



# City of Port Aransas Coyote Management Plan

## MANAGING CONFLICT WITH COYOTES

City of Port Aransas Police Department  
City of Port Aransas Animal Shelter



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# INTRODUCTION

This plan intends to provide guidance for dealing with coyotes. This plan's guidelines and provisions do not supersede federal, state, and county regulations and policies. Furthermore, the provisions of this plan do not apply to City of Port Aransas residents, businesses, or homeowner associations in pursuit of their legal rights in dealing with coyotes.

This Coyote Management Plan aims to provide a program for reducing human-coyote conflicts while prioritizing human safety. This plan is also a tool for educating on how coyotes behave and clarifying how such behavior can be managed to reduce or eliminate conflicts with coyotes.

This Coyote Management Plan is based on scientific research, a thorough understanding of coyote ecology and biology in urban settings, and the best-known management practices and tools.

The following principles guide this plan:

1. Human safety is a priority in managing human-coyote interactions.
2. Coyotes serve a vital role in the ecosystem by helping to control the population of rodents.
3. Preventative practices such as removing food attractants, habitat modification, and responding appropriately when interacting with coyotes are essential in minimizing potential human-coyote interactions.
4. Solutions must address problematic behaviors that contribute to conflicts:
  - a. Coyote behaviors such as aggression towards people and attacks on pets
  - b. Human behaviors such as intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes and letting pets outside unattended
5. Non-selective coyote removal programs are ineffective for reducing coyote population sizes or preventing human-coyote conflicts. Coyote reporting to the City's Police Department and Animal Shelter allows for City staff to establish a baseline of coyote behavior in an area and identify escalating or problematic behaviors.
6. A community-wide program involving multiple city departments and residents is necessary to achieve coexistence among people, coyotes, and pets.

The components of this plan were developed in conjunction with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist.

# **SECTION I: COYOTE INFORMATION**

## **COYOTES**

### **ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE**

Coyotes are now found in 49 of the United States – all except Hawaii -- and have become well established in nearly every ecosystem. They live in deserts, swamps, tundra, grasslands, brush, dense forest, cities, and suburbs. People can live among coyotes and never see them; often it's only an evening chorus of howling and yipping that alerts us to their presence in our neighborhoods. Coyotes have been interacting with and adapting to people for at least the last 100 years.

Coyotes have an essential natural role in the urban ecosystem as a "clean-up crew" because they scavenge on carrion. Coyotes in urban areas not only provide free rodent control by feeding on mice and rats, they are also predators of many small mammals such as squirrels, rabbits, and gophers. However, rodents make up most of their diet.

Coyotes regularly roam an area of about 1-5 square miles or whatever space required to find enough food for their pack. Typically, each coyote family group is territorial and varies in number from 3-10 members. The number of mature coyotes in the pack is linked to the amount of food resources in the territory and the pack will defend its territory from other coyotes.

A coyote family usually has one breeding (or alpha) female. This female produces more pups than are ultimately wanted in the family. Young coyotes may leave the family at about 9-11 months and become transients. Other transients include older individuals who can no longer defend their role as upper-level family members and leave the family. Transients move all over in narrow undefended zones between territories searching for open habitat to occupy or a group to join. They often die before they succeed; many are hit by cars. It is primarily because of these transients that coyote eradication programs are unsuccessful. Removing a group of territorial coyotes may create an undefended area where the transient coyotes will establish as their own. Transients are available at all times of the year to fill the voids created by killing resident coyotes. Also, if an alpha female coyote is killed, it could result in other breeding-age females going into ovulation when they usually wouldn't.

### **APPEARANCE**

Most coyotes weigh approximately 25-40 pounds, although their long legs and thick fur make them appear larger.

Coyote fur varies in color from gray-brown to yellow-gray. They have a black-tipped tail which helps to distinguish them from foxes. Coyotes also have yellow/amber eyes, which help to distinguish them from domestic dogs. Coyotes have large ears and narrow, pointed muzzles, which help to distinguish them from wolves.

Coyotes can appear larger in the winter months because the thickness of their fur changes with the seasons. In the summer months, they shed their fur and appear much skinnier.

## SARCOPTIC MANGE

Coyotes living close to humans are often affected by sarcoptic mange. It can spread quickly through a high density of wild animals living on the edge of urban and suburban areas. The unnaturally high wildlife density is due to the plentiful food and prey sources available in these human-dominated areas.

Studies have shown that coyotes with extensive mange infections are listless, not aggressive, and lack the appropriate fear of humans. They may become more active during the day, especially in winter, and often look for food or cover near residential areas, increasing public observations.



## OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

- Since coyotes are naturally very skittish and afraid of humans, they are rarely seen. Thus, their signs (including prints, scat, and vocalizations) may better indicate their presence.
- Coyote prints are similar to those of a domestic dog but are usually observed in a straight line (as opposed to the meandering path of domestic dog tracks), and the pads are tightly arranged rather than splayed as seen in domestic dog tracks. Coyote's front footprints are larger than the rear ones. The front paw prints are about 2 1/4" to 2 3/4" long and about 1 3/4" to 2 3/8" wide.
- Check for claw marks. Coyote tracks have claws, but they don't show if the ground is too hard.
- Overall, the footprint is oval-shaped.
- More commonly, coyote howling, or other vocalizations may be heard. Coyotes produce a variety of sounds including howls, barks, whines, and yips to communicate with one another and defend their territory.
- Small groups of coyotes (2-3) can distort their voices and sound like a group of 20.
- They use their howls and yipping to create a kind of census of coyote populations. If other packs do not answer their cries, it triggers an autogenic response that produces large litters. This response is the number one reason to avoid the lethal removal of coyotes in an area.



- Coyotes also use scat (feces) to communicate by depositing it in the middle of a trail or on the edge of their territory. Coyote scat is like dog scat in size and appearance, but unlike dog scat, it is rope-like and typically filled with hairs, seeds, and bones.

## DIET

- Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores. They generally hunt small mammals such as mice, rats, voles, rabbits, squirrels, and prairie dogs and eat insects, berries, nuts, and fruit, such as persimmons, figs, plums, and pears. Coyotes will even scavenge road-killed animals. Urban coyotes are also known to eat pet food, unsecured garbage, and compost.
- If given the opportunity, they may also prey on unattended domestic pets such as cats and small dogs. This behavior is preventable through reducing human-associated food attractants in urban areas and not letting pets outside unattended unless protected by a coyote-proof enclosure or fence (standard wooden or chain link residential fencing is not coyote proof).

## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Most coyotes, called resident coyotes, live in family groups with one breeding pair and up to 4 other related individuals. Coyotes do not usually hunt in packs, but in the east, they may do so during the winter to bring down larger prey, like the occasional deer. They do work together to defend their territory from other coyote family groups. Transient coyotes live alone or as an isolated mated pair.
- The coyote developed an adaptive, evolutionary derived strategy for surviving under persecution. This "fission-fusion adaptation" allows them to either function as pack predators, where they cooperate to take down larger prey like deer or survive eating small game as singles or pairs. Jackals, coyotes, and humans are the only animals who do this.
- When under persecution, they tend to abandon the pack strategy and scatter across the landscape in singles and pairs; the poison campaign of the early 1900s was one of the things that highly contributed to their spread across North America.

## COYOTE MATING

- Coyotes mate once a year during their breeding season.
  - **BREEDING SEASON:** January - March
  - **PUP SEASON:** April - August
  - **DISPERSAL SEASON:** September – December
- The breeding pair will give birth to pups, typically in April or May.
- Litter size depends on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area. The

average litter size is four to seven pups.

- Coyotes will place their pups in a den for the first six weeks, after which the pups will learn to hunt with their parents. During pup and dispersal seasons, COYOTES WILL BE SEEN DURING DAYTIME HOURS. Being active during the day does not mean they are sick; it just means they are trying to feed extra mouths.
- Coyote dens can be in steep banks, rock crevices, underbrush, and open areas.
- During dispersal season (September – December) the pups from the previous year (yearlings) will leave the family group and become transient coyotes in search of a new home range. During this time of the year, you may see a lot of coyotes. Many people panic and wrongfully think there's suddenly an "infestation" or "over-population" of coyotes, but, it's just young ones on the move.

## HABITAT

- Coyotes are most active at dawn and dusk, but may be spotted during the daytime.
- Coyotes prefer the edge of open spaces and natural preserve areas over human-dominated landscapes and do well with areas that border human habitation such as drainage areas. Coyotes thrive in these areas because food, water, and shelter are abundant.
- Home range sizes vary for each individual coyote. Research has shown that home range sizes for resident coyotes average 2-5 square miles, while transient coyotes have home ranges averaging 10 square miles.

## COYOTE ATTRACTANTS IN URBAN AREAS

Coyotes are drawn to urban areas for the following reasons:

### FOOD

Urban areas provide a bounty of natural prey 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 outdoor pet food, unsecured compost or trash, and fallen fruit in yards.

Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with food sources, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people, and pets.

#### **To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:**

- Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote. This includes tossing food to or leaving food out for the coyote.
- Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove sources of pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, promptly remove the bowl and any leftover food.



- Never compost any meat or dairy (unless the compost is fully secured).
- Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, to help discourage coyote activity near residences.
- Remove fallen fruit from the ground.

Limit the amount of birdseed you put out each day to only one day's worth. A feeder that's overflowing will attract unwanted animals like mice, rats, squirrels, and raccoons which will be as attractive to coyotes as the leftover birdseed.

Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave them out overnight, animals are more likely to tip over and break into trash cans.

Tightly bag especially attractive food waste such as meat scraps or leftover pet food. If it is several days before garbage will be picked up, temporarily freeze the waste, or take it to a secured dumpster or keep it in another secure storage container.

## **WATER**

Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in stormwater systems, artificial lakes, creeks, sprinklers/irrigation systems, pet water dishes, etc. which support coyotes and prey. In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make other water sources in your yard unavailable.

## **ACCESS TO SHELTER**

Parks, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, crawl spaces, etc., increase the amount and variability of cover for coyotes. They allow coyotes to remain safely and efficiently close to people, pets, homes, and businesses without detection. In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise young, they concentrate their activities around the dens or burrows in which their young are protected. 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.

## **UNATTENDED PETS**

Pets are a normal part of an urban landscape. Coyotes may consider pets as potential prey or potential competitors within their territory. Free-roaming pets, especially 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.

**CATS:** Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats and 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 considered eligible prey items by coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on cats are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate danger to people. The only way to protect cats from coyotes (and the other hazards of outdoor life such as cars, disease, dogs, and other wildlife) is to keep cats indoors.

**DOGS:** Dogs are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes accustomed to or habituated to people (usually due to wildlife feeding) or coyotes protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season).

- Small, unattended dogs may be potential prey for coyotes. You must accompany your dog when it is outside and keep it on a non-retractable leash six feet long or shorter. Coyotes may view a dog on a leash longer than six feet as an unattended pet. Small dogs should not be walked on a leash at dawn and dusk as these are the timeframes when coyotes are most active.
- Although attacks on larger dogs are rarer, coyotes will sometimes go after a large dog when they feel a threat to their territory. This behavior generally occurs during the coyote breeding season, from January through March. It is crucial not to let dogs outside unattended during the breeding season and keep them on non-retractable leashes (six feet long or less) when in public areas.

Fences can be used to keep coyotes out of residential yards, but they must be "coyote-proof." Coyote-proof fences are at least eight feet tall and made of a material that coyotes cannot climb or at least six feet tall with a protective device called a "Coyote Roller" along the top to prevent climbing. To prevent coyotes from digging under a fence, it should extend underground at least twelve inches or include an L-shaped mesh apron that extends outward at least 18 inches and is secured with landscape staples.

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 (both structural and electric), by ensuring that they are confined in sturdy cages or pens each evening and by using livestock-guardian animals where possible.

# SECTION II: COYOTE ACTION PLAN

## COYOTE COEXISTENCE STRATEGIES & TECHNIQUES

### DEFINITIONS

#### HUMAN-COYOTE CONFLICT DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will be used for the process of categorizing human-coyote conflicts:

**OBSERVATION:** Noticing signs of a coyote(s), such as tracks, scat, or vocalizations, but without visual observation of the coyote(s).

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

**ENCOUNTER:** A direct meeting that is between humans and coyote(s) with no physical contact and that is without incident.

**INCIDENT:** A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits any of the following behaviors: growling, baring teeth, lunging, or making physical contact with the person. A human is not bit.

**HUMAN ATTACK:** A human is bitten by a coyote(s).

#### ANIMAL-COYOTE CONFLICT DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will also be used for the process of categorizing conflicts among coyotes, pets, and livestock:

**PET ATTACK:** Coyote(s) kills or injures a domestic pet (including chickens).

**ATTENDED:** Pet is on a non-retractable leash less than six feet in length or is in the presence of a person less than six feet away.

**UNATTENDED:** Pet is free-roaming, walking off-leash more than six feet from a person or on a leash longer than six feet.

**LIVESTOCK LOSS / DEPREDATION:** Coyote(s) kills or injures livestock.

## OTHER DEFINITIONS

**AGGRESSIVE COYOTE BEHAVIOR:** Aggressively approaching, entering personal space, or attacking humans or pets.

**COMMUNITY CATS:** Owned or semi-owned free-roaming cats, including feral cats.

**HABITUATION:** Occurs by repeated exposure to humans absent any negative consequences.

**COEXISTENCE:** Humans and coyotes exist together. Humans take an active role in helping coyotes in their community stay wild by removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, hazing coyotes in their neighborhood, and learning about coyote ecology and behavior.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION EFFORTS

To be successful, coyote management must be embraced and implemented by the entire community. To aid in these efforts, the City of Port Aransas has created resources including:

- **Coyote behavior flyer and reporting mechanisms.** This resource helps residents determine if a coyote's behavior is considered "normal" or "aggressive" and outlines when they should report via the City's webpage ([www.cityofportaransas.org](http://www.cityofportaransas.org)) under the "I WANT TO" tab, or call the Animal Shelter at (361) 749 – 5941, or call the Police Department at (361) 749 – 6241. This flyer is also utilized by the City's Animal Control Officer (ACO) team in areas where coyote sightings are on the rise.
- **Coyote informational handout "Living with Coyotes".** This resource explains the realities of urban coyote populations and helps set residents' expectations in terms of resolution options. The resource also details hazing methods, why they are important, and when they should be utilized.
- **Website.** The City of Port Aransas has created a new website found on the City's webpage ([www.cityofportaransas.org](http://www.cityofportaransas.org)) under the "Visitors" tab entitled "Coyote Awareness" to consolidate coyote related resources, educational materials, and City of Port Aransas' Coyote Management plan in one place for public access.
- **Signage.** The City of Port Aransas is in the process of developing metal signage that can be utilized in areas where coyotes are commonly sighted to notify residents of their presence, to encourage residents to report coyote sightings, to keep pets on leashes, and to discourage unintentional feeding of coyotes.
- **City Meetings & Education.** The City of Port Aransas will proactively educate residents across the city about coyotes as well targeting messaging in areas where and when coyote sightings are on the rise. This will be accomplished through community meetings scheduled in conjunction with City Councilmembers and neighborhoods as needed.

Once people are made aware of coyote coexistence through education and outreach, we can work together to change a few of our everyday habits. By modifying our behavior, we can modify their behavior, which is the goal and will make a long-term sustainable difference. Coyotes are here to stay; however, we can coexist.

## **HAZING: AN INTERVENTION TECHNIQUE**

Coyotes are naturally reclusive animals that avoid human contact. However, coyotes in urban and suburban environments may learn that neighborhoods provide easy food sources while presenting few natural threats. These coyotes may visit yards and public areas even when people are present and may cause conflicts with people and pets. Humans have contributed to this habituation of coyotes by not reacting when they see a coyote too close. We either ignore them due to fear or are enamored by them because they are wild, and it is interesting to see one. To coexist safely, it's important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations.

The best solution for addressing problematic coyote behavior is by being consistent and instituting a Community-Based Hazing program in each neighborhood.

Hazing is a humane activity or series of actions conducted to change behaviors of habituated coyotes and/or to reinstall a healthy fear of people in the local coyote population. Hazing techniques include humane tactics like generating loud noises, spraying water, shining bright lights, throwing objects, shouting, etc. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces, backyards, and play spaces.

### **THE GOALS OF HAZING**

- Reverse the habituation of coyotes to people and teach them to fear and avoid humans once again.
- Discourage coyotes from entering public areas such as parks, playgrounds, and yards when people are present.
- Discourage coyotes from approaching people and pets.
- Empower residents by giving them tools to use when encountering a coyote, reducing their fear of coyotes.
- Increase awareness about coyote behavior among residents and involve the community in coyote management efforts

### **WHEN TO HAZE AND WHEN NOT TO HAZE**

Before we discuss how to haze, it's important to note when it is and is not appropriate. If coyotes are in your personal space and react to your hazing efforts, continue. However, if they do not run away, they may be protecting pups, have an active den, are sick, injured, etc., and you should stop hazing and report the incident to the Animal Shelter at (361) 749 – 5941 or the Police Department at (361) 749 – 6241. See the Urban Coyote Action and Response Management section.

## BASIC HAZING

At all times, hazing activities should be humane and avoid injury to the coyote.

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

- Yelling and waving your arms while moving towards the coyote. You can also shake a jacket, rake, or broom over your head simultaneously.
- Making loud noises with whistles, air horns, megaphones, soda cans filled with pennies, pots, and pans.
- Throwing projectiles such as sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, or rubber balls in the coyote's DIRECTION, but AVOID HITTING the coyote.
- Squirtting water from a hose, water gun, or spray bottle (with vinegar water) in the coyote's DIRECTION.

## HIGH INTENSITY HAZING: FOR PROFESSIONALS ONLY

Consists of approaching the animal quickly and aggressively, throwing projectiles, paintballs, pepper balls, slingshots, clay pellets, or pepper spray at the coyote. **For the safety of the animals and humans involved, high-intensity hazing should only be carried out by trained professionals such as animal control and trained animal specialists.** High-intensity hazing should be used in specific areas and only in response to more egregious incidents.

## LETHAL CONTROL: THE LAST RESORT



Lethal control programs may seem like a quick fix to problems among coyotes, people, and pets. However, implementing lethal control makes it challenging to ensure that problem-causing coyotes(s) will be the ones located and killed. Coyote removal programs are costly and controversial among the public.

Research has shown that coyotes exhibit a "rebound effect" (a surge in their reproductive rates) when lethally controlled, 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. The increase in available resources leads to larger litter sizes, earlier breeding ages among females, and higher survival rates among pups. This effect allows coyote populations to bounce back quickly, even when as many as 70% of coyotes are removed through lethal control efforts. For these reasons, lethal programs are not effective at reducing coyote populations.

In addition, coyotes removed from an area will quickly be replaced by transient coyotes looking for a vacant home range. If the root causes of human-coyote conflicts have not been addressed, incoming coyotes may quickly become nuisance coyotes.

It is better to have well-behaved resident coyotes who will hold territories and keep transients at bay than to risk dealing with newcomers who do not know the "rules."

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

## **COYOTE MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION**

Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective coyote management plan. It is best accomplished with input from both residents and city officials. Information should be shared with City Staff for collection of information concerning typical coyote behavior via the **City’s webpage ([www.cityofportaransas.org](http://www.cityofportaransas.org))** under the **“I WANT TO”** tab, and then under **“REPORT”**. Also, **the City of Port Aransas Animal Shelter can be reached at (361) 749 – 5941 for concerning coyote behavior.**

The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen, monitor for escalating behavior, and identify human-coyote conflict hotspots. Gathering specific data on incidents of all levels will allow for targeted educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts and the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

Reports of coyotes **behaving aggressively**, which is defined as aggressively approaching, entering personal space, or attacking humans or pets need to be made immediately to **the City of Port Aransas Police Department at (361) 749 – 6241.**



## URBAN COYOTE ACTION AND RESPONSE MANAGEMENT

OCCURRENCE	ACTION TO TAKE	CITY RESPONSE
<p><b>TYPICAL BEHAVIOR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ May be heard or spotted at a distance during the day or night</li> <li>◦ May cross through yards or driveways when humans are NOT present</li> <li>◦ Skittish and easily scared off by noise or approaching humans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Report the coyote observation online at the City of Port Aransas (<a href="http://www.cityofportaransas.org">www.cityofportaransas.org</a>). Select the “I WANT TO” tab at the top of the webpage, and then under the “Report” section there is a link to “Coyote Observation / Sighting”. Input data requested.</li> </ul>	<p>Resident reports online to City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The City will record the coyote information provided through the online data-gathering report. This information will be sorted and applied for monitoring and possible actionable purposes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CONCERNING BEHAVIOR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Entering yards, porches, or spaces frequented by humans</li> <li>◦ Is not easily scared off or startled</li> <li>◦ Steals food off of porches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Employ hazing methods to let the coyote know that they are not welcome. Make noise, wave your arms, toss objects near (not at) the coyote, spray them with a hose or otherwise annoy or scare the coyote until they leave.</li> <li>◦ Call Animal Shelter at (361) 749 – 5941 and provide information (address of encounter, time, description, hazing efforts and results, if coyote was eating trash or food meant for humans or pets, presence of children or pets, signs of illness or injury).</li> </ul>	<p>Resident calls Animal Shelter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If the resident calls the Animal Shelter they will get an Animal Control Officer (ACO) representative or voicemail.</li> <li>◦ Provide the requested information and other information as necessary.</li> <li>◦ A service request is generated for response, and the ACO will make contact and be on scene.</li> <li>◦ The coyote information will be gathered and recorded for monitoring and possible actionable purposes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Aggressively approaching, entering personal space, or attacking humans or pets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Get to a safe location.</li> <li>◦ Call PD at (361) 749 – 6241 immediately.</li> </ul>	<p>Resident calls PD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ PD Patrol is Dispatched.</li> <li>◦ An Animal Control Officer (ACO) is dispatched.</li> <li>◦ The coyote information will be gathered, recorded, &amp; likely action.</li> </ul>

## WILDLIFE RESPONSE STAFF & THEIR DUTIES

POSITION	PHASE I	PHASE II
<p><b>Animal Control Officer (ACO):</b></p> <p>Available 7 days a week</p> <p>Sunday – Thursday 8AM - 5PM Friday – Saturday 7AM - 4PM</p> <p>(361) 749 – 5941</p>	<p>Receives calls and monitors voicemail box</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answers calls and calls all residents back promptly.</li> <li>• Collects any additional information needed to determine the coyote's behavior level in accordance with the Coyote Behavior Scale.</li> <li>• Provides educational materials to residents.</li> <li>• Educates on hazing, attractants, and pet management.</li> <li>• Conducts yard audits and neighborhood audits.</li> <li>• Installs game cameras.</li> <li>• Enters information and notes into the coyote tracking spreadsheet and map.</li> </ul> <p>Monitors online coyote observation reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls residents back if requested.</li> <li>• Collects any additional information needed to determine the coyote's behavior level.</li> <li>• Enters information into the coyote tracking spreadsheet and map.</li> <li>• Provides educational materials to residents.</li> </ul>	<p>Monitors and manages the coyote tracking spreadsheet and map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews coyote's behavior and any changes via tracking spreadsheet and map. Post metal signage as needed.</li> <li>• Reviews and tracks the City's response to the coyote's behavior.</li> <li>• Updates PD and ACM on significant findings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Police Department (PD):</b></p> <p>Available 7 days a week 24-hour shifts</p> <p>(361) 749 – 6241</p>	<p>PD receives call and dispatches a PD officer on scene with an ACO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any urgent matters related to aggressive coyote behavior will be responded to instantly.</li> </ul>	<p>PD incident blotter captures the information. Possible police report generated if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information shared with ACO &amp; integrated into the tracking spreadsheet &amp; map.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Assistant City Manager (ACM):</b></p> <p>Works Monday – Friday 8AM – 5PM</p> <p>(361) 749 – 4111 ext. 226</p>	<p>Reviews coyote tracking spreadsheet with ACO, <i>looking for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Similarities in reports</i></li> <li>• <i>Changes in coyote's behaviors</i></li> <li>• <i>Quantity and types of reporting in an area</i></li> </ul> <p>Contacting other City Departments for Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks &amp; Recreation Department</li> <li>• Code Compliance Department</li> <li>• Police Department (PD)</li> </ul> <p>Schedules Community Meetings as needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with TPWD Biologist</li> </ul>	<p>Reviews map with ACO that shows all the coyote reports across the City of Port Aransas and the behavior level of each report.</p> <p>Contacting other City Departments for Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks &amp; Recreation Department</li> <li>• Code Compliance Department</li> <li>• Police Department (PD)</li> </ul> <p>Schedules Community Meetings as needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with TPWD Biologist</li> </ul>
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# COYOTE BEHAVIOR & RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

LEVEL	COYOTE BEHAVIOR	CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE
			<i>*Materials found in Appendices*</i>
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote heard; seen moving through the area; day or night.</li> <li>• Coyote seen resting in area; day or night</li> <li>• Coyote entering a yard with no person present outside</li> </ul>	<b>Observation / Sighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute educational materials and information on coyote behavior, see “Coyote Behavior Flyer” and “Living with Coyotes Informational Handout”. Report online.</li> <li>• <b>If area frequented by people:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distribute information on coyote behavior, see “Living with Coyotes Informational Handout”.</li> <li>○ Educate on hazing to encourage the animal to leave, see “Coyote Hazing Guide”.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If entering a yard with <u>no person present outside</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distribute information on coyote behavior, see “Coyote Behavior Flyer”.</li> <li>○ Educate on hazing to encourage the animal to leave, see “Coyote Hazing Guide”.</li> <li>○ Educate on coyote attractants, see “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ Dispatch ACO to complete yard audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote following or approaching a person or a person with a pet with no incident</li> <li>• Coyote entering yard with a person or a person with a pet with no incident</li> </ul>	<b>Encounter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate on how to haze to encourage the animal to leave, see “Coyote Hazing Guide”.</li> <li>• Gather information on specific pets involved and report circumstances of encounter.</li> <li>• Educate on pet management, see “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>• Post educational signs in area to alert residents to keep dogs on leash and to haze coyotes.</li> <li>• If mating season and there is a den nearby consider blocking path until pup season is over.</li> <li>• Dispatch ACO to look for and eliminate attractants and perform yard audits, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>• Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>• Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote injures or kills pet off leash or in an open area (Loose pet).</li> <li>• Coyote injure or kills unattended pet in backyard (Confined pet).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unattended pet attack</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances of the attack.</li> <li>• <b>If the pet <u>was</u> off leash, or in an open area, or unsecured in the backyard:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educate on how to coyote attractants, hazing techniques and pet management, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ If pet was unsecured in the backyard, ACO dispatched to complete yard audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Post educational signs and / or send educational materials to residents in the area.</li> <li>○ Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>○ Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ high intensity hazing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If the pet <u>was not</u> in a secure enclosure in the backyard:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educate on how to minimize coyote attractants, hazing techniques and pet management, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ Dispatch ACO to complete yard audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area.</li> <li>○ Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>○ Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ high intensity hazing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If the pet <u>was</u> in a secure enclosure in the backyard:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educate on how to minimize coyote attractants, hazing techniques and pet management, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ Dispatch ACO to complete yard audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area.</li> <li>○ Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>○ Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ high intensity hazing.</li> <li>○ May employ Lethal Control.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote injures or kills livestock</li> </ul>	<p><b>Livestock loss / Depredation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances of the attack.</li> <li>• <b>If the livestock were <u>not</u> in a secure enclosure or livestock guardian animals were not used:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educate on proper livestock husbandry.</li> <li>○ Educate on how to eliminate coyote attractants, hazing techniques, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ Dispatch ACO to complete yard audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>○ Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ high intensity hazing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If the livestock <u>was</u> in a secure enclosure or livestock guardian animals were used:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educate on how to eliminate coyote attractants, hazing techniques, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ Dispatch ACO to complete yard audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area.</li> <li>○ Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>○ Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ Lethal Control.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote injures or kills pet on or off leash with human nearby (within 6 feet).</li> <li>• Coyote aggressive towards person, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without contact.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Attended Pet Attack</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coyote injures or kills pet on or off leash <u>with human nearby:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances of the attack.</li> <li>○ Educate on pet management, coyote attractants, and hazing, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ Dispatch ACO to complete yard and neighborhood audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area.</li> <li>○ Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>○ Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ Lethal Control</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coyote aggressive towards person, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping <u>without contact</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educate on how to use coyote attractants and hazing techniques and pet management, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ Dispatch ACO to complete yard and neighborhood audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Post educational signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area.</li> <li>○ Schedule a community meeting.</li> <li>○ Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ Lethal Control.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coyote has bitten a human. Attack was provoked. Human encouraged coyote to engage by hand-feeding, approaching coyote with pups, intervening during a pet attack, etc.)</li> <li>• Coyote has bitten human. Attack was unprovoked. Human did not encourage coyote to engage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human Attack</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Report circumstances of the attack; including action of victim before the attack.</li> <li>○ Educate on how to use coyote attractants, hazing techniques and pet management, see “Coyote Hazing Guide” and “Coyote Deterrents and Repellants”.</li> <li>○ ACO dispatched to perform neighborhood audit, see “Coyote Yard Audit Checklist”.</li> <li>○ Issue citations for wildlife violations and loose animal (including community cats that are not registered with the City of Port Aransas).</li> <li>○ Schedule a neighborhood meeting. Refer to TPWD Biologist.</li> <li>○ May employ Lethal Control.</li> </ul>

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