

# **Urban Wildlife Management Plan**



**City of Pasadena  
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The intent of Urban Wildlife Management Plan is to provide guidance for city staff when dealing with wildlife in Pasadena. City staff can utilize this plan to provide public education to the community for topics related to human-wildlife interactions.

Guidelines and provisions of this plan do not supersede federal, state and county regulations and policies, as applicable. Furthermore, the provisions of this plan do not apply to Pasadena residents, businesses or homeowner associations in pursuit of their legal rights in dealing with wildlife.

### **Management Strategy**

City strategy for managing wildlife is based on balancing respect and protection for wildlife and their habitats without compromising public safety. The strategy is comprised of a three-pronged approach that consists of:

- (1) Education for the public that is designed around coexistence with wildlife
- (2) Enforcement of laws and regulations to prohibit the feeding of wildlife
- (3) Protection of the public through the implementation of tiered responses to wildlife and human interactions

This plan requires active participation on the part of the entire community including residents, homeowners associations, volunteers and city personnel.

### **Education**

Education is the key to having residents make appropriate decisions regarding their safety, or managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing attractants, increasing pet safety, reshaping wildlife behavior through hazing and creating reasonable expectations of normal wildlife behavior.

### **Enforcement**

The act of feeding wildlife is known to result in an increase in wildlife activity. Feeding, either intentionally or unintentionally, attracts wildlife and their prey to the area, leading to habituated wildlife and an increase in wildlife and human interactions. California law prohibits feeding wildlife. The Pasadena Police Department (PPD) and the Pasadena Humane Society (PHS) will enforce the State law(s) pertaining to this activity.

### **Background**

The City of Pasadena does not have jurisdiction over wild animals found within its boundaries, nor is the City responsible for the actions or damage caused by them. These animals are a common and an integral part of our ecosystem, biosphere and the circle of life. The Pasadena Humane Society is tasked to address the compassion and care of all animals. The City's contract obligates PHS to address problems arising from domestic stray dogs and to enforce associated laws. To a small degree, the scope of services that PHS provides related to responsible pet ownership includes deploying strategies to minimize interactions between domestic animals and wildlife, and protecting humans from hazards associated with wildlife interactions.

The Pasadena Humane Society does not provide field response to calls for service for normal wildlife behavior, such as sightings. These calls are recorded and documented. PHS does respond to calls which involve sick or injured coyotes, and coyotes that jeopardize public safety, such as a coyote threatening people in a yard, park, playground, or school. PHS is available to advise residents on how to implement

prevention measures to minimize interactions with wildlife, and how to keep wildlife wild through hazing.

### **Difficulties Managing Wildlife**

Pasadena places a high value on its wildlife, but some species adapted to urban environments have the potential for problems or conflicts in certain situations. When addressing wildlife problems, the City relies on policies that support prevention and implementation of corrective measures that do not harm the wildlife or their habitats. In instances where wildlife pose a risk to the health and safety of humans, lethal control measures may be utilized to remove the threat as a last resort in the tiered response process. All actions for animal removal and/or euthanasia are conducted in a humane manner in conformity with State and local laws. These activities are conducted by qualified individuals certified and licensed to do so by the State of California, or under the authority of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A wildlife problem is defined as an event or series of events that impact the health or safety of members of the community. In cases where problems with wildlife are associated with human behavior such as leaving garbage exposed or intentional wildlife feeding, ordinances and enforcement may be enacted.

Legal considerations associated with wildlife management include the following:

### **CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (CCR)**

#### **14 CCR, SECTION 251.1 HARASSMENT OF ANIMALS**

*Except as otherwise authorized in these regulations or in the Fish and 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. This section does not apply to a landowner or tenant who drives or herds birds or mammals for the purpose of preventing damage to private or public property, including aquaculture and agriculture crops.*

#### **14 CCR, SECTION 251.3 PROHIBITION AGAINST FEEDING BIG GAME MAMMALS**

*No person shall knowingly feed big game mammals, as defined in Section 350 of these regulations.*

#### **14 CCR, SECTION 350 BIG GAME DEFINED**

*"Big game" means the following: deer (genus Odocoileus), elk (genus Cervus), pronghorn antelope (genus Antilocarpa), wild pig (feral pigs, European wild pigs and their hybrids (genus Sus), black bear (genus Ursus) and Nelson bighorn sheep (subspecies Ovis canadensis nelsoni) in the areas described in subsection 4902(b) of the Fish and Game Code.*

## 14 CCR, SECTION 465.5(G)(1) USE OF TRAPS/IMMEDIATE DISPATCH OR RELEASE

*All furbearing and nongame mammals that are legal to trap must be immediately killed or released. Unless released, trapped animals shall be killed by shooting where local ordinances, landowners, and safety permit. This regulation does not prohibit employees of federal, state, or local government from using chemical euthanasia to dispatch trapped animals.*

## **CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME CODE (FGC)**

### FGC, SECTION 4152(A)

*Except as provided in Section 4005, nongame mammals and black-tailed jackrabbits, muskrats, subspecies of red fox that are not the native Sierra Nevada red fox (*Vulpes vulpes nescator*), and red fox squirrels that are found to be injuring growing crops or other property may be taken at any time or in any manner in accordance with this code and regulations adopted pursuant to this code by the owner or tenant of the premises or employees and agents in immediate possession of written permission from the owner or tenant thereof. They may also be taken by officers or employees of the Department of Food and Agriculture or by federal, county, or city officers or employees when acting in their official capacities pursuant to the Food and Agricultural Code pertaining to pests, or pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 6021) of Chapter 9 of Part 1 of Division 4 of the Food and Agricultural Code. Persons taking mammals in accordance with this section are exempt from Section 3007, except when providing trapping services for a fee. Raw furs, as defined in Section 4005, that are taken under this section, shall not be sold.*

### FGC, SECTION 4152(B)

*Traps used pursuant to this section shall be inspected and all animals in the traps shall be removed at least once daily. The inspection and removal shall be done by the person who sets the trap or the owner of the land where the trap is set or an agent of either.*

## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE (LACC)**

### LACC, SECTION 10.84.010 PROVIDING FOOD FOR CERTAIN RODENTS OR PREDATOR ANIMALS PROHIBITED

- A. *It is unlawful to feed a nondomesticated rodent or nondomesticated mammalian predator as defined in this section, unless:*
  1. *The person is the owner of the animal and the animal is kept in accordance with the requirements of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife; or*
  2. *After notifying the responsible agency to pick up the animal, the person provides food to a trapped or injured animal.*
- B. *For purposes of this chapter:*
  1. *"Rodent" includes ground squirrels;*
  2. *"Mammalian predators" include coyotes, raccoons, foxes and opossums.*
- C. *A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.*

## PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE (PMC)

### PMC, SECTION 6.32.110 FEEDING OF NONDOMESTICATED MAMMALIAN PREDATORS

*Except as provided for in this chapter, no person shall feed or in any manner provide food for one or more nondomesticated mammalian predators which is not under the ownership or legal possession of such person, including but not limited to, coyotes, raccoons, foxes and possums.*

*A person may feed or provide food for one or more such nondomesticated mammalian predators which is trapped, unweaned or injured during that period of time between the person notifying the police department of the city and the animal or animals being picked up by the city or its designated agent.*

### PMC, SECTION 6.36.020 PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO CAPTURE DOGS

*The chief of police, the officers of the police department, the poundmaster, the deputy poundmaster or any person employed for that purpose by the board of directors shall be, and such person hereby is, authorized and directed to capture any dog or other stray animal, wild or domestic, found within the city not restricted or confined as required by the provision of Section 6.12.010 or by any order of the board of directors made pursuant to Section 6.36.120. Should he be unable to capture a dog or other stray animal, wild or domestic, of vicious and dangerous habits he is authorized to then and there kill and destroy such dog, or other stray animal, wild or domestic.*

For the purposes of this chapter, the poundmaster is the Pasadena Humane Society and the board of directors is the Pasadena City Council.

In some cases, particular or traditional management tools are ineffective. Relocation of animals is not ecologically sound and is not allowed in California without permission from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Generally, relocated animals do not survive the transfer. When they do, they rarely stay in the relocation area. They tend to disperse to other locations where they may cause problems, be involved in territory disputes or introduce disease. In some instances, the relocated animals, notably coyotes, will go to great lengths to return to their previous territory and can adversely affect residents. For these reasons, the DFW rarely allows relocation of wildlife.



## **SECTION I: COYOTE MANAGEMENT**

Coyotes are originally native to California and several other western states. Due to their intelligence, adaptability, the decline of larger animals and urban sprawl, coyotes have successfully expanded their range. They are now found in all states except Hawaii and have successfully established themselves in every urban ecosystem across North America. It is not economically, ecologically or in other ways efficient to attempt to remove all coyotes from the urban ecosystem. Attempts made by the Local, State and Federal agencies as well as private organizations over the past century to eradicate coyotes has proven to be ineffective.

### **What role do coyotes play in the environment?**

Coyotes play an important 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 up fear, actual sightings and perceptions may become exaggerated or misconstrued (see Appendix A for definitions of types of coyote encounters). The wide range in perceptions of urban coyotes from Pasadena residents supports the need for strong and consistent educational messages to clarify management techniques.

### **Have coyote numbers increased in Pasadena?**

Without tracking and updated inventories, it is difficult to know if the number of coyotes has increased in an area. What is known is that coyotes can become habituated if they are intentionally or unintentionally fed, which can lead to bolder behavior when 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 get enough food for the pack members. Normally, each pack is a territorial family group that varies in number from 3 to 10 individuals. A portion of the area the pack inhabits is the pack's territory, which they defend from other coyotes. The number of mature coyotes in the pack is linked to the amount of food resources in the territory. The pack system keeps coyotes from getting too numerous because the packs defend the area they need to survive.

A coyote pack usually has one breeding (or alpha) female. This female produces more pups than are ultimately wanted in the pack. Young coyotes may leave the pack 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 pack members and leave the pack.

Transients move all over in narrow undefended zones that exist between pack 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 will create an undefended area into which the transient coyotes will flow. At all times of the year, numbers of transients are immediately 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, the resulting effect may be ovulation in other breeding-age females in the pack 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 both residents and city officials. The City of Pasadena Citizen Service Center records and tracks coyote sightings and encounters. Information can be submitted using the online reporting system <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/citizen-service-center/submit-a-request/> or by calling (626) 744-7311.

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 interactions will allow for targeting of educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Education is the key to having residents make appropriate decisions regarding their safety, or managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing attractants, increasing pet safety and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior.

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. Education and outreach include:

- a) Understanding human safety, pet safety, coyote attractants, and deterrents to coyotes on private property, including appropriate fencing, exclusion techniques, “what to do” tips and appropriate hazing techniques.
- b) Developing a common language and awareness of normal versus abnormal behavior when discussing encounters with coyotes (see definitions in Appendix A).

- c) Disseminating information to residents, businesses and schools through the city's website, KPAS, media, fliers/handouts, mailers, etc.
- d) Cooperating with organizations and agencies like the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that provide public education materials, programs, and expertise.

### 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, who primarily eat rodents such as mice and rats. However, coyotes can be further attracted into suburban 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 sources of 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, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly.
  - c. Never compost any meat or dairy (unless the compost is fully secured).
  - 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 left out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.
  - g. Bag 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, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks and crawl spaces, 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.
    - a. 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. Eliminate access points by making structural repairs where necessary and securing screen or grates to crawl spaces to deter coyotes from these areas.
    - b. Trim shrubbery and trees to limit areas where coyotes can create resting spaces away from public view.

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. Free-roaming cats and small dogs may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to minimize risk to pets is to not leave them outside unattended.
- b. Cats. 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 (or only let them outside in a secure enclosure or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness).
- c. 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, the following tips can be helpful:
  - i. Feed cats only during the day and at a set time. Pick up leftovers immediately.
  - ii. Provide escape routes for cats.
  - iii. Haze coyotes seen on the property (see Appendix C). Making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.

Note that maintaining feral cat colonies may contribute to other public health risks. It is recommended that individuals follow the guidance of the Humane Society of the United States: [http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/feral\\_cats/qa/feral\\_cat\\_FAQs.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/feral_cats/qa/feral_cat_FAQs.html)

- d. Dogs. Dogs are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These interactions generally involve coyotes who are accustomed or habituated to people, usually due to wildlife feeding, or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups during breeding season.
  - i. Small, unattended dogs may be seen as potential prey for coyotes. It is important to either keep dogs on a leash six feet in length 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. Attacks on unattended, small dogs are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people.
  - ii. Although attacks on larger dogs are less common, 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 short leashes when in public areas.

Other domestic animals kept outside, such as chickens and rabbits, may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect poultry or other outdoor animals from coyotes, and other predators, with protective fencing, by ensuring that they are confined in sturdy cages or pens each evening. Residents are encouraged to use the Yard Audit Checklist (Appendix D) as a tool to help recognize and remove attractants in their yards and neighborhoods.

While human attacks are very rare, urban landscape development, habituation through intentional and unintentional feeding, pet-related interactions and media attention have led some urban residents to fear coyotes. Steps must be taken to address safety concerns and misconceptions and appropriate responses to potential threats to human safety. It's important to keep in mind that coyotes have been in and around Pasadena (and other parts of Southern California) for a very long time.

## **HAZING AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE**

Some coyotes have become too comfortable in the close proximity of people. To safely coexist, it is 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. Residents are encouraged to participate in hazing as coyote encounters can occur at any time. Being prepared to keep coyotes fearful of human populations at any moment of an encounter is critical in protecting humans as well as coyotes from future harm.

Hazing – also known as “fear conditioning” - is the process that facilitates this behavior change and is by necessity a community response to negative encounters with coyotes. The more often an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing coyote behavior (see Appendix C for coyote hazing overview).

### **Goals of Hazing**

The goals of hazing are to:

- Reshape coyote behavior to avoid human contact in an urban setting.
- Give residents tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support feeling safe in their parks and neighborhoods.
- Model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes with other residents, friends and family.

### **Hazing Process**

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.

Behavioral change and hazing includes the following:

- a) Pet owners need to protect pets. Off-leash and unattended dogs and cats, as well as pet food, can attract coyotes.
- b) Residents need to learn hazing effectiveness and techniques. A hazing program must be instituted and maintained on a regular basis.
- c) Hazing needs to be active for a sustained period of time to achieve the desired change for the highest possible long-term success.
- d) Hazing requires monitoring to assess its effectiveness and to determine if further action or more aggressive hazing is needed.

### **Overview of Hazing**

Hazing is a process whereby individuals encountering a coyote respond to make a coyote uncomfortable so it will leave the location.

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

More aggressive hazing consists of approaching an animal quickly and aggressively, throwing projectiles, spraying with a hose or water gun, or creating fear of contact so the animal leaves the situation. For more options see Appendix C on hazing.

Hazing must continue once it begins until the animal leaves the immediate area, 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 versus a normal, healthy one who responds in a consistent and predictable manner to hazing.

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.

## **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. Pasadena Police Department and the Pasadena Humane Society will strictly enforce the State law(s) pertaining to this activity.

## **COYOTE 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. Various types of coyote interactions are defined in Appendix A. Appendix B provides a chart describing coyote behavior, and for each type of behavior describes the threat level and recommended response.

### **Coyote Abatement**

Following the above tiered plan, it may become necessary to take steps for coyote abatement, also known as lethal control. If a coyote, or other wild animal, is injured or ill where they are no longer mobile, the Pasadena Humane Society will ensure animal removal and treatment and/or euthanasia. When it is determined that conditions exist that pose a threat to human health or safety, the City will enact steps to also remove the animal. It is critical to note that wildlife removal is never taken lightly and that it is a serious decision. The mere presence of a coyote, or even the presence of a coyote which looks ill (mange, etc.) does not mandate lethal control of the animal. Lethal responses (coyote removal) should be considered only in the event of an unprovoked, confirmed attack on a human. Lethal control programs may seem a like a quick fix to problems among coyotes, people and pets. However, removal programs are not effective in reducing coyote populations or addressing the root causes of conflicts. Coyote removal programs are costly (due to the difficulty of catching coyotes) and controversial among the public.

When implementing lethal control, it is extremely difficult to ensure that problem-causing coyote(s) will be the ones located and killed. Since firearms are usually unsafe to use in urban and suburban areas, traps (which are by design non-selective for particular coyotes) are generally the method used. Because coyotes are so intelligent and wary of human scent, it is very difficult to catch any coyote in a trap, including the problem-causing coyote. Research has shown that when lethally controlled, coyotes exhibit a “rebound effect” (a surge in their reproductive rates), allowing for quick regeneration of their population numbers. The disruption of their family group structure leads to an increase in the number of females breeding in the population, and the increase in available resources leads to larger litter sizes, earlier breeding ages among females and higher survival rates among pups.

Lethal responses (coyote removal) should be considered only in the event of an unprovoked, confirmed attack on a human. If implemented, lethal control efforts should focus on the offending coyote(s) only if possible, rather than the coyote population at large. This requires significant surveillance efforts to make sure that the correct animal(s) is targeted and removed.

Lethal control should be considered as only one of a suite of management interventions (e.g. removal of attractants, hazing, etc.) that involve an array of humane and non-lethal measures. It is worth remarking that if non-lethal control techniques are effective enough to reduce human-coyote interactions and conflicts to acceptable levels, then the lethal control limited option may remain in the toolbox without being used.

The decision to abate would be recommended by the City of Pasadena Director of Public Health (or other City Manager designee) and the Poundmaster, currently contracted to the Pasadena Humane Society. Consultation with the Police and/or Fire Chiefs would also be a consideration. The recommendation to abate would be made by the Director of Public Health to the City Manager, who would approve/deny the plan to proceed with abatement.

Abatement would be conducted by representatives of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or a state licensed animal trapping agent under contract with the City of Pasadena. Abatement occurs within a species and will continue in one-week intervals until the problem is demonstrated to have been removed. Coyotes are not allowed to be relocated (State law) so all trapped coyotes will be humanely euthanized.



## **SECTION II: BEAR AWARENESS**

Black bears are recognized as an important component of California's ecosystems. Data indicates that California's bear population has increased in recent years. Black bears are being observed in areas where they were not seen 50 years ago along the Central Coast and transverse mountain ranges of Southern California. Between 17,000 and 23,000 black bears are now estimated to occupy 52,000 square miles in California. Black bears occupy a variety of habitats; however, bear populations are densest in forested areas with a wide variety of seral stages.

Habitats with both vegetative and structural diversity provide alternate food resources when other foods are in short supply. Black bears have been found to den in slash piles, under large rocks, and even on open ground. Bears have become comfortable creating a den under homes or decking. Habitat loss is the leading threat to wildlife populations in California. Over half of the suitable black bear habitat in California is in public ownership of which an estimated 10 percent is managed as either a wilderness or park. Current ownership patterns allow large blocks of habitat to remain undeveloped and core areas within these blocks where bears encounter few humans.

The mixed-Chaparral/Coastal Sage Scrub/Desert scrub habitats that dominate the San Gabriel Mountains are sub-optimal habitats for bears, but they are very adaptive animals. This is one of the reasons that we have seen a spike in the bear population in the San Gabriel foothills. Urban habitats are actually superior to those in the Angeles National Forest. It is much easier for bears to make a living in communities with unlimited food, water and shelter. Because of the mild winters and year-round food sources, black bears in Southern California do not hibernate in the same way that bears do in Northern California. They become less active and they retreat back into the forest more; but they can still remain fully awake and forage throughout the winter months.

### **Why do bears lose their fear of humans?**

Bears have acute eyesight and hearing. Their sense of smell is seven times greater than that of a bloodhound. They have a keen ability to detect pet food, garbage, barbecue grills and bird feeders—and once they locate a food source, they remember where it is.

Bears are normally wary of people, but if a bear finds food without getting frightened away, he may come back for more. Each time this happens, he can become less fearful—and this habituation can lead to problems. Conflicts can heighten during their late summer/early fall feeding frenzy in which bears bulk up for hibernation, gaining 3-4 pounds and consuming 20,000 calories a day.

Bears can lose their fear of people. These are most often young males—young bears who have just dispersed from their mothers and are still learning how to obtain food—and mothers with young cubs. In many states, nuisance bears easily found food in yards and dumpsters, and were subsequently killed

or trapped and moved far away in hopes that they do not return. Note that a bear's eyesight is limited, as they utilize their sense of smell to identify food sources. Therefore it is critical to remove these sources of smells to prevent bears from occupying residential property.

## PREVENTING CONFLICTS WITH BEARS

To avoid habituating the bears in the area, follow these tips:

- **Never intentionally feed a black bear.** This is against the law, is dangerous, and incentivizes the bear's presence on the property.
- **Make trash cans inaccessible and clean.** Bring them inside at night or buy a bear-resistant trash can or an enclosure for the container. Thoroughly clean and disinfect garbage cans weekly.
- **Enclose your compost pile.** Open compost piles, especially those that include kitchen scraps, are an irresistible treat in bear country. Burying compost will not work because bears easily find and dig it up.
- **Recycle wisely.** If recyclables are stored outside, use enclosed bins. Persistent bears will break into even ruggedly built containers.
- **Keep your barbecue grill clean and as free of drippings as possible.** Move the grill away from the house when not in use, and clean it regularly with ammonia or bleach (do not combine these products).
- **Rethink bird feeders.** In the summer, birds can make do with naturally available foods. For those who do set up feeders, they should be installed away from the house, as bears will climb fences and damage property to reach outdoor bird feeders.

Communities experiencing bear problems can take steps such as finding people who knowingly or unknowingly feed bears, requiring bear-resistant trash cans, distributing educational flyers. The Pasadena Humane Society will provide guidance for residents who encounter bears on their property.

## ENCOUNTERING A BLACK BEAR

If a black bear is seen in one's yard, residents need not fear the worst. A youngster may simply be passing through in search of a home of his own, or an adult may be checking out an enticing smell or interesting sound. Usually when a bear finds out there are people around, it will head for the hills, never to be seen again.

If one does encounter a bear, guidance includes to remain calm and remember that the bear is likely more scared of the person than the person is of the bear. Attacks by black bears on people are very rare and most black bears can be easily scared away with the following approach:

- Stand and face the bear directly. Never run away from or approach him.
- Make oneself look as big as possible by spreading one's arms or, better yet, a coat.
- Make as much noise as possible by yelling, banging pots and pans or using other noisemaking devices.
- After the bear leaves, remove whatever attracted him to the location (barbecue grill, bird feeder, pet food or garbage) to prevent its return.
- If the bear approaches and the person has bear spray, spray the bear as he approaches (follow manufacturer's instructions).

- In the very rare case that a black bear does attack, fight back (do not play dead).

### **PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS**

People have little to fear in terms of catching diseases or parasites from bears. As warm-blooded animals, bears can get rabies, but it is very rare. There are no known cases of a person catching rabies from a bear. The primary human health concern would be external parasites that they carry (fleas, ticks, lice, mites) and could be passed on to humans/pets through close contact to the animal or its bedding area. It is recommended that prevent this exposure that precautions be taken such as application of flea/tick control medications for pets.



### **SECTION III: COUGAR AWARENESS**

Once robust, populations of cougars (also known as mountain lions or pumas) have declined drastically across most of their range in the Americas. The population decline is due to the impact of extensive hunting and predator control, in addition to continued habitat loss and fragmentation. Cougars are secretive and rarely seen, adapting even to extensive human encroachment into their territories.

Understanding cougars and their habits, along with recognizing that they are our wild neighbors is the first step toward co-existing with them. Simply seeing a cougar, or signs that a cougar was in the area, is not reason for alarm.

#### **PREVENTING CONFLICTS WITH COUGARS**

For those who live in or near cougar habitat, making a few changes to the landscape and human behavior can significantly reduce chances of drawing in unwanted wild visitors—not only cougars, but also bears, coyotes, and wolves.

- Store trash in clean, well-secured containers. Wash trash cans to avoid attracting potential prey species such as raccoons.
- Do not leave pet food outside. Either feed pets indoors or remove food immediately after they have eaten.
- Do not feed deer or other wildlife that may attract cougars.
- Do not compost meat scraps or other foods that would attract cougars or their prey.
- Trim vegetation around your house to avoid providing concealment for cougars as they rely on cover to ambush their prey. The yard need not be completely barren, but it should not include dense underbrush that would allow a cougar to hide undetected.
- Seal open areas under structures like porches, sheds and decks that can provide shelter for cougars or their prey.
- Install lighting or motion-sensor lighting in dark areas around the home to deter cougars and other wildlife.

#### **PROTECTING PETS**

Cougars pose only a small risk to pets, but those risks can be minimized with some common sense and preventative measures:

- Keep cats indoors and always supervise small pets when outside, especially from dusk to dawn. Be aware that cougars can jump 18 feet, so most fences will not protect unsupervised pets outside.
- Keep small pets such as rabbits or guinea pigs inside or in a secure enclosure that is covered on top.
- Minimize brush and cover in your yard that can provide hiding places for cougars.

- Walk dogs on a leash 6 feet long or less.

## RECREATION IN COUGAR AREAS

When living or engaging in recreational activity (such as hiking or horseback riding) in areas with cougar populations, the best way to prevent a conflict with a cougar is to take a few extra precautions:

- Take a friend with you; avoid venturing into cougar country alone.
- Be aware of one's surroundings (i.e. do not wear headphones).
- Bring a whistle or an air horn that could help scare away wild animals one may encounter.
- Keep children under the age of 16 years close and do not allow young children to play outdoors unsupervised. Walk with children between two adults or hold them by the hand.
- Keep your dog on a leash 6 feet long or less.

## ENCOUNTERING A COUGAR

Below are some tips to remain safe if encountering a cougar:

- Do not run! Running will provoke the predatory chasing behavior of cougars, as it would with other predators such as bears, coyotes, and wolves.
- Pick up small children or pets that are with you.
- Directly face the cougar, but look at the cougar's feet, not directly into their eyes, to avoid appearing aggressive.
- If the cougar displays aggressive behavior try to appear larger—raise your arms or open your jacket over your head.
- Make noise by yelling, blowing a whistle or an air horn.
- If you have an umbrella, quickly open and close it while facing the cougar.
- Do not approach the cougar. Give it ample space to run away – do not corner it.
- If there are cubs, be careful not to get between them and their mother.

### **If a cougar attacks**

In the very rare event that you are attacked by a cougar, fight back in any way that you can. People have stopped attacks by hitting the cougar with sticks, their hands, baseball caps, and garden tools. There are no repellents that have been registered for use on cougars, but pepper (capsaicin) sprays sold to deter attacks by dogs, bears and people or even a fire extinguisher may be effective.

## PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Cougars do not carry any diseases that are a known threat to public health, but like any mammals they can contract and then transmit rabies through a bite. However, the risk of contracting rabies from a cougar is very small. The primary human health concern would be external parasites that they carry (fleas, ticks, lice, mites) and could be passed on to humans/pets through close contact to the animal or its bedding area. It is recommended that prevent this exposure that precautions be taken such as application of flea/tick control medications for pets.



## SECTION IV: ZONOTIC DISEASE AND LOCAL WILDLIFE

Wildlife such as opossums, raccoons, skunks, bobcats, and bats are known to frequent the San Gabriel Valley foothills and stray or settle into residential areas looking for urban sources of food. Preventing intrusion of these animals is consistent with measures for other animals (see Appendix D). Some of these wild animals can carry diseases that can be a threat to human health.

Zoonotic diseases are infections or diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi that can be transmitted from animals to humans. For more information visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>.

### RABIES

Rabies is a viral disease that causes progressive, fatal problems to the central nervous system. Rabies is almost always caused by the bite of a rabid animal. Human rabies is rare in the United States, and there have been no reported human rabies cases in California in many years. However, rabies is occasionally identified in wild animals in California. All mammals can be infected with rabies. In California the most common rabies carriers are bats, but rabies is found in other wild animals such as skunks, coyotes, foxes, and wolves. Other animals capable of transmitting rabies include bobcats, mongooses, ferrets, feral cats, opossums, and even domestic farm animals.

Domestic animals (pets) can also get rabies. Cats, dogs, and cattle are the most commonly reported rabid domestic animals. Small rodents (such as squirrels, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, and chipmunks) and lagomorphs (such as rabbits and hares) are almost never found to be infected with rabies and have not been known to cause rabies among humans in the United States, but they may carry other diseases.

Humans contract rabies when the bite of an infected animal breaks the skin. It is also possible, but rare, to acquire the disease when saliva that contains the virus enters via an open wound or mucous membranes (i.e. eyes, nose, or mouth). Person-to-person transmission of rabies is rare and not well documented. The symptoms of rabies can vary and there is no single symptom that consistently suggests rabies. Typically, patients first experience flulike symptoms including fever, headache, and fatigue about 4 to 8 weeks after exposure to the virus. Other symptoms can include tingling, itching, or numbness at the bite site; difficulty walking, speaking, or swallowing; and lapses of consciousness, confusion, and agitation. People with rabies may become comatose and die, usually due to cardiac failure, without preventive medical intervention. Current treatments have not been shown to be effective once symptoms occur.

In general, signs of rabies in animals differ by species and stage of the disease. The most obvious sign of rabies is abnormal behavior, including:

- Wild animals acting unusually friendly or tame and readily approaching people.
- Animals that are normally nocturnal are active during the daytime.
- Bats that cannot fly or have been caught by a dog or cat.
- Pets that have difficulty walking, eating, or drinking, or whose personalities change.
- Dogs that have foaming at the mouth.

Although the majority of rabies cases occur in wildlife, people are more likely to acquire the disease from domestic animals due to greater interaction. Therefore, pets should receive vaccination against rabies. All dogs over the age of 4 months are required by the State of California to be immunized, and all cats are recommended to be vaccinated against rabies.

If bitten by a wild or rabid animal, one should immediately wash the bite site with soap and warm water and seek immediate medical attention. If bitten by a dog or cat suspected to be infected with rabies, one should immediately wash the wound with warm water and soap. The dog or cat should be evaluated by a veterinarian and seek medical advice about the need for anti-rabies prophylaxis.

Any pet that is bitten or scratched by a wild, carnivorous mammal or a bat should be regarded as having been exposed to rabies. Unvaccinated pets that have been exposed to a rabid animal may need to be euthanized immediately. If owners are unwilling to have this done, the pet must be placed in strict isolation for 6 months and vaccinated 1 month before being released. Animals with expired vaccinations may need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Pets that are current on their vaccinations should be observed for 45 days. If a pet brings a wild animal home, no one should handle the animal. Residents should call the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151 to request wild animal removal.

These actions can protect people and pets from rabies:

- Take your pet to a veterinarian on a regular basis to maintain up-to-date on rabies vaccinations.
- Maintain control of pets by keeping them under direct supervision when they are out of the house.
- Call the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151 to remove all stray domesticated animals from your neighborhood since these animals may be unvaccinated or ill. Do not approach, handle, or attempt to feed any unfamiliar animals.
- Discourage wild animals from foraging around the home by keeping the yard clean and free from any accessible food source (pet food, trash can, and fallen fruits).
- Seal holes or gaps in your house where bats and other animals could enter and nest.

## **LYME DISEASE**

Lyme disease is a bacterial, infectious disease found in certain infected ticks. The infected western blacklegged tick (or deer tick) spreads this disease on the West Coast. Lyme disease is transmitted by the bite of an infected tick. These ticks are smaller than the domestic pet tick. The tick has three life stages: larva, nymph, and adult. The larva and nymph feed on the blood of small rodents, rabbits, lizards, birds, and sometimes large mammals. Adults feed on the blood of large mammals, especially deer. Adult ticks

measure between 1/6 and 1/8 inches in length and the nymphal form is <1mm or about the size of a poppy seed.

Ticks can attach to any part of the human body but are often found in hard-to-see areas such as the groin, armpits, and scalp. Infection with Lyme disease usually does not occur until the tick has been attached for 24 hours or more. Both the adults and nymphs can pass the disease to humans. Nymphs are more likely to spread Lyme disease because their small size makes them more difficult to spot. Ticks usually live in cool, moist areas, and can also be found around wild grasses and low vegetation in both rural and urban areas. Nymphs prefer low, moist vegetation like leaf piles and logs.

Lyme disease can affect all parts of the body. The early stages usually begin with an expanding, red rash on the bite site, and look like a “bull’s-eye” or target. This rash, called erythema migrans (EM), appears about 3-32 days after the bite of an infected tick. One or more EM rashes can occur, not necessarily at the bite area.

Flu-like symptoms also occur within the early stages. Chills, fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes, weak muscles, and heart irregularities are also early signs of Lyme disease.

If left untreated, symptoms include:

- EM on other parts of the body
- Loss of facial muscle tone
- Severe headaches and stiffness of neck
- Pain and swelling in joints
- Heart palpitations and dizziness
- Shooting pains while sleeping

Later symptoms may include arthritis or joint pains, neurologic problems, and heart problems. When identified in the early stages, Lyme disease can be easily treated with oral antibiotics. Intravenous antibiotics may be necessary for patients with late symptoms of Lyme disease.

Domestic animals may be infected with Lyme disease bacteria. Dogs are more likely to develop arthritis once affected with the disease. Although dogs and cats can get Lyme disease, there is no evidence that they spread the disease directly to humans. Pets can carry the infected tick into the home. Veterinary tick control products may help reduce ticks on pets.

There is no proof that Lyme disease can be transmitted from one person to another. For example, touching, kissing, or having sex with someone infected with Lyme disease will not spread the disease. If Lyme disease is acquired during pregnancy, there have been rare incidences of risk of infection of the placenta and potential stillbirth. However, no negative effects on the fetus have been discovered when the mother undergoes proper antibiotic treatment. Additionally, there are no reports of Lyme disease transmission from breast milk. While there are no cases of Lyme disease acquired through blood transfusion, researchers have learned that the Lyme disease bacteria can live in stored blood for donation. Individuals undergoing antibiotic treatment for Lyme disease should not donate blood. Individuals who have completed antibiotic treatment may be considered as potential blood donors.

Here are some recommendations to prevent Lyme Disease:

- Check if you are visiting a high-risk area with a high number of reported cases <https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/datasurveillance/index.html>.

- During the warmer seasons when tick nymphs feed, try to avoid moist and humid areas, woody and bushy areas, or areas with high grass and leaf piles.
- Walk in the center of the trails.
- If you are in an area with ticks, wear light- colored clothing so ticks can be seen more easily and removed before attaching.
- Wear long pants and tuck them into boots or socks. Also, tuck shirts in.
- Use insect repellent with DEET when out in tick-infested areas. Follow the instructions when applying insect repellent to the skin. Repellents with permethrin should only be applied to clothing.
- Thoroughly check for ticks during and up to three days after activities in tick -infested areas. Remove any attached ticks promptly.
- Consult your veterinarian for use of tick control products. Prompt removal of ticks can prevent transmission of the disease.

Tick removal steps:

1. Using fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the tick's mouthparts as close to the skin as possible.
2. Gently pull the tick straight out with a firm, steady motion.
3. Wash your hands and the bite site with soap and water.
4. Cleanse the bite area with an antiseptic.

## FLEA-BORNE TYPHUS

Endemic Flea-borne Typhus Fever, also known as Murine Typhus or Flea-borne Typhus, is a disease caused by the bacteria, *Rickettsia typhi* (found in infected rat fleas) and *Rickettsia felis* (found in infected cat fleas). Typhus is known to be spread particularly in the Pasadena area and some other areas of Los Angeles County. Endemic typhus is contracted from infected flea bites. Fleas release the bacteria in their feces and defecate when they bite. Scratching the bite site allows the bacteria to enter the bloodstream. The bacteria can sometimes enter through the eyes, nose, or mouth. Rat fleas and some cat fleas can be infected with the bacterium that causes Endemic Typhus. Endemic typhus is not spread directly from person-to-person.

The most common symptoms include a fever, headache, body aches, and chills. These occur about 6-14 days after exposure to an infected flea. Skin rashes are also common. Most of the illnesses are mild and may be confused with other diseases. Hospitalization due to severe illness occurs in about 10% of patients. A specific blood test must be performed to diagnose the disease.

Endemic typhus fever is treated with antibiotics. Most people recover within a few days of starting treatment. Healthcare providers will choose the appropriate antibiotic based on the symptoms and laboratory tests.

In Pasadena and around Los Angeles County, the Norway rat, opossums, and cats can carry the fleas which can harbor the disease. These animals frequently come in contact with humans and may transmit the infected fleas onto humans and pets. The infected fleas may pass the disease to other fleas feeding on the same source. Fleas can also pass the bacteria to their offspring. Infected animals usually do not show symptoms of Endemic Typhus. Since pets and other animals usually do not show symptoms of the disease, it is better to keep the animals free from fleas to avoid any infection.

When animals such as opossums and feral cats become pests, individuals should not attempt to capture and relocate these animals. This practice is a violation of the California Fish and Game laws and is considered inhumane. Do not relocate the animals as this can only facilitate the spread the disease. Instead, please call the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151 to report the animals. Feeding feral cat colonies can contribute to this problem, so it is important to use best practices to limit problems (see page 10, feral cats).

Below is a checklist to prevent endemic typhus:

- Keep pets, yards, and homes free from fleas
  - Use a veterinarian approved flea control product on your pets and keep pets indoors
  - Use an EPA approved insect repellent that is labeled for use against fleas when outdoors
  - Use flea control mists, sprays, and powders in and around the home
- Maintain yard and home clean and in good repair to discourage wild animals from entering and living in these areas
  - Remove cast-off items and fallen or overripe fruit from the yard
  - Elevate wood piles and rotate cut wood pieces often
  - Exclude wildlife from entering crawl spaces by covering or screening access points
  - Maintain lawn and vegetation trimmed and clear of debris
  - Store trash in a durable container with a tight-fitting lid
  - Feed pets indoors or remove bowl immediately after each feeding
- Protect yourself when cleaning crawl spaces and other wildlife harborage areas by wearing gloves and a mask
- Contact the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151 to report a dead animal

## APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS OF COYOTE INTERACTIONS

**Active Coexistence** describes humans and coyotes existing together. Communities identify open spaces where coyotes are appropriate and community members do not haze, feed, or interact with the animals while in these areas. Residents take an active role in keeping coyotes in their community wild by learning about coyote ecology and behavior, removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, and hazing coyotes when necessary.

**Attack** means a human is injured or killed by a coyote.

**Attended Pet** means a cat or dog that is kept inside, a cat or dog that is in a yard accompanied by a person, a cat that is outside accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness, or a dog that is outside on a leash that is less than 6 feet in length.

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

**Hazing** means the immediate use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing techniques include making loud noises, spraying water, using bright lights, throwing objects, and shouting. Hazing maintains a coyote's fear of humans and is useful to deter them from backyards and playgrounds. When done correctly, hazing does not damage animals, humans, or property.

**Intentional feeding** occurs when a person or group actively and intentionally feeds coyotes. Intentional feeding includes providing food for animals in the coyote food chain.

**Observation** means the act of noticing coyote tracks, scat, or vocalizations.

**Pet Attack** means a pet is injured or killed by a coyote.

**Provoked Attack** means an attack or incident where the human involved 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 approaching or feeding the coyote.

**Sighting** means a visual observation of a coyote or group of coyotes moving or resting. A sighting may occur during the day or at night.

**Stalking Incident** means an interaction between a human and a coyote where the coyote approaches or follows the person. Stalking incidents can occur while the person is with or without a pet.

**Suspected Pet Attack** means pet remains were found and indicate the animal was attacked by a coyote. Coyotes are opportunistic feeders and will feed on animals that were previously killed by cars or by other means. The Pasadena Humane Society, without knowledge of an actual attack, will record this as a suspected attack.

**Threat Incident** means an interaction between a human and a coyote where the coyote approaches and growls, bares teeth, nips but does not make contact, or lunges. A threat incident includes an interaction where a coyote injures or kills an attended pet or domestic animal.

**Unattended Pet** means a free-roaming cat or dog, a cat outside that is not contained in an enclosure or under the control of a leash and harness, or a dog that is off-leash or on a leash that is greater than 6 feet in length.

**Unintentional Feeding** occurs when a person, group, or business is unintentionally providing access to food. Unintentional feeding includes improperly managed compost, fallen or overripe fruit, improperly installed or unmaintained birdfeeders, and pet food or water left outdoors.

**Unprovoked Attack** means an attack or incident where the human involved does not encourage the coyote to engage.

**Unsecured Trash** means trash that is accessible to wildlife and includes unsecured or unmaintained garbage cans, bags of trash stored outside, trash in containers that do not have tight-fitting lids, and trash that is overflowing.

## APPENDIX B: COYOTE BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

COYOTE BEHAVIOR	TYPE OF INTERACTION	THREAT LEVEL	WHO TO CONTACT
Coyote is heard vocalizing, coyote tracks or scat are observed	Observation	Green	Citizen Service Center
Coyote is seen moving or resting in an area	Sighting	Green	Citizen Service Center
Coyote stalks (approaches or follows) a person that is with a pet	Encounter	Green	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote is seen moving or resting in a sensitive location such as a playground or school	Sighting	Yellow	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote appears sick or injured	Sighting	Yellow	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote stalks (approaches or follows) a person that is without pet	Encounter	Yellow	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote enters a yard without pets or people	Sighting	Yellow	Citizen Service Center
Coyote enters a yard with pets; no injury occurs	Encounter	Yellow	Citizen Service Center
Coyote enters yard and injures or kills pet; no people present	Pet Attack	Yellow	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote injures or kills unattended pet	Pet Attack	Yellow	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote enters yard or dwelling with people present	Encounter	Orange	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote injures or kills attended pet	Pet Attack	Orange	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote exhibits threatening or aggressive behavior (approaches and growls, bares teeth, nips without contact, lunges)	Encounter	Orange	Pasadena Humane Society
Coyote bites or injures a person	Attack	Red	Pasadena Police Department Pasadena Humane Society

### REPORTING

#### Citizen Service Center

Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective Urban Wildlife Management Plan, and the City of Pasadena Citizen Service Center (CSC) records and tracks coyote sightings and encounters. The website, downloadable application, and call center are designed to provide users access to submit complaints and concerns 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information can be submitted using the online reporting system <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/citizen-service-center/submit-a-request/> or by calling (626) 744-7311.

#### Pasadena Humane Society

The Pasadena Humane Society (PHS) will respond to attacks and aggressive habituated coyote behavior. Contact PHS at (626) 792-7151.

#### Pasadena Police Department

In the event of an emergency call 9-1-1.

## THREAT CLASSIFICATIONS

Coyote interactions can vary from normal coyote behavior to aggressive and dangerous. Each interaction described above is classified by the level of threat: Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red. Detailed descriptions of each are listed below along with a recommended response.

**Level Green** indicates the level of threat when a coyote sighting has occurred, coyote prints or scat are observed, a coyote is heard vocalizing, or a coyote approaches or follows a person that is with a pet. All Level Green interactions are reports of normal coyote behavior and are considered to be a low level of threat. City staff and Humane Society employees respond to Level Green interactions by providing educational material on normal coyote behavior and, when stalking has occurred, hazing techniques and pet safety.

**Level Yellow** indicates the level of threat when a coyote frequently associates with humans or human related food sources, exhibits little wariness of human presence, is sighted repeatedly during the day in playgrounds or enclosed yards, or injures or kills an unattended pet. Level Yellow interactions are reports of mildly habituated coyote behavior. City staff and Humane Society employees respond to Level Yellow interactions by providing educational material on normal coyote behavior and pet safety, distributing the Yard Audit Checklist, and teaching aggressive hazing techniques which may include community hazing and formation of a volunteer hazing team.

**Level Orange** indicates the level of threat when a coyote injures or kills an attended animal, exhibits aggressive or threatening behavior toward humans such as growling, baring teeth, nipping without making contact or lunging toward a person, or enters a dwelling or an enclosed yard in the presence of humans. Level Orange interactions are reports of aggressive, habituated coyote behavior and several Level Yellow interactions in the same area may rise to a threat Level Orange. City staff and Humane Society employees respond to Level Orange interactions by providing educational material on normal coyote behavior and pet safety, distributing the Yard Audit Checklist, and teaching aggressive hazing techniques which include community hazing and formation of a volunteer hazing team. Community meetings may be held to increase public awareness and education.

**Level Red** indicates the level of threat when a coyote has been involved in an investigated and documented attack on a human. Level Red interactions include provoked and unprovoked attacks. All actions taken in response to a Level Orange interaction may be taken. In addition, City staff working with the Humane Society will notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) of the incident, and will work with DFW to locate and eliminate the responsible coyote(s). Multiple Level Orange interactions in the same area within a short window of time may rise to a threat Level Red.

## **APPENDIX C: COYOTE HAZING TECHNIQUES**

### **Hazing and Behavioral Change**

Some urban coyotes have become comfortable in close proximity to people. To safely coexist, it is important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. Urban coyote behavior needs to be reshaped to encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans and pets. Hazing is the process that facilitates this change and is by necessity a community response to encounters with coyotes. The more often an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing coyote behavior.

It is not economically, ecologically or in other ways efficient to try and remove coyotes from the urban ecosystem. 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, bright lights, throwing objects, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and discourage them from 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 identifying and removing attractants and responsibly protecting pets.

### **Goals of Hazing**

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) To model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes among other residents, friends and family.

### **General Considerations**

1. Levels of hazing need to be appropriately relevant to coyote activity.
  - a) Coyotes live in open spaces and the best practice is to leave them alone and educate the public on personal safety.
  - b) Coyotes are often out late at night when few people are present. This is normal acceptable behavior. Hazing may not be necessary.
  - c) Exceptions: In early stages of hazing, programs should still engage animal. Coyotes that associate danger in the presence of people under all circumstances will be reinforced to avoid contact.
2. Hazing must be more exaggerated, aggressive and consistent when first beginning a program of hazing. 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).

3. Techniques and tools can be used in the same manner for one or multiple animals. Usually there is a dominant animal in a group who will respond - others will follow its lead. DO NOT ignore, turn your back or avoid hazing because there are multiple animals instead of a single individual.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Human behavior must change to support hazing and continued identification and, if necessary, remove possible attractants.
10. 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.
11. 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 Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151.
12. Interested individuals/groups and participants can contact Pasadena Humane Society for information on hazing.

## Summary of Hazing

Hazing is a process whereby individuals and volunteers respond in like manner to make a coyote uncomfortable and choose to leave a situation where their presence is unwanted.

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

More aggressive hazing consists of approaching an animal quickly and aggressively, throwing projectiles, spraying with a hose or water gun, or creating fear of contact so the animal leaves the situation. Note: Many projectiles are not legal including but not limited to slingshots, paintballs, guns and pepper balls.

Hazing must continue once it begins until the animal leaves, otherwise, the coyote will learn to “wait” until the person gives up. The coyote will create an animal more resistance to hazing instead of reinforcing the image that “people are scary”.

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

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 get used 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

## APPENDIX D: YARD AUDIT CHECKLIST

Complete the checklist to identify ways to reduce the occurrence of wildlife on your property. Share the information with friends and neighbors. Minimizing wildlife attractants is most effective when the neighborhood works together.

<b>YARD AUDIT CHECKLIST</b>		
<b>ELIMINATE FOOD SOURCES</b>		
	Pet Food	Pets are fed inside. Pet food, treats, and bones are brought inside.
	Water	Pet water bowls are kept inside. Fish ponds have net covering.
	Bird Feeder	Bird feeder is hung away from home and out of reach of wildlife; seed catching tray present; fallen seed cleaned regularly.
	Fruit Trees	Fallen fruit is cleaned regularly and overripe fruit is removed from tree.
	Compost	Compost does not include meat or dairy products; compost is buried or stored in bins and includes wood chips or newspaper to reduce smell.
	BBQ Grill	BBQ grill is free of drippings and routinely cleaned with bleach.
	Trash	Trash is securely bagged or double bagged and stored indoors or in a durable container with a tight-fitting lid; receptacle is routinely cleaned.
	Pet Waste	Pet waste is regularly removed from yard.
<b>REMOVE HARBORAGE</b>		
	Structure	Crawl spaces are securely covered or screened.
	Vegetation	Lawn and shrubs are maintained trimmed and clear of debris.
	Cast-Offs	Yard is free of unused/unmaintained equipment, items, and vehicles.
	Wood Piles	Wood is stored elevated off the ground; oldest wood is used first.
<b>EXCLUDE WILDLIFE</b>		
	Fencing	Property fencing is an appropriate height and constructed without gaps or spaces.
	Gates	Gates are maintained closed.
<b>PROTECT PETS</b>		
	Unattended	Pets are not left outside unattended.
	Interaction with Wildlife	Pets are not permitted to play or interact with wildlife.
	Kennels & Coops	Outdoor kennels and chicken/rabbit coops are sturdy and secure.
	Walking Pets	Pets are always walked on a short leash (less than 6 feet).