



# Coyote Monitoring & Data Collection



- Best accomplished with input from both residents and city employees
- Coyote Hotline: **469-676-9813**
  - *"You have reached the Coyote Hotline. In order to track the coyote's movements and behaviors, Dallas Animal Services needs to collect as much information as possible. Please leave a message with details of your coyote sighting, including your name, the best telephone number to reach you, and the location where you saw the coyote. It is crucial that you leave a call-back number in case we need additional details. Thank you."*
- Coyote tracking online form: <https://www.bedallas90.org/home/coyotes/>
- Purpose is to:
  - Document where coyotes are frequently seen
  - Monitor for escalating behavior
  - Identify human-coyote conflict hotspots



# Action Plan Phases



## PHASE I

DAS is currently operating at Phase I of the Coyote Action Plan and is working to implement additional phases in the coming months.

- DAS has completed phase I as of July 8, 2022
  - Current count of 820 submissions

## PHASE II

Phase II includes the addition of an online sighting submission form and interactive sighting and encounter map.

- DAS is currently operating in phase II
  - Online submission sighting form has been completed
  - Currently working on the interactive mapping with ITS and Tolemi (vendor)

## PHASE III

Phase III includes a technology solution that minimizes the manual portions of wildlife call handling process and enables the 3-1-1 system and DAS Database to seamlessly communicate. Once DAS can implement this feature with its external vendors, when a resident calls 3-1-1, a service request will be completed by the 3-1-1 call taker and will automatically upload into the DAS Database via an interface.



# Proposed Anti-Feeding Ordinance



- Draft submitted to City Attorney's Office for review
  - Ordinance drafted and pending final approval

Violations include intentionally feeding or making food available for animals in a manner that:

- (1) Creates a danger to public health or safety;
  - (2) Destroys public or private property;
  - (3) Causes more than ten adult animals to congregate in one location at the same time; or
  - (4) Attracts, habituates or socializes wildlife to humans.
- Presented to full council with the recommendation of seeking community input through engagement and meetings
    - Meetings are now pending district coordination





# Coyote Behavior & Response



LEVEL	COYOTE BEHAVIOR	CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE
1	Coyote heard; scat or print seen.	<b>Observation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute educational materials and information on coyote behavior</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote seen moving through the area; day or night.</li> <li>• Coyote seen resting in area; day or night</li> <li>• Coyote entering an enclosed yard with no person present outside</li> </ul>	<b>Sighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute information on coyote behavior</li> <li>• <b>If area frequented by people:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distribute information on coyote behavior</li> <li>○ Educate on hazing to encourage the animal to leave</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If entering an enclosed yard with <u>no person present outside</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distribute information on coyote behavior</li> <li>○ Educate on hazing to encourage the animal to leave</li> <li>○ Educate on coyote attractants</li> <li>○ Dispatch ASO to complete yard audit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# Coyote Behavior & Response



LEVEL	COYOTE BEHAVIOR	CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coyote following or approaching a person or a person with a pet with no incident</li><li>• Coyote entering yard with a person or a person with a pet with no incident</li></ul>	<b>Encounter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educate on how to haze to encourage the animal to leave</li><li>• Gather information on specific pets involved and report circumstances of encounter</li><li>• Educate on pet management</li><li>• Post educational signs in area to alert residents to keep dogs on six (6) ft. fixed leash and to haze coyotes</li><li>• Dispatch ASO to look for and eliminate attractants and perform yard audits</li><li>• Schedule a neighborhood meeting</li><li>• Refer to City of Dallas Wildlife Biologist</li></ul>



# Coyote Behavior & Response



LEVEL	COYOTE BEHAVIOR	CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coyote injures or kills pet off leash, on a leash in excess of six (6) ft., or in an open area (<b>Loose pet</b>)</li> <li>Coyote injures or kills unattended pet in an enclosed backyard (<b>Confined pet</b>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unattended Pet Attack</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances of the attack</li> <li><b>If the pet or <u>was not</u> in a secure enclosure in the backyard:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate on coyote attractants, hazing techniques and pet management</li> <li>If pet was unsecured in the backyard, ASO dispatched to complete yard audit</li> <li>Post educational signs and / or send educational materials to residents in the area</li> <li>Schedule a neighborhood meeting.</li> <li>Refer to City of Dallas Wildlife Biologist and USDA Wildlife Agent</li> <li>May employ high intensity hazing</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>If the pet <u>was in</u> a secure enclosure in the backyard:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the above, and</li> <li>May employ Lethal Control</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# Coyote Behavior & Response



LEVEL	COYOTE BEHAVIOR	CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coyote injures or kills livestock in an open area (<b>Loose</b>)</li> <li>Coyote injures or kills unattended livestock in secure enclosure or livestock guardian animals were used</li> </ul>	<b>Livestock Loss / Depredation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances of the attack</li> <li><b>If the livestock <u>were not</u> in a secure enclosure or livestock guardian animals were not used:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate on proper livestock husbandry</li> <li>Educate on how to eliminate coyote attractants, hazing techniques</li> <li>Dispatch ASO to complete yard audit</li> <li>Schedule a neighborhood meeting</li> <li>Refer to City of Dallas Wildlife Biologist and USDA Wildlife Agent</li> <li>May employ high intensity hazing</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>If the livestock <u>was in</u> a secure enclosure or livestock guardian animals were used:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May employ Lethal Control</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# Coyote Behavior & Response



LEVEL	COYOTE BEHAVIOR	CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coyote aggressive towards person, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without contact.</li> <li>Coyote injures or kills pet on or off leash with human nearby (within 6 feet).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Attended Pet Attack</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Coyote aggressive towards person, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping <u>without contact</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate on coyote attractants and hazing techniques and pet management</li> <li>Dispatch ASO to complete yard and neighborhood audit</li> <li>Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area</li> <li>Employ high intensity hazing</li> <li>Schedule a neighborhood meeting</li> <li>Refer to City of Dallas Wildlife Biologist and USDA Wildlife Agent</li> <li>May employ Lethal Control</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Coyote injures or kills pet on or off leash <u>with human nearby</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the above, and</li> <li>Educate on pet management, coyote attractants, and hazing</li> <li>Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances of the attack</li> </ul> </li> </ul>





# Coyote Behavior & Response



LEVEL	COYOTE BEHAVIOR	CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote has bitten a human. Attack was provoked. Human encouraged coyote to engage by hand-feeding, approaching coyote with pups, intervening during a pet attack, etc.)</li> <li>• Coyote has bitten human. Attack was unprovoked. Human did not encourage coyote to engage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human Attack</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report circumstances of the attack; including action of victim before the attack</li> <li>• Educate on coyote attractants, hazing techniques and pet management</li> <li>• ASO dispatched to perform neighborhood audit</li> <li>• Issue citations for wildlife violations and loose animal (including community cats that are not registered with the City of Dallas)</li> <li>• Schedule a neighborhood meeting.</li> <li>• Refer to City of Dallas Wildlife Biologist and USDA Wildlife Agent</li> <li>• May employ Lethal Control</li> </ul>





# Questions & Feedback





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