

COYOTE COEXISTENCE PLAN



*Town of
Superior*SM



LINDA L DELANO



PRODUCED BY **PROJECT COYOTE**
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COYOTE COEXISTENCE PLAN 1

Goals.....	1
Background.....	1
Difficulties Managing Wildlife.....	2
Limits of this Management Plan.....	2

THE COYOTE (CANIS LATRANS) 3

Where are the coyotes found?	3
What do coyotes look like?	3
What are signs of coyote activity?.....	4
Where and how do coyotes live?.....	5
What is the ecological role of the coyote?.....	5
What are human perceptions of coyotes?.....	5
Has the coyote population in Superior increased?.....	6
How human activities affect coyote behavior	6

COEXISTENCE STRATEGY 7

Public Education and Outreach	7
Areas of Concern.....	8
Attack Response Plan.....	9
Colorado Law	9

HAZING AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE 10

Goals of Hazing.....	9
Hazing Process	9
Overview of Hazing.....	10

APPENDICES 11

Appendix A: Definitions Regarding Human–Coyote Encounters.....	11
Appendix B: Coyote Behavior, Behavior Classification, and Recommended Response	13
Appendix C: Coyote Watch Observation Form.....	14
Appendix D: Hazing Program and Training Plan.....	17
Hazing and Behavioral Change	17
Foundation of Hazing	17
Goals of Hazing	17
General Considerations.....	17
When and When Not to Haze	18
Summary of Hazing.....	18
Basic Hazing.....	18
Aggressive Hazing.....	18
Project Coyote BE COYOTE AWARE trail sign.....	20
Project Coyote BE COYOTE AWARE flyer	21



COYOTE COEXISTENCE PLAN

GOALS

This plan fosters human–coyote coexistence in an suburban context. The components of this plan are:

- Educational programs.
- Tiered behavioral modification of both coyotes and humans.
- Tiered responses to assertive coyote behavior.

Enactment of the tiered response requires active participation by the entire community including residents, homeowners’ associations, volunteers, and town staff and contracted staff.



BACKGROUND

This plan is based on research and best practices and includes a full spectrum of tools. Basic guiding principles include:

1. Human safety is a priority.
2. Suburban wildlife and their habitats are essential and valuable components of the local socio-economic and ecological community.
3. Because suburban environments are more favorable to some species than others, species-specific coexistence plans are a recurring theme in the Town’s general wildlife management program.
4. Management techniques and decisions must be based on a thorough understanding of the biology and ecology of suburban wildlife species.
5. Conflict minimization will emphasize preventive practices including reduction and removal of wildlife attractants and appropriate human responses such as non-lethal control measures.
6. Education and communication are essential in supporting human and animal needs and in promoting their coexistence.
7. All endeavors to promote coexistence necessitate mutual respect, fairness, and empathy.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

As human populations and suburban development interact with wildlife habitats, conflicts between people and wild animals increase. The Town of Superior values the presence of wildlife and recognizes the need to reduce conflicts through the development of wildlife coexistence plans.

A wildlife conflict in this document is defined as any situation that causes a health or safety issue for residents. Conflict cases involving human behavior (e.g., leaving garbage exposed or intentional wildlife feeding) can be resolved by enacting guidelines, ordinances and — when required — providing enforcement.

In addressing suburban wildlife management, optimal Town policy will prevent conflicts and will implement remedial measures that do not harm wildlife or their habitat. In cases of threat to human safety Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife district wildlife manager will be the guiding consultant on responses.

In some cases, traditional management tools are ineffective and potentially counterproductive. For example, **trapping and relocating coyotes is ecologically unsound.** Often relocated animals do not survive the transfer. If they do survive, they may displace animals with established territories or disperse to new suburban locations where conflict cases may recur. Relocated coyotes may also return to their home territory.

If relocated coyotes return to their home territory, another individual will soon fill the vacant territorial niche. If the educational and preventative actions fail to resolve a conflict, then non-lethal measures should be employed. Trapping poses a risk to pets and other non-target animals in suburban settings. For these reasons, trapping is discouraged. **Non-lethal deterrents are preferred; they are more effective.**



“Coyotes have much to teach us about peaceful coexistence and this is largely about altering human behavior and better understanding coyote behavior.”

*~ Dr. Marc Bekoff
Project Coyote Science Advisory Board*

LIMITS OF THIS COEXISTENCE PLAN

The guidelines and provisions of this plan do not supersede federal, state and county regulations, and policies.



THE COYOTE (CANIS LATRANS)

WHERE ARE COYOTES FOUND?

After a long evolutionary history on the North American continent and recent efforts to eradicate them (1860 to present), coyotes are thriving throughout the United States. Due to the loss of their greatest competitor, the gray wolf, and to their intelligence, adaptability, and the creation of suitable new habitat — clearing of forests — coyotes have successfully expanded their range. They are now found in all states except Hawaii and have established themselves in every urban and suburban ecosystem in North America.



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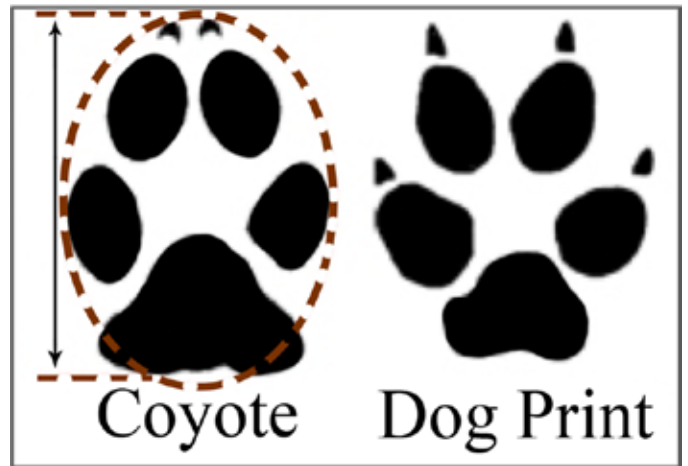
WHAT DO COYOTES LOOK LIKE?

On the upper parts of their bodies, coyotes are gray–brown to yellow–gray. Their backs have tawny-colored under-fur and long overcoats with black-tipped guard-hairs and tail. They often have a dark cross across backs and shoulders. Throats and bellies tend to be buff or white. Forelegs, sides of the head, muzzle, and feet are reddish brown. Coyotes have long legs, small paws, large pointed ears and a pointed snout. Weighing between 15 and 40 pounds, their long legs and thick fur make them appear larger.



WHAT ARE SIGNS OF COYOTE ACTIVITY?

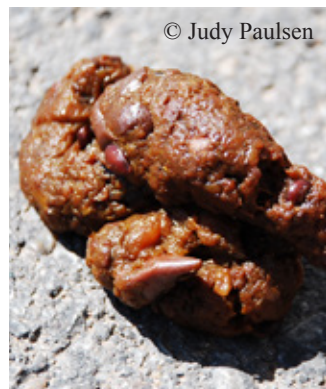
If you do not actually see a coyote, you may notice paw prints or scat (i.e., feces) left behind or you may hear them vocalizing (e.g., howling). Coyote prints are similar to dog prints and difficult to tell apart. However, unlike dogs, coyote scat is rope-like and typically filled with hair, seeds, and bones. Coyotes use scat to communicate and often deposit it in the middle of a trail or edge of their territory where it is easily seen. Like wolves, coyotes have highly evolved means of communication including scent marking, facial expressions, and at least 19 different vocalizations — including a variety of barks, yips, howls, and whines.



Coyotes more oval and compact, often seen in straight lines.



Coyote Prints in the snow, Lafayette Colorado



Coyote Scat: Coyote feces rope like in appearance, often fur, small bones and fur or feathers seen.



WHERE AND HOW DO COYOTES LIVE?

Coyotes may live alone, in pairs, or in territorial family groups with one breeding pair that generally mates once a year between January and February. Social organization and group size are correlated with food availability. Family groups range in size from three to 10 individuals. Pups are born March through May. The family group protects the pups, though between 50% and 70% don't survive the first year. Pup survival is dependent on genetic and environmental influences. The availability of food, habitat conditions, predation risks, genetics, disease, and weather are all factors influencing survival rates, with food and disease identified as the predominant constraints. **When control actions reduce or eliminate individuals in the population, the survival rate of pups goes up**, resulting in adults needing to feed more fast-growing pups.

The average litter is four to six pups; possible litter size varies from two to 12. Pups remain in the den the first six weeks and then begin to interact and travel with the adults outside the den. By the end of summer, they are more independent, yet may still travel with parents and siblings, or disperse starting in September.

Coyotes, like all predators, will stabilize their numbers according to available resources (food, water, space). Coyotes regularly roam an area of about three to six square miles with exact range dependent on food availability. This area or territory is defended against other coyotes.

Transient coyotes are solitary, nomadic individuals who are either older youngsters chased out to make room for new pups, or older coyotes who have lost their place in the family group. Transients stay on the edges of existing territory and search for open habitat to occupy or a group to join.



Removal of existing family groups opens up space for transients, and coyote numbers can be replaced rapidly when territories are no longer defended.

In suburban areas, most coyotes live in large parks, golf courses, greenways, and natural open space where they can find food and cover. Thus, their territory may follow the park or open space boundaries. They are extremely adaptable in creating territories under a wide range of suburban settings and human conditions.

WHAT IS THE ECOLOGICAL ROLE OF THE COYOTE?

Coyotes are predators of mice, rabbits, rats, prairie dogs, voles, squirrels, goslings and eggs, and other small animals. Rodents make up a majority of their diet in suburban and more natural environments. Areas with resident coyotes often report a decrease in rodent and geese populations.



HOW DO WE PERCEIVE COYOTES?

Some people enjoy observing coyotes, others are indifferent, and still others are fearful. Past personal experiences with coyotes may influence individual perceptions. Because wild animals can evoke fear, actual sightings may be exaggerated or misconstrued (see Appendix A for coyote encounter descriptions).



HAVE COYOTE NUMBERS INCREASED IN THE TOWN OF SUPERIOR?

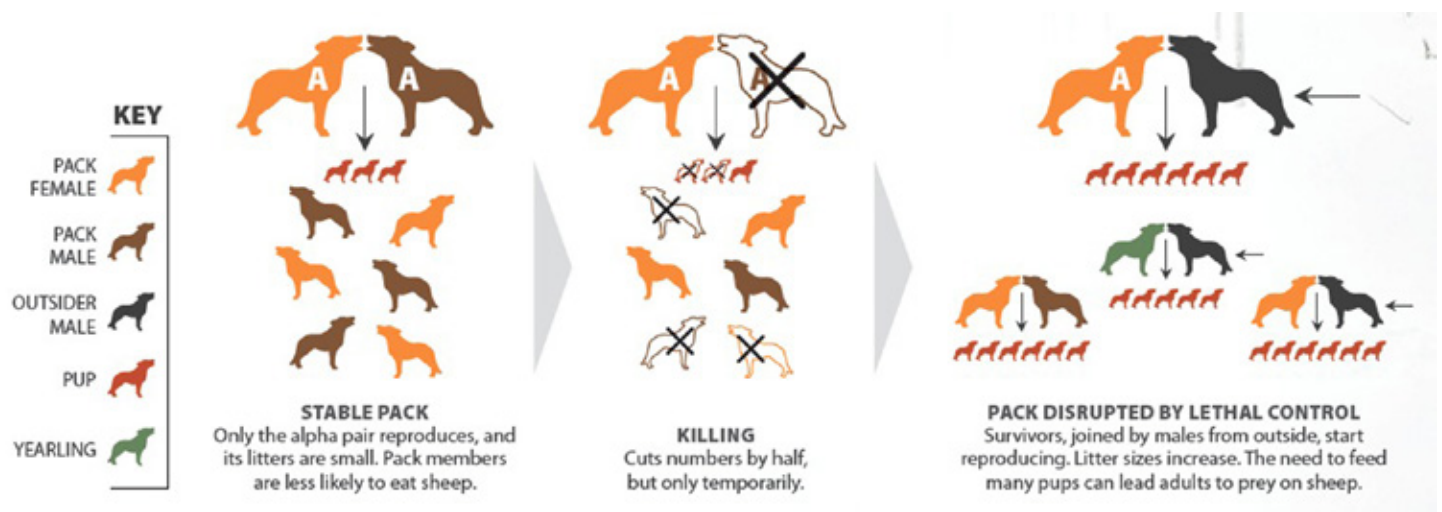
Without tracking and monitoring, it is difficult to know if the number of coyotes has increased. What is known is that coyotes can become accustomed to humans if they are intentionally or unintentionally fed, and this familiarity can lead to bolder behavior.



HOW DO HUMAN ACTIVITIES AFFECT COYOTE BEHAVIOR?

Urban and suburban areas may support larger populations of animals in close proximity to people for the following reasons:

1. **Increased access to food.** People provide easy access to large supplies of food by leaving pet food, birdseed, unsecured compost or trash, and fallen fruits in yards. Both unintentional and intentional feeding may encourage bold behavior and aggression towards humans and pets. Intentional feeding can train coyotes to see people as potential food providers.
2. **Increased access to water.** Year-round water supplies in urban and suburban areas from manmade ponds, lakes, irrigation, koi ponds, pools, pet water dishes, etc. increase water for both prey animals and coyotes.
3. **Increased potential shelter.** Parks, open spaces, golf course buildings, vehicles, sheds, decks, crawl spaces, etc. increase the amount and variability of coyote shelters. They can safely and easily remain close to homes and businesses without detection.
4. **Increased exposure to pets.** Pets are a normal part of an suburban landscape, and to suburban coyotes they are seen simply as other animals in their territory. So, pets can be viewed as potential prey or competitors.
5. **New opportunities.** Highly adaptable and quick-learning coyotes respond to the suburban landscape by colonizing and reproducing.



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While human attacks are very rare, pet-related incidents and the resultant media attention have led some residents to fear coyotes.

Steps must be taken to address safety concerns and misperceptions, and to develop appropriate responses to real and perceived threats.

Coyotes have learned to coexist with people far better than people have adjusted to living with coyotes. Their habits of late night and early morning activity are, in part, strategies for avoiding human contact in busy suburban areas. For example, coyotes vocalize far less in suburban settings than in natural landscapes.



“Far from always being an undesirable menace to the status quo, robust coyote populations may offer wildlife managers a novel tool, albeit a difficult one to control, for manipulating wildlife. For example, by reducing numbers of some mesocarnivores, the presence of a few coyotes may allow for dramatic increases in waterfowl, songbird and game bird populations. (Sovada et al.1995, Rogers and Caro 1998)”

~ Matthew E. Gompper, “Top Carnivores in the Suburbs? Ecological and Conservation Issues Raised by Colonization of North-North-Eastern America by Coyotes,” BioScience Vol. 52 no. 2 (Feb, 2002).



The predominant responses of coyote populations to lethal control efforts are to increase: 1. The number of pups produced (recruitment); 2. Immigration into the conflict area; and 3. Increase behaviors that further exacerbate the conflict. Collectively, this results in higher predation rates on domestic livestock and wild ungulates [hoofed mammals].”

*~ Dr. Robert (Bob) L. Crabtree
President and Founder Yellowstone Ecological Research Center
Project Coyote Science Advisory Board*

COEXISTENCE STRATEGY

Coexisting with coyotes in urban and suburban areas requires balancing respect and protection for wildlife and their habitats with maintaining public safety. The main strategy is two-pronged, consisting of educating the public about coexistence, and ensuring public safety by implementing appropriate responses to coyote activity.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education is the key to coexistence. Education efforts should be directed at decreasing wildlife attractants, increasing pet safety, having reasonable expectations of normal coyote behavior, and teaching residents how to respond appropriately to coyotes and to all urban and suburban wildlife.

Learning how to respond to a coyote encounter empowers residents by providing them with the tools to reshape undesired coyote behavior. The public should understand what constitutes “normal” coyote behavior.

For example, vocalization is normal acceptable behavior, but it is often misunderstood as aggression. Education and outreach include:



1. Understanding human safety, pet safety, coyote attractants and deterrents, including appropriate fencing, exclusion techniques, “what-to-do” tips, and hazing techniques.
2. Developing a common language and awareness of normal versus abnormal behavior when discussing encounters with coyotes (see definitions in Appendix A).
3. Disseminating information to residents, businesses, and schools through the Town’s media.
4. Cooperating with non-profit organizations like Project Coyote and agencies such as the National Park Service that provide educational materials, programs, and expertise in dealing with coyote–human conflict resolution.



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“The loyalty of coyotes to their mates may be a key to their success in urban areas Not only does a female coyote have the natural ability to produce large litters of young during times of abundance, such when living in food-rich cities, she also has a faithful partner to help raise them all.”

~ Cecilia Hennessy, Jean Dubach and Stanley D. Gehrt, Long-term pair bonding and genetic evidence for monogamy among urban coyotes (Canis latrans), 2012.

AREAS OF CONCERN

If increasing coyote encounters become a concern, the following actions will be taken:

- Town staff and Project Coyote will collaborate on encounter report, review, and evaluation.
- A Town wide action plan will be developed based on this evaluation and will include the following components:
 - Public education program.
 - Hazing training.
 - Identify problem areas and plan how to reduce conflict in specific locations and circumstances.
 - Handouts and information on “Coexisting with Coyotes” disseminated to targeted areas.
 - Project Coyote will facilitate coordination between local, state, and federal wildlife agencies and authorities.

EASY TIPS FOR COEXISTENCE

DO NOT FEED COYOTES



keeping coyotes wild
is the key to coexisting

REMOVE ATTRACTANTS



feed pets inside, contain waste,
compost & pick up fallen fruit

SUPERVISE YOUR PETS



walk dogs on leash &
keep cats inside for safety

KEEP COYOTES WARY



if you are approached
act big & make loud noises

APPRECIATE COYOTES



at a distance

SHARE INFORMATION



ATTACK RESPONSE PLAN

An “attack” is defined as: an incident in which a human is injured by a coyote. (See Appendix A for definitions). If a human were attacked and physically injured by a coyote, Town staff would inform the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife district manager. (See Appendix B on levels of coyote behavior.)



HAZING AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

Hazing simply means scaring a coyote away from you, your yard, or your neighborhood. Coyotes are members of the dog family, and just as we train our dogs to adopt good behavior, we can reinforce a coyote’s natural instinct to avoid people without harming them. (see Appendix C for “How to create a successful coyote hazing program”).

GOALS OF THE HAZING PROGRAM

- Reshape coyote behavior to avoid humans.
- Provide residents with tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support resident feelings of safety in their parks and neighborhoods.
- Model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes with other residents, friends, and family.

HAZING PROCESS

Haze if a coyote approaches you in a park or in a neighborhood, or if you see a coyote who is comfortable walking your street or visiting yards. Be consistent and persistent: haze every time you see this too-close-for-comfort behavior. Do not stop until the coyote has left the area or you risk teaching the coyote that your hazing behavior is “normal,” and is nothing to be concerned about.



COYOTE LAW IN COLORADO

Coyotes are classified as game species and may legally be taken year-round with a small game or furbearer license. It is illegal to feed coyotes in urban and suburban areas. Private landowners may address coyote concerns on their property if there is threat to property or livestock.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCHARGE A WEAPON IN THE TOWN OF SUPERIOR.

SEC. 10-9-30. PROHIBITED USE.

o (a) ...it is unlawful for a person, other than a police officer or a member of the armed forces of the United States or the Colorado National Guard acting in lawful discharge of his or her duties, to discharge or cause to be discharged a firearm within or into the limits of the Town.



OVERVIEW OF HAZING

Hazing can be as simple as removing attractants (passive) or asserting yourself by yelling and waving your arms above your head as you walk toward a coyote (active). The aim is not to harm but to alter coyote behavior around humans.

Passive hazing involves removing attractants to create less welcoming habitats for animals. Examples include using motion activated lights or sprinklers, not feeding pets outside, cleaning around bird feeders and BBQs, and thinning vegetation where coyotes may den. Active hazing involves reacting to the inappropriate presence of a coyote so that he is frightened or startled and leaves the area (see appendix D).



Make and maintain eye contact. Wave your arms, a stick, or jacket over your head; jump up and down, yell, or throw objects toward, **NOT AT**, the coyote. The more dominant you act, the better the coyote will get the message that you are something to be afraid of. Keep hazing until the coyote leaves.

Don't haze if:

- You think the coyote is sick or injured. Call your local wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control/services office.
- It's March – July, and you are in a park or open space and think you could be near a coyote den, or if you think that pups could be present. Keep pet close by and calmly leave the area. A coyote(s) may follow briefly or “escort” to determine if there is threat to pups. After a certain distance they will stop on their own.
- The coyote is at a comfortable distance from you.



“Coyotes are naturally timid animals. Hazing is an effective method for keeping coyotes wild and wary.”

-Dr. Paul Paquet, Scientific Advisory Board, Project Coyote

“Knowledge conquers fear. Learning to haze empowers people and saves coyote lives.”

-John Maguranis, Belmont, Massachusetts Animal Control Officer & Project Coyote MA Representative

“Coyotes are keenly intelligent, adaptable and resourceful animals deserving of respect and appreciation.”

-Camilla H. Fox, Executive Director, Project Coyote

For more information about coyotes:

Visit us
ProjectCoyote.org

Contact us
P.O. Box 5007
Larkspur, CA 94977
info@ProjectCoyote.org

Join us
facebook.com/projectcoyote
youtube.com/projectcoyote

Additional resources
Superiorcolorado.gov
CPW.wildlife.state.co.us

COYOTE HAZING FIELD GUIDE



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Definitions Regarding Human–Coyote Encounters

Active coexistence: Humans and coyotes exist together. Communities decide on community space, such as open spaces, where coyotes are appropriate. 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 coyote injures a person.

- **Provoked** — A human-provoked attack or incident where the person involved encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include a dog off leash in an on-leash area; dog on leash longer than six feet, or a person intentionally approaching or feeding the coyote.
- **Unprovoked** — An unprovoked attack or incident where the person involved does not encourage the coyote to engage.

Attractants: Resources that may lure or encourage coyotes to come to particular areas. Attractants may include pet food, rodents attracted to bird feeders, fruiting plants, suitable cover and water sources.

Attended animal loss or injury: When a person is within six feet of the pet and the pet is on leash and is attacked and injured by a coyote.

Domestic animal loss or injury: A coyote injures or kills a pet. Also includes “depredation” — predation on domestic pets or livestock. Unattended animal loss/injury may be normal behavior for a coyote.

Encounter: An unexpected, direct meeting between a person and a coyote that is without incident.

Feeding:

- **Intentional feeding** — A person or business actively and intentionally feeds coyotes including intentionally providing food for species that are in the coyote food chain (i.e., squirrels, feral cats, etc.)
- **Unintentional feeding** — A resident or business is unintentionally providing access to food. Examples include accessible compost, fallen fruit, open sheds, pet food left outdoors, and open dumpsters.
- **Unintentional feeding** — bird feeders. A resident or business with bird feeders may provide food for coyotes, such as rodents and squirrels that also eat the bird feed. Bird feeders must be kept high enough from the ground so that a coyote is unable to reach the feeding animals. The area under the bird feeder must be kept clean and free of residual bird food.

Hazing: “Hazing” means training methods that employ deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing techniques include waving your arms over your head, making loud noises, spraying water, shining bright lights, throwing objects (toward, not “at” the coyote), shouting, and charging. Hazing can help maintain a coyote’s fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards. Hazing does not hurt animals, people, or property.



Incident: A specific conflict between a person and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: approaches a human and growls, bares teeth, or lunges; injures or kills an attended domestic animal. A person is not injured.

Levels of animal contact:

- Level 1 — A coyote that has been involved in an investigated and documented unprovoked attack on a person with or without a pet present. Targeted education and hazing needed, public awareness of incident and circumstances discussed, a site- or animal-specific plan should be created.
- Level 2 — A coyote that has been involved in an investigated and documented provoked attack on a human with or without a pet present. Evaluate circumstances and human safety, provide education and hazing training, enhance public awareness of incident and circumstances. A site- or animal-specific plan should be created.
- Level 3 — A coyote is involved in an incident(s) and/or the loss of an attended domestic animal. Education and hazing needed, public awareness of incident and circumstances discussed. A site- or animal-specific plan may be created.
- Level 4 — A coyote appears to frequently associate with humans or human related food sources and exhibits little wariness of people, and is identified in the loss of unattended domestic animal(s). Education and hazing are needed, public awareness of incident and circumstances are discussed. A site- or animal-specific plan may be created.

Observation: The act of noticing or taking note of tracks, scat or vocalizations.

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

Unsecured Trash: Trash that is accessible to wildlife, e.g., individual garbage cans, bags, or uncovered or open dumpsters or trashcans overflowing or trash scattered outside receptacle.



APPENDIX B

Coyote Behavior, Behavior Classification, and Recommended Response

Coyote Action	Classification	Response
Coyote heard	Observation	Distribute educational materials and information on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen moving in area	Sighting	Distribute educational materials and information on normal coyote behavior
Coyote seen resting in area	Sighting	If area frequented, educate people on normal/seasonal behavior, haze to encourage animal to leave.
Coyote following or approaching a person and pet	Sighting Encounter	Post educational signs, educate about hazing and pet management and provide what-to-do tips.
Coyote following or approaching a person without pet	Encounter	Post educational signs, educate about hazing and pet management and provide what-to-do tips.
Coyote entering a yard without pets	Sighting	Educate on coyote attractants, yard exclusion options, and provide hazing information.
Coyote entering a yard with pets	Encounter	Educate on coyote attractants/seasonal behavior, give information on hazing, yard exclusion, and pet management.
Coyote entering a yard and injuring or killing pet	Incident	Develop hazing team in area, gather information on specific animals involved, audit yard/neighborhood, and report; educate on coyote attractants/seasonal behavior, audit yard /neighborhood, yard exclusion, and pet management.
Coyote biting or injuring pet on leash	Incident	Gather information on specific animals involved, audit yard/neighborhood and report; educate on coyote attractants/seasonal behavior, hazing, and pet management.
Coyote aggressive, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping, without contact	Incident	Gather information on specific animals involved, and report; identify and educate on coyote attractants, seasonal behavior, hazing, and pet management.
Coyote biting or injuring person	Attack	Identify and gather information on specific animals, audit yards/ neighborhood involved and report; educate on coyote attractants, hazing, and pet management. If a human is attacked and physically injured by a coyote, Town staff will inform the state wildlife agency. A site or animal-specific plan will then need to be developed.



Print the following pages for distribution:

APPENDIX C

Coyote Watch Observation Form

GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION

DATE of observation:

TIME of observation:

DURATION of observation:

LOCATION of observation (be as specific as possible):

Check general HABITAT TYPE

- Natural (forest, shrub, grassland, wetland)
- Agricultural
- Open space
- Developed park space (includes residential, industrial, commercial)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES (if any) of coyote(s) involved:

DISTANCE BETWEEN observer and coyote(s):

Which of the following INPUTS or POTENTIAL DISTURBANCES are present at the time of the observation?

- Observer
- Adult human(s)
- Child (children)
- Domestic dog
- Domestic cat
- Vehicle
- other (please explain):

Check all applicable ACTIVITY CODES:

- Sleeping laying down
- sitting
- walking
- trotting
- running
- Hunting (indicate prey species, if possible):
- Foraging (indicate food type, if possible):
- Scent marking (urine or feces)
- Howling/vocalizing (describe, if possible):
- Mating
- Denning (includes den excavation or presence of pups)
- Other (please describe):

ACCOMPANYING NARRATIVE:



INPUT OR INTERACTION RESPONSE CODING SECTION

This section captures the coyote(s) RESPONSE to an input, interaction, or stimulus such as becoming aware of a human, another coyote, a loud noise, a domestic pet, a vehicle, a hazing treatment, a novel object, or a potential prey species.

Describe INPUT:

Rank RESPONSE to INPUT (circle):

Rank	Description
-4	Coyote flees the area after input. Locomotion involves rapid directed movement with ears pinned back, tail position is stiff and down. Coyote does not stop or look back as it retreats.
-3	Coyote moves away from the area after input. Movement may be a mix of faster and slower movement. Coyote looks back as it retreats from the area.
-2	Coyote moves more than 10 feet away after input, stops and looks back at a distance greater than 10 feet from original starting point.
-1	Coyote moves less than 10 feet away after input, stops and looks back in the direction of stimulus less than 10 feet from the original starting point.
0	No change in behavior, location, or movement direction following input.
1	Coyote approaches after input.

ACCOMPANYING INPUT RESPONSE NARRATIVE:

ADDITIONAL VISUAL COMMUNICATION CODING SECTION

Head position:

- Head held low
 Head held high

Notes:

Mouth position:

- Mouth completely closed
 Mouth gaped open
 Lip curled
 Teeth bared

Notes:



Ear position:

- Ears erect Ears laid back

Notes:

Tail position:

- Tail tucked Tail low but not tucked Tail raised

Notes:

Hackles (back hair):

- Not raised Raised

Notes:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/NOTES:

OBSERVER(S):

Thank you for your observations. Please return completed form to *your designated contact*.

Name	Email	Fax



APPENDIX D

Hazing Program and Training Plan

Hazing and Behavioral Change

Some suburban coyotes have become comfortable in close proximity to humans. To safely coexist, it is important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations. Suburban 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 must be a coordinated, community response to coyote encounters. The more often and consistently an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in modifying behavior.

Foundation of Hazing

- It is not economically or ecologically sound to try and remove coyotes from the suburban ecosystem.
- Hazing is one component of a long-term plan to create safe and comfortable living situations, increase understanding, and reduce conflict between coyotes and humans.

Goals of Hazing

1. To reshape coyote behavior to avoid human contact in an suburban setting
2. To provide residents information and tools to actively engage in reshaping coyote behavior and to support feeling safe in their parks and neighborhoods.
3. To model hazing behavior and share accurate information about coyotes with other residents, friends, and family.

General Considerations

1. Levels of hazing need to be appropriately relevant to coyote activity.
 - Coyotes live in open spaces and the best practice is to leave them alone and to educate the public on personal safety.
 - Coyotes may be active at any time of the day, although in areas where people are active they tend to be more active at night or early morning. To reduce potential conflict, hazing is more appropriate during the day or during times where people and pets are present. For example, a chance encounter with a coyote in a park at 4 a.m. (without incident) may not require attempting to change that coyote's behavior.
2. Hazing must be exaggerated, aggressive, and consistent when first initiated. 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 way which is to leave.
3. Techniques and tools can be used in the same manner for one or multiple animals. Usually a dominant animal will respond — others will follow that animal's 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 using 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 a person. The coyote must be aware of where the potential threat (i.e., a loud noise) 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, like dogs, can exhibit routines or habits. 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 his 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 acclimatizing with people.
9. Human behavior must change to support hazing such as the continued identification of and, if necessary, removal of possible attractants.
10. Education about exclusion techniques, including how to identify and remove attractants, fencing if necessary, personal responsibility in pet safety, and having reasonable expectations are critical parts of a coyote hazing plan.
11. Coyotes are skittish by nature. Coyotes as a rule DO NOT act aggressively towards people. The one exception is a sick or injured animal.

When and When Not to Haze

Don't haze if you think the coyote is sick or injured. Call your local wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control/services office.

Don't haze if it is March through July, and you are in a park or open space and think you could be near a coyote den, or if you think that pups could be present. Allow the animal(s) breathing room to raise and protect their new families. Be aware that you may encounter a coyote who is trying to haze you away from his den by acting anxious and/or assertive. He may attempt to escort you to a safe distance by hunching his back and walking towards you, or by vocalizing (barking or “huffing”). Please leash dogs and pick up small pets and calmly leave the area. Do not run from a coyote(s).

Don't haze if the coyote is a comfortable distance away. Seeing a coyote at a distance is no cause for alarm. They have adapted to suburban environments and may be seen during the day and night.

Public Hazing Training

By necessity, a successful hazing program requires community involvement, understanding, and support. Residents are best equipped to respond consistently and at the most opportune times in their own neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces.

1. Locations of training offered will be based on data accumulated from the public on coyote activity in specific neighborhoods, parks, or open space.
2. Trainings will be free to the public.
3. Topics that need to be covered will include, but are not limited to:
 - Basic coyote information
 - Discussion on why coyotes are in the town
 - Normal and abnormal coyote behavior
 - Seasonal behavior changes — breeding season, pups, denning behavior
 - Reality of dangers toward people versus danger toward pets
 - Children and coyotes
 - How human behavior influences coyote behavior
 - Attractants



- Tips on deterring animals from entering private property
 - Appropriate response when encountering a coyote
 - What is hazing, goals, how to engage
 - Appropriate hazing techniques and tools
 - Pet safety tips
4. Interested individuals and participants shall be placed on a confidential email list. Updates, additional coyote information, electronic flyers, and handouts will be sent. All information can be and is encouraged to be passed on to others.
 5. Participants will be notified of “hot spots” and asked to haze in the area.
 6. Feedback on hazing training and use of hazing techniques will be collected.
 7. Hazing by volunteers will be monitored for effectiveness and any need for follow up evaluated.
 8. Participants shall report on their efforts to hazing program managers. Reports should include:
 - Date, location, time of day, number of animals.
 - Initial coyote behavior, hazing behavior, coyote response.
 9. Develop a summary report on long-term and community-specific goals on a hazing program for continued success in reducing conflict between coyotes and residents of the community.

Hazing Summary

Hazing is a continuous process used to modify habituated coyote behavior. The local community must coordinate on reconnecting with the coyote’s natural, skittish character and convincing coyotes to leave situations where their presence is unwanted.

Basic Hazing

- Stand your ground.
- Do not turn your back on or ignore the coyote.
- Make eye contact, yell, and wave arms overhead until the coyote leaves.

Aggressive Hazing

- Approach coyote rapidly and aggressively while yelling and waving arms overhead.
- Throw objects, spray with water until the coyote leaves.

Hazing must continue until the coyote leaves or the coyote will become resistant to future hazing attempts. Under no circumstances should hazing injure the coyote. An injured coyote will no longer respond in a consistent and predictable manner.

For more information about coexisting with coyotes visit www.ProjectCoyote.org/resources and the Town of Superior website at superiorcolorado.gov.

Please note that various projectiles, such as, but not limited to, slingshots and paintballs/guns may not be legal. Always check local regulations and always employ such techniques with care to ensure safety and to avoid injury.





BE COYOTE AWARE

THEIR LIVES AND YOUR SAFETY DEPEND ON YOU

Coyotes are common throughout North America, including in urban areas. You may see and hear them more during mating season (Dec-Feb) and when juveniles are dispersing from family groups (Sept-Nov). These facts and safety tips will help increase comfort and decrease conflicts when living or recreating near North America's native "Song Dog."

FACTS

- Coyotes are members of the dog family; they are curious, adaptable, and learn quickly.
- Coyotes often mate for life, are devoted parents, and are highly communicative (barks, yips, howls).
- Coyotes weigh 18-35 pounds in the West and 30-60 pounds in the East. They live alone, in pairs, or in small family groups.
- Coyotes eat large numbers of rodents, as well as fruit, vegetation, insects and carrion. They help keep ecosystems vital, healthy and clean.

SAFETY

- **DON'T FEED COYOTES.** Their life and your safety depend on coyotes remaining wild and naturally wary of people.
- Coyotes may be more protective of dens/territories during pup rearing (April-Aug). Walk dogs on leashes. Pick up your small dog if you see a coyote.
- If approached, don't run. Wave arms, make noise and walk toward the coyote until he retreats. Be "Big, Bad and Loud."
- Do not attract a coyote; pick up trash.
- Appreciate coyotes from a distance. Share this information with family and friends.

DO NOT FEED COYOTES. HELP KEEP THEM WILD AND WARY!



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- Coyotes eat large numbers of rodents and rabbits, as well as fruit, vegetation, insects and carrion. They help keep ecosystems vital, healthy and clean.
- Coyotes are naturally wary of people but can habituate to our presence and the reliable food sources that we provide.

SAFETY

- **DON'T FEED COYOTES.** Their life and your safety depend on coyotes remaining wild and naturally wary of people.
- Remove attractants; pick up trash, secure garbage, and feed pets inside. Don't leave food or pets outside at night.
- Walk dogs on leashes, especially during pup rearing season (April-Aug). Pick up your small dog if you see a coyote and don't let pets roam.
- If approached, don't run. Wave arms, make noise and walk toward the coyote until he retreats. Be "Big, Bad and Loud."
- Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning or feeding/hiding pups.
- Appreciate coyotes from a distance. Share this information with family and friends.



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COYOTE/CANID-RELATED BOOK LIST

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The Coyote, Defiant Songdog of the West by Francois Leydet, University of Oklahoma Press, 1977.

The Voice of the Coyote by James Frank Dobie, Little Brown, Boston, 1949.

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Track of the Coyote by Todd Wilkinson. North Word Press, Inc, Wisconsin, 1995.

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Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife by John Hadidian, Margaret Baird, Maggie Brasted, Lauren Nolfo-Clements, Dave Pauli, and Laura Simon. Humane Society Press, Washington, D.C. 2007.

