THIS TEMPLATE CAN BE TAILORED FOR YOUR LOCAL PAPER OR NEXTDOOR. (If submitting as a letter-to-the-editor check out Project Coyote’s tips and tools for submitting LTEs [here](http://www.projectcoyote.org/take-action/how-to-help/make-your-voice-heard/).)

To the Editor:

We can all expect to see wild animals, including coyotes, in our open spaces, parks and cities. It is now common and normal to see them during either the day or night.

Coyotes are vocal when greeting family members and when reinforcing territory. Like most other wildlife, they don't vocalize when hunting so as not to attract competition. Coyotes are omnivorous, eating mostly rodents and rabbits, but also fruit, insects, vegetation, and carrion.

Urban studies in both Chicago and Los Angeles show that less than 1% of a coyotes’ diet is domestic cat. However, a coyote doesn't know the difference between a cat and a rabbit, so it's best to supervise pets at all times.

To be 100% sure that no harm comes to our small domestic animals—from all manner of dangers, including cars, poisons, entrapment and coyotes/dogs/bobcats/owls—we need to supervise them carefully.

That said, coyotes near human development are most likely encountered between dusk and early morning. Juvenile coyotes disperse in the fall (seeking mates and territory), so spotting them at any time of the day is not unusual. However, just because we don't see them often doesn't mean that they aren't around. What a coyote does best is stay out of our way.

Here is the bad news: One coyote is killed every minute of every day in the U.S. What's their crime? Being seen. I think that most of us in any nature-appreciating part of the country would agree that to kill a beautiful animal because they dare to be seen is the real crime.

Check out why relocating coyotes is not a viable solution (and, in fact, is illegal in many states): <http://www.discoverwildcare.org/wildlife-resources/trapping-and-relocating-wildlife/>).

The reality is that we have wild neighbors and we need to learn how to coexist and reduce negative encounters.

And there is good news: You can inform yourself about coyote biology and behavior, seasonal expectations, coyote hazing and deterrents, from Project Coyote. Find the information online at [www.projectcoyote.org](http://www.projectcoyote.org), and check out the Resources page: http://www.projectcoyote.org/resources/. There are numerous fact sheets and brochures that you can download and share/post in your neighborhood—including the free BE COYOTE AWARE sign (http://www.projectcoyote.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Be\_Coyote\_Aware\_Flyer\_NPS\_PC.pdf)—to help raise awareness about how to reduce negative encounters with coyotes.

Additional helpful information:

San Francisco Animal Care and Control’s Living with Coyotes PSA (<http://www.sfanimalcare.org/living-with-urban-wildlife/coyote-sightings/>)

How to Haze a Coyote - (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0CS4\_-sQDE).

I hope this information is helpful.

[Insert your name here]