COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

City of Long Beach
Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Animal Care Services Bureau

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page(s)
Executive Summary		2-3
Coyote Management Plan		
	Background	4
	Difficulties Managing Wildlife	4
	What Role Do Coyotes Play in the Environment?	5
	How Do Humans Perceive Coyotes?	5
	How Many Coyotes Are There in Long Beach?	5
	Monitoring and Collecting Data	6
	Public Education and Outreach	6
	Hazing and Behavioral Change	7
	Coyote Attractants in Urban Areas	7-9
	Enforcement	9
	Response Plan	10
	Threat Level Tiered Response	10
Appendices		
A	Definitions of Encounters with Coyotes	11-12
B	Coyote Behavior, Behavior Classification and Recommended Response	13
C	Hazing Program and Training Plan	14-17
	Hazing and Behavioral Change	14
	Foundations of Hazing	14
	Goals of Hazing	14
	General Considerations	15-16
	Training Program	16
	Creating a Volunteer Hazing Team	17
	Summary of Hazing	17
D	Yard Audit Checklist	18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The intent of this plan is to provide guidance for City staff in managing coyotes in Long Beach, as our local guidelines and provisions must fall within the parameters of, and adhere to federal, state and county regulations and policies. Provisions of this plan maintain the legal rights of Long Beach residents, businesses, and/or homeowners' associations in protecting private property relative to coyote management practices.

Management Strategy

The City's strategy for managing coyotes is based on balancing respect for, and protection of wildlife and their habitats, while prioritizing public safety. This strategy is comprised of a three-pronged approach consisting of the following:

(1) Public education designed around co-existence with coyotes;

(2) Enforcement of laws and regulations prohibiting the feeding of wildlife; and

(3) Ensuring public safety by implementing appropriate tiered responses to coyote behavior.

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

Education

Education is key to residents making appropriate decisions regarding their safety, and that of their property and pets, by decreasing attractants, reshaping coyote behavior through hazing, and creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior. Dissemination of information to residents, businesses and schools will be accomplished through the use of the City and Animal Care Services (ACS) websites, LBTV, social media, local press, mailers, flyers and handouts, etc.

Enforcement

The act of feeding wildlife substantially increases the likelihood of coyote activity in an area, thereby creating a habituated coyote(s) presence resulting in increased coyote and human interactions. California law(s) prohibits feeding wildlife, and Long Beach Animal Control Officers enforce these applicable state statutes.

Response Plan

A tiered response plan has been developed to provide a mechanism for identifying and classifying different levels of coyote aggression. Appendix A lists the definitions of coyote encounters, while Appendix B charts coyote behavior, behavior classification and recommended responses.

LEVEL	GENERAL OVERVIEW
BLUE	- Coyote seen or heard in an area. - Sighting may be during the day or night. - Coyote may be seen moving through an area or resting in one place. - Education and hazing recommended.
YELLOW	- Coyote frequents an area with humans or human-related food sources, and exhibits little wariness of human presence, and/or is involved with an unattended domestic animal loss incident. - Coyote is seen during the day resting or continuously moving through an area frequented by people. - Education and aggressive hazing necessitated, and increased response and patrols by Animal Control Officers may be implemented.
ORANGE	- Coyote involved in an incident where there is an attended domestic animal loss, where it enters a dwelling or yard in which people are present, or where it acts aggressively toward people. - Multiple incidents of this level, occurring within relative proximity of one another, may indicate the presence of a habituated coyote(s). - Education and aggressive hazing necessitated, increased response and patrols by Animal Control Officers to be implemented, and circumstances to be discussed by department management. - If three investigated and confirmed level orange incidents have occurred in the same general area within a timespan of two weeks, targeted lethal removal may be implemented. - Lethal removal may be employed at the discretion of the Director of Animal Care Services in cases involving extreme instances of aggression towards humans.
RED	- Coyote involved in an investigated and documented attack, either provoked or unprovoked, on a human. - City staff will notify California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), which assumes the role of lead agency, and will work with DFW to locate and eliminate the responsible coyote(s).

The following comprehensive coyote management plan provides guidelines for the implementation of that which is noted above and establishes a framework for community education, enforcement and enactment of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior.

Background

The City of Long Beach does not own or have any control of 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 integral part of our ecosystem, biosphere and the circle of life. The Bureau of Animal Care Services (formerly Animal Control Services) was originally created to deal with problems arising from stray dogs and to enforce laws pertaining to them. To a small degree, wildlife has been included in the scope of ACS services, as needs have arisen, primarily due to the proximity of natural habitat; which has resulted in wild animals' involvement in distressed situations in which they require rescue.

Although Long Beach Animal Control Officers do not respond to calls for service for normal coyote behavior, such as sightings, these calls are recorded and documented. However, ACS Officers do respond to calls involving a sick or injured coyote(s), and to calls involving a public safety issue; for instance, a coyote(s) threatening people or lingering in an area frequented by people, such as a yard, park, playground, school, etc.

Difficulties Managing Wildlife

Although Long Beach places a high value on its wildlife, some species that have adapted to urban environments have the potential to cause problems and/or conflicts in specific situations. In addressing such, the City promotes policies supporting prevention and implementation of remedial measures that do not harm the wildlife or their habitats. A wildlife problem is defined as any situation that causes a health or safety risk to residents. In cases where problems with wildlife are associated with human behavior, such as leaving garbage exposed or intentionally feeding wildlife, ordinances and enforcement may be enacted to minimize conflict.

In some cases, particular or traditional management tools are ineffective. For example, the 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, and if they do, they rarely stay in the relocation area and tend to disperse to other locations where they may cause problems, be involved in territorial disputes or introduce disease. The dispersed wildlife, especially coyotes, may go to great lengths in some instances to return to their previous territory or may adversely affect residents as a result. For these reasons, the DFW rarely allows relocation of wildlife.

It is not economically or ecologically efficient to attempt to remove all coyotes from the urban ecosystem. Attempts made by local, state and federal agencies, as well as private organizations, over the past century to eradicate coyotes have proven to be ineffective, as coyotes have expanded their territories across the United States. As a last resort, lethal control measures, when employed, can be controversial and non-selective; therefore, if they are used, they must be humane and in compliance with federal and state laws.

What Role Do Coyotes Play in the Environment?

Coyotes play an important role in the urban ecosystem as predators of rats, mice, squirrels, rabbits, gophers, geese, ducks and other small animals, with rodents making 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, past experiences with coyotes may influence people's perceptions and can range from animal sightings without incident to observation of coyote stalking, killing of pets or, at the extreme, an attack on a person.

As wild animals may conjure up fear among the public, sightings may become misconstrued (see Appendix A for descriptions of coyote encounters), resulting in a wide range of perceptions by residents about urban coyotes. Therefore, consistent messages and educational material are necessary to clarify what management techniques are available for the community to employ.

How Many Coyotes Are There in Long Beach?

It is difficult to ascertain how many coyotes there are in a particular area without tracking and updating reports on a real-time basis; however, what is known is that coyotes can become habituated if they are intentionally or unintentionally fed by humans, which can lead to bolder behavior, especially when coyotes lose their fear of people.

In general, urban coyotes regularly roam an area of about two (2) to five (5) square miles or whatever distance it takes to get enough food for the pack members. Normally, each pack is a territorial family group that varies in number from two (2) to ten (10), and 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.

A coyote pack usually has one (1) breeding (or alpha) female who produces more pups than are ultimately desired. Young coyotes may leave the pack at about nine (9) to eleven (11) months of age, but dispersal patterns are highly variable, and as a result, these coyotes become transients. Other types of transients include older coyotes who leave the pack when they can no longer defend their role as upper level pack members.

Transient coyotes migrate all over in narrow, undefended zones that exist between pack territories and search for an open habitat to occupy. It is largely because of these transients that coyote eradication programs are often unsuccessful. Ultimately, removing a group of territorial coyotes will create an undefended area into which transient coyotes will flow. At all times of the year, numbers of transient coyotes 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 collecting data are critical components of an effective coyote management plan, which is best accomplished when input from both residents and City officials is taken into account. ACS records and tracks coyote sightings and incidents (see Appendix A for definitions), which can be reported using the online form at www.longbeach.gov/acs/wildlife/coyote-report, by emailing animalcare@longbeach.gov or by calling (562) 570-7387.

The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen and to identify conflict hotspots. Gathering specific data on incidents allows for the 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 key to residents making appropriate decisions regarding their safety, and that of their property and pets, by decreasing attractants and by creating reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior.

Coyote educational classes are periodically offered by ACS, with locations chosen based on data accumulated from the public on coyote activity in specific neighborhoods, parks and open spaces, or when proactively requested by neighborhood, community or volunteer groups. These sessions, which are free to the public, entail basic background training, coyote ecology information, and an overview of hazing. Supplementary materials typically include handouts, contact information and resources for when questions, comments and concerns arise.

Learning how to respond to a coyote encounter empowers residents and supports reshaping undesired coyote behavior. The public should understand what normal (vs. abnormal) coyote behavior is when living in close proximity to wildlife and should be aware of realistic expectations relative to consistent management responses to coyotes. For example, vocalization is normal, acceptable behavior and does not indicate aggression. Education and outreach material, along with potential mechanisms and strategies include:

Understanding human and pet safety, coyote attractants, deterrents to coyotes on private property (including appropriate fencing and exclusion techniques), “what to do” tips, and appropriate hazing techniques.	Developing a common language for and awareness of normal versus abnormal behavior when discussing coyote encounters (see definitions in Appendix A).
Disseminating information to residents, businesses and schools through the City and ACS websites, LBTV, social media, local press, mailers, flyers and other handouts, etc.	Cooperating with non-profit organizations like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) that provide public education materials, programs, and expertise.

Hazing and Behavioral Change

Some urban coyotes have become too comfortable in close proximity to people, and to safely coexist it's important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. Habituated coyote behavior needs to be reshaped to encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans and pets. Behavioral change also involves human activities, such as identifying and removing attractants and responsibly protecting pets (See Appendix C: Hazing Program and Training Plan).

Hazing, also known as "fear conditioning", is the process that facilitates this change and is by necessity a community response to negative encounters with coyotes. The more often an individual animal (coyote) is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing that animal's (coyote's) behavior. Hazing requires community involvement, understanding, and support; and residents are best equipped to respond consistently and at the most opportune times in their own neighborhoods, parks and open spaces.

Hazing employs immediate use of deterrents - such as loud noises, spraying water, bright lights, throwing objects, shouting, etc. - to move an animal out of an area or discourage undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and discourage the animal from entering neighborhoods along with backyards and play areas. It is important to note that hazing does not harm or damage animals, humans or property when implemented correctly.

Coyote Attractants in Urban Areas

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

FOOD	Urban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes that primarily eat rodents such as mice and rats, while suburban neighborhoods offer a variety of 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, likely resulting in negative interactions between 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. 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, as trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into if left out overnight. g. Bag attractive food wastes such as meat scraps or leftover pet food. If it is several days before garbage will be picked up, temporarily freeze or take the items to a dumpster or other nearby secure storage container.

WATER	Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of storm water impoundments and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, water fountains and pet water dishes, among others, that support both coyotes and their prey.
ACCESS TO SHELTER	Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, crawl spaces, and overgrown landscaping increase the amount and variability of cover for 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 their young, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows for shelter. Coyotes may take advantage of available spaces under houses, sheds or decks for use as a den, bringing them into close contact with people and pets. b. Residents should limit access to crawl spaces under homes and decks and keep landscaping trimmed.
UNATTENDED PETS	Coyotes may consider pets, which are a normal part of the urban landscape, as potential prey or competitors within their territory.
Free-Roaming Pets	These pets, particularly cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to minimize risk to pets is to not leave them outside unattended, especially between dusk and dawn.
Cats	Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but they will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits, opossums and raccoons. Approximately the same size as an opossum 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.
Feral Cats	People who feed feral/community cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats, which is well founded as coyotes can be attracted to the outdoor pet food. Although there is no guaranteed way to protect feral/community cats from coyotes, the following tips can be helpful: a. Feed cats only during the day and at a set time, picking up any leftovers immediately after. b. Provide escape routes for cats. c. Haze coyotes seen on the property (see Appendix C), as making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.

Dogs	Dogs are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations, and these incidents generally involve coyotes that are accustomed or habituated to people, usually due to wildlife feeding or lack of effective hazing, or coyotes that are protecting their territory and pups, usually during breeding season. a. Small dogs that are unattended may be seen as potential prey for coyotes. It is important to either keep dogs on a leash six feet or shorter in length when outdoors or to stay within six feet of the dogs when outside. Attacks on unattended small dogs are normal coyote behavior and do not necessarily indicate a danger for people. Note: Coyotes may view a dog on a leash longer than six feet as an unattended pet. b. Although attacks on larger dogs are rare, coyotes will sometimes go after a large dog when they feel that their territory is being threatened. This generally occurs during coyote breeding season, which takes place from December through March. During this time, it is especially important not to let dogs outside unattended and to keep them on leashes six feet or less in length when in public areas.
Other Domestic Animals	Animals often kept outside, such as chickens, pygmy goats and rabbits, may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect poultry or other outdoor animals from coyotes (and other predators) with protective fencing and 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 backyards and neighborhoods. While attacks on humans are very rare, urban landscape development, habituation through intentional and unintentional feeding, and free roaming pets have seemingly led to an increase in coyote encounters. Steps must be taken to address public safety concerns, and sometimes misconceptions, as well as to devise appropriate responses to potential coyote threats to human safety. It's important to keep in mind that coyotes have been in and around Long Beach, and certainly other parts of Southern California, for a very long time.

Enforcement

The act of feeding wildlife can attract coyotes and their prey to an area, leading to the increased likelihood of creating a habituated coyote(s) presence and increased coyote and human interactions. California law prohibits feeding wildlife, and Long Beach Animal Control Officers strictly enforce applicable state statute(s) pertaining to this activity.

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 14. 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.

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. Definitions of coyote encounters are listed in Appendix A, and Appendix B provides a chart detailing coyote behavior, behavior classification and recommended ACS responses.

Threat Level Tiered Response

LEVEL	GENERAL OVERVIEW
BLUE	- Coyote seen or heard in an area. - Sighting may be during the day or night. - Coyote may be seen moving through an area or resting in one place. - Education and hazing recommended.
YELLOW	- Coyote frequents an area with humans or human related food sources, and exhibits little wariness of human presence, and/or involved with an unattended domestic animal loss incident. - Coyote is seen during the day resting or continuously moving through an area frequented by people. - Education and aggressive hazing necessitated, and increased response and patrols by Animal Control Officers may be implemented.
ORANGE	- Coyote involved in an incident where there is an attended domestic animal loss, where it enters a dwelling or yard in which people are present, or where it acts aggressively toward people. - Multiple incidents of this level, occurring within relative proximity of one another, may indicate the presence of a habituated coyote(s). - Education and aggressive hazing necessitated, increased response and patrols by Animal Control Officers to be implemented, and circumstances to be discussed by department management. - If three investigated and confirmed level orange incidents have occurred in the same general area within a timespan of two weeks, targeted lethal removal may be implemented. - Lethal removal may be employed at the discretion of the Director of Animal Care Services in cases involving extreme instances of aggression towards humans.
RED	- Coyote involved in an investigated and documented attack, either provoked or unprovoked, on a human. - City staff will notify California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), which assumes the role of lead agency, and will work with DFW to locate and eliminate the responsible coyote(s).

APPENDIX A:
DEFINITIONS OF ENCOUNTERS WITH COYOTES

Active Coexistence	Humans and coyotes exist together, whereby communities decide on open, public space where coyotes are appropriate and do not haze, feed or interact with them in these areas. Humans 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 in neighborhood or community spaces (except for predetermined coyote appropriate areas).
Attack	A human is injured or killed by a coyote.
Provoked	A human-provoked attack or incident where the human involved encourages the coyote to engage; for example, when a human intentionally approaches or feeds the coyote.
Unprovoked	An unprovoked attack or incident where the human involved does not encourage the coyote to engage.
Pet Attack	A domestic animal is injured or killed by a coyote.
Attended animal loss or injury	When a person is within six feet of the pet and the pet is on a leash and is attacked and injured by a coyote.
Unattended animal loss or injury	A coyote injures or kills a pet without the owner being present, or when the owner is further than six feet from the coyote, or when the pet is on a leash longer than six feet. Also includes "depredation" - predation on domestic pets or livestock. Note: A pet attack, of an unattended animal loss or injury, is normal behavior by a coyote.
Suspected Pet Attack	Remains may be found and indicate that an animal was attacked by a coyote, and in cases where Animal Control Officers respond to these calls without knowledge of an actual attack, the incident will be recorded as a suspected attack. Note: A coyote is an opportunistic feeder and may feed on animals, especially cats, which were previously killed by cars or other means.
Encounter	An unexpected, direct meeting between a human and a coyote that is without incident.
Feeding - Intentional	A resident or business actively and intentionally feeds coyotes, including intentionally providing food for animals in the coyote food chain.

Feeding - Unintentional	A resident or business unintentionally provides access to food, such as accessible compost, fallen fruit from trees, left open sheds and doors, pet food left outdoors, etc.
Feeding - Unintentional - Bird Feeders	A resident or business with bird feeders that may provide a food source for coyotes, such as bird foods, birds, rodents, squirrels. Bird feeders must be kept high enough from the ground so a coyote is unable to reach the feeding animals, and the area under the bird feeder must be kept clean and free of residual bird food.
Hazing	Training method that employs immediate use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing techniques include loud noises, spraying water, bright lights, throwing objects, and shouting. Hazing can help maintain coyotes' fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and play areas. Hazing does not damage animals, humans or property.
Threat Incident	A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior - approaches a human and growls, bares teeth or lunges, and/or injures or kills an attended domestic animal - but where a human is not injured.
Stalking incident	A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior - follows a person with or without an attended pet on leash - but a human is not injured.
Observation	The act of noticing or taking note of tracks, scat or vocalizations.
Sighting	A visual observation of a coyote(s). Note: A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.
Unsecured Trash	Trash that is accessible to wildlife, such as overflowing garbage cans, open trash bags, uncovered dumpsters or where debris is scattered outside the receptacle.

APPENDIX B:
COYOTE BEHAVIOR, BEHAVIOR CLASSIFICATION AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

Coyote Action	Level	ACS Response
- Coyote heard or seen moving in an area frequented by people.	**Blue**	- Provide educational materials and information on normal coyote behavior.
- Coyote seen resting in an area; - Coyote following or approaching (stalking) person without a pet; - Coyote following or approaching (stalking) person and pet; - Coyote entering a yard without people or pets; - Coyote entering a yard with pets, but with no injury occurring; and/or - Coyote biting or injuring an unattended pet.	**Yellow**	- If area frequented by people, educate them on normal coyote behavior and hazing techniques to encourage the animal to leave, and look for and eliminate attractants. - Provide information on coyote hazing and pet safety protocols and "what to do" tips when being followed by a coyote. - Educate residents on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, and provide additional hazing resources. - Gather information on specific animals involved and document and report circumstances surrounding incident.
- Coyote entering yard and injuring or killing pet without people present; - Coyote entering yard with people and pets, with no injury occurring; - Coyote biting or injuring attended pet or pet on leash less than six feet in length; - Coyote entering interior of dwelling; and/or - Coyote acting aggressive, showing teeth, back fur raised or lunging.	**Orange**	- Gather information on specific animals involved, and document, map and report on circumstances of incident. - Educate residents about identifying and eliminating coyote attractants. - Conduct yard and neighborhood audits and enact pet safety protocols. - Employ aggressive hazing techniques and organized community-based hazing program response by volunteers. - Targeted lethal removal including trapping will be considered and may be implemented.
- Coyote biting or injuring person	**Red**	- City staff informs the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for elimination of the responsible coyote(s). - City staff identifies and gathers information on specific animal involved and reports circumstances of the incident to DFW.

APPENDIX C:
HAZING PROGRAM AND TRAINING PLAN

Coexistence is not a passive undertaking. Long Beach's guiding principles are to coexist with wildlife.

Hazing and Behavioral Change

Some urban coyotes have become comfortable in close proximity to people; therefore, in such cases, urban coyote behavior needs to be reshaped to encourage them to avoid contact with humans and pets. To safely coexist, it's important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. 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.

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, 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 how to identify and remove attractants and how to responsibly protect pets.

Foundations of Hazing

1. It is not economically, ecologically or in other ways efficient to try to remove all coyotes from the urban ecosystem.

2. Hazing is one piece of a long-term plan in creating safe and acceptable living situations, increasing understanding and reducing conflict between coyotes and people.

Goals of Hazing

1. To reshape coyote behavior, causing them to avoid human contact in an urban setting, and to educate people living in close proximity to coyotes about how to best remove wildlife attractants, identify potentially dangerous situations for pets and personal property, and respond in a manner designed to alter coyote behavior.

2. To provide residents with information and tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support safety measures in parks and neighborhoods, which can be accomplished through the teaching and practice of hazing techniques.

3. To model appropriate hazing behavior and to share accurate information about coyotes with residents, friends and family.

4. To develop long-term community-based hazing programs implemented by volunteers.

5. To monitor hazing by volunteers, to assess program effectiveness, and to determine if further action or more aggressive hazing is needed.

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 when visiting open space in natural habitat.

    b. Coyotes are often out late at night when few people are present, as this is normal coyote behavior. Hazing may not be necessary, unless the coyote is in an undesirable area.

    c. Coyotes that associate danger with the presence of people, under all circumstances, will be reinforced to avoid human contact; yet, the early stages of hazing programs should still engage animal.

2. Hazing must be more exaggerated, aggressive and consistent early in the process, as without a history of hazing coyotes do not have the relevant context to respond in the desired outcome (i.e., to leave the area). Over time, it takes less effort from hazers as it is extremely common for coyotes to "learn" appropriate responses.

3. Techniques and tools can be used in the same manner for one or multiple animals, as usually there is a dominant animal in a group who will respond for others to follow its lead. DO NOT ignore, turn your back on or avoid hazing a coyote because there are multiple animals (a pack for instance) involved instead of just one.

4. The more often an individual coyote is hazed by a variety of tools and techniques, and by 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, and the coyote must be aware of where and from whom the potential threat is coming from.

6. Coyotes can and do recognize individual people and animals in their territories, and they can learn to avoid or harass specific individuals in response to behavior of that person and/or pet.

7. Coyotes can be routine in habit, and identifying their normal patterns of behavior can help in targeting those which can be deterred. For example, a coyote may patrol the same bike path, at the same time in the morning, up to three to five days a week. In this scenario, hazers should concentrate on that specific time and place to encourage the animal to adapt its routine and 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 behavior related to habituation with people.

9. Human behavior must change to support hazing and activities that identify and, if necessary, remove possible attractants.

10. Education about exclusion techniques, personal responsibility in pet safety and reasonable expectations in managing coyotes are critical parts of a hazing plan.

11. Coyotes are skittish by nature, and as a rule DO NOT act aggressively towards aggressive people. Habituated coyote behavior is learned and reinforced by human activity, with the exception being a sick or injured animal that may respond unpredictably when engaged. Under these circumstances, residents should remove themselves from the situation and immediately contact ACS at (562) 570-7387.

12. Individuals involved with and practicing hazing need to be trained to explain the concept of hazing to others who witness the process, clarifying the difference between hazing and harassment of wildlife, and elucidating goals of appropriate behavior for coexistence.

Training Program

Hazing requires community involvement and support given that residents are best equipped to respond consistently and at the most opportune times in their own neighborhoods, parks and open spaces. With the right knowledge, information and expectations of normal versus abnormal coyote behavior, neighbors can collectively have a tremendous impact through hazing programs.

Free coyote educational classes, information sessions and training seminars are periodically offered by ACS when requested by neighborhood, community or volunteer groups. Information provided, topics covered and questions or concerns addressed typically include but are not limited to:

1. Basic coyote information;
2. Discussion on why coyotes are in the city;
3. Normal and abnormal coyote behavior;
4. Seasonal behavior changes, breeding timeframes for pups, and denning behavior;
5. Reality of dangers towards people versus danger towards pets;
6. Children and coyotes;
7. How human behavior influences coyote behavior;
8. Attractants;
9. Tips on deterring animals from entering private property;
10. Appropriate response when encountering a coyote;
11. What comprises hazing, goals of hazing, and how to engage;
12. Appropriate hazing techniques and tools; and
13. Pet safety tips.

Interested individuals, groups and participants can contact ACS and request copies of flyers to distribute to their neighborhoods and/or community associations.

Creating a Volunteer Hazing Team

A group of volunteers trained in coyote hazing techniques can be extremely useful in responding to coyote conflicts in public areas such as neighborhoods, parks, playgrounds, etc. The following guidelines are suggested for establishing and sustaining a volunteer hazing team:

1. Volunteers should be trained in proper coyote hazing techniques as discussed herein;
2. Volunteers should be added to a Community Citizen Volunteer email and/or phone list from which they will be notified of "hot spots" and asked to haze in the area;
3. Volunteers should be provided updates, flyers/handouts and additional informational material through the Community Citizen Volunteer group to disseminate to the public; and
4. Volunteers should regularly report on their hazing activity.

Summary of Hazing

Hazing	Process whereby individuals and volunteers respond in like manner to make a coyote uncomfortable enough to leave a situation based on an unwanted presence.
Basic Hazing	Consists of standing one's ground, never ignoring or turning one's back to a coyote(s), yelling and making unpleasant and frightening noises until the animal(s) leaves.
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 including but not limited to slingshots, paintballs, guns and pepper balls are not legal for use in hazing.

- **Hazing must continue, once begun, until the animal leaves the area**; otherwise, the coyote will learn to wait until the person gives up and this can create a situation in which the animal is more resistant to hazing instead of reinforcing the image that people are to be feared.
- Hazing should never injure the animal, as an injured animal becomes less predictable than a normal, healthy one who responds in a consistent and predictable manner.
- Hazing should be conducted in a manner that allows the coyote to return to its normal habitat, minimizing harm to the animal, and performed in a direction away from other houses and busy streets, if possible.
- Hazing uses a variety of techniques and tools, which is critical as coyotes become familiar with and use to items and sounds if relied upon too frequently.

  Noisemaker: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, "shaker" cans, pots, and pie pans.

  Projectiles: Sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, and rubber balls.

  Deterrents: Hoses, (vinegar) spray bottles, pepper spray, bear repellant, and walking sticks.

Additional hazing tips can be found online at www.longbeach.gov/acs/wildlife

APPENDIX D:
YARD AUDIT CHECKLIST
For Municipal or Homeowner Use

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