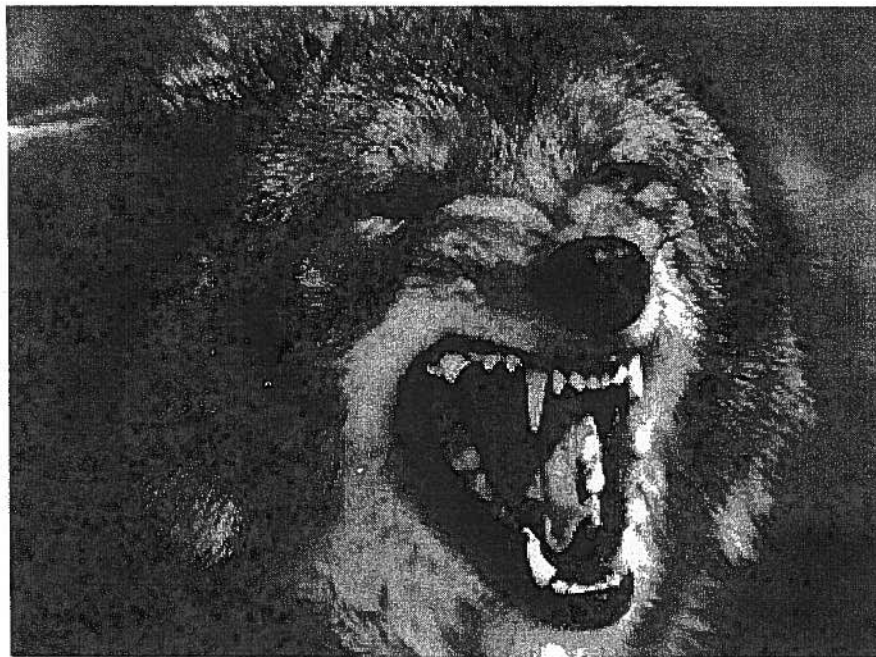


Animal Advisory Commission Wants Fundamental Change To Coyote Policy

- **Current policy:** Management of aggressive coyotes includes hazing, education, outreach, and limited targeted humane removal of aggressive coyotes to protect public safety (aggressive coyotes, pet and human attacks).
- **Animal Advisory Commission (AAC) recommendations:** similar but lethal control only for human attack and approved by Chief of Animal Services for all city regardless of land ownership.
- **Chief Acevedo – opposed this change in Nov. 2014 – see letter – your purview is to advise Council on all budgetary/policy matters concerning public safety.**
- **If adopted, this change will:**
 - **Endanger the public safety of citizens, particularly children, and pets.**
 - **Cause citizens to lock themselves in their homes, due to aggressive coyotes, like many other cities that have adopted these unbalanced policies.**
 - **Increase the cost of managing aggressive coyotes.**

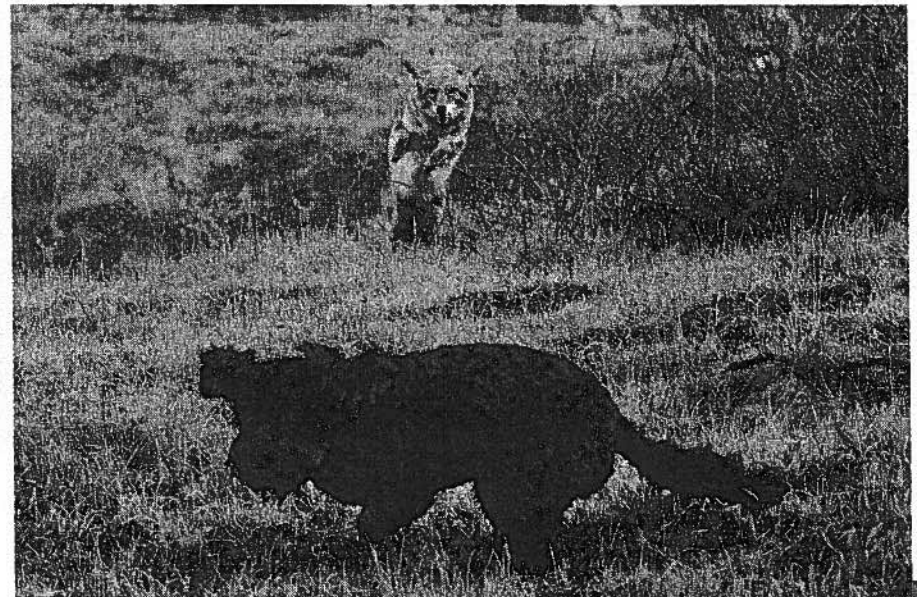
- **I ask that you Contact City Council and request a briefing on this issue, and ask that City Council delay action on this issue until after your commission makes a recommendation.**

Austin Coyote Wiki.org



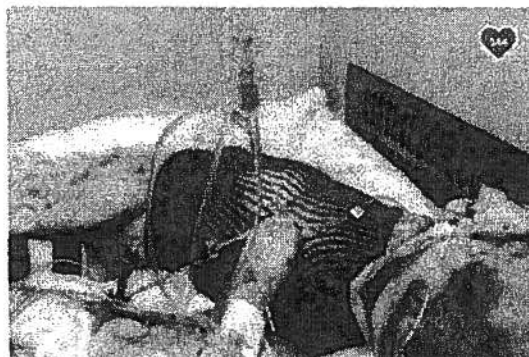
Coyotes Are Opportunistic Predators That Attack, Kill And Eat Cats And Dogs.

They are not vegetarian. They eat whatever is available.



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Eddie's medical fund



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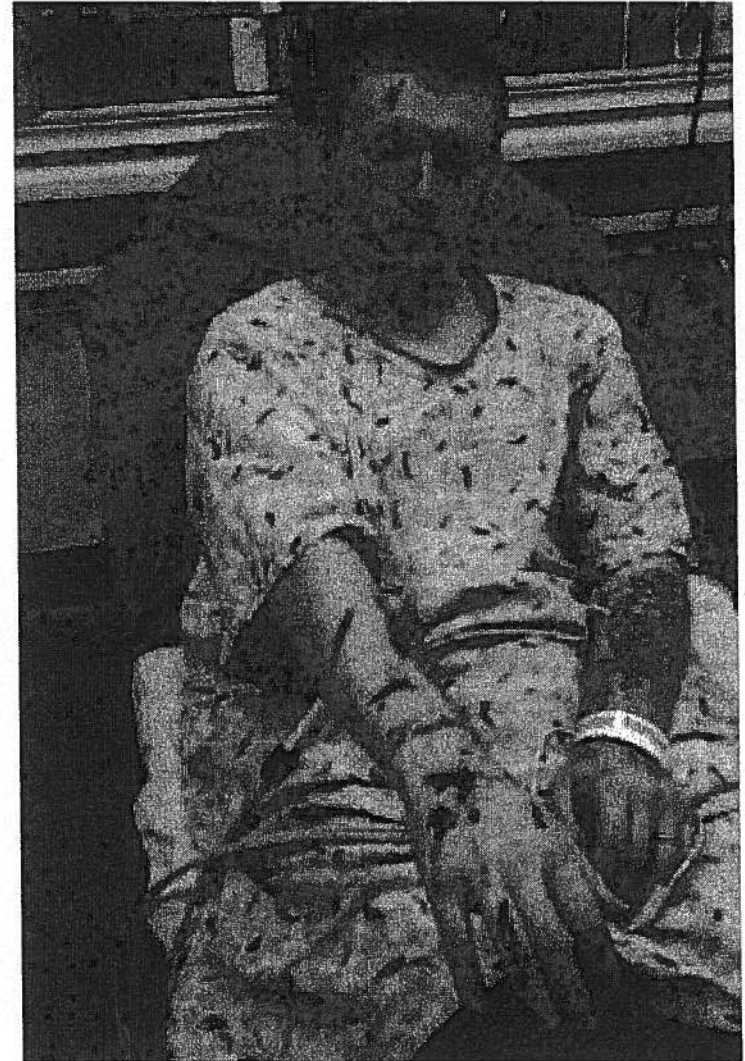
Aggressive Coyotes Can Attack Children And Adults



Colorado Springs, CO 05.26.13, 2 coyotes



Simi Valley, CA 06.07.04, 1 coyote



**Niwot (Denver area), CO, 10.16.13
3 coyotes attacked man**

Why the Current Program Works: Coyote Behavior Modification

- **Travis County Commissioners Court (TCCC) approved ratification of the Interlocal Animal Services Agreement between Travis County and the City that includes the Wildlife (coyote) management contract.**
- **TCCC rejected request from Animal Advisory Commission chair to not approve the contract and adopt October 2015 AAC recommendations to cancel the contract, and hire a new FTE to write a no-kill wildlife management plan that allows lethal control only for an unprovoked human attack, to be approved solely by Chief Animal Services Officer for the entire city and county.**
- **Current policy steps: Monitor coyote activity. When aggression increases beyond safe threshold, do field investigation, including talking to area residents. Report and discuss with landowner/COA employee. Options outlined. If trapping, selected aggressive coyotes removed from area.**
- **Current program is 100% successful because aggressive coyotes are removed before aggression grows to the point of human attacks. No coyote attacks on people in 10 years. Areas where a few aggressive coyotes are removed don't have aggressive coyote activity for years.**
- **This is not a coyote eradication program. Less than 10-20 aggressive coyotes are removed from the city each year.**

Current Policy Works: Trapping Re-Instills The Fear of Humans In Aggressive Coyotes

“Baker and Timm (1998) suggested that selective removal of a few bold individuals from a suburban coyote population will restore the fear of humans into the entire group of coyotes in the area, causing them to act with increased wariness toward humans, or sometimes to even leave the area.

This effect is most strongly seen when problem coyotes are removed with foothold traps, but it also occurs to some extent when coyotes are removed by shooting.

This effect may persist for months or even years, when neighborhoods also concurrently take actions to reduce the habitat factors that attract coyotes into the area (R. O. Baker, personal communication).

We have also talked to predator control professionals who have heard coyotes caught in foothold traps make unusual vocalizations, which potentially are a way of communicating fear and danger to conspecifics.

More needs to be known about such communications, as this could explain why trapping is a more effective method for reversing coyote habituation than are other methods.”

Text from “Bad Dogs: Why Do Coyotes And Other Canids Become Unruly?” Schmidt R., Utah State University, Logan, UT; Timm R., Hopland Research & Extension Center, University of California, Hopland, CA. Wildlife Damage Management Conferences Proceedings, Paper 71, 2007.

**Gehrt (Ohio State) and White (HSUS): Aggressive Coyotes Attack Children
Removal Is Warranted When They Are An Immediate Threat To Children And Pets**

“Evidence shows that coyote behavior is changing and some coyotes are becoming bolder and less afraid of humans primarily because humans have allowed coyotes to become comfortable in their presence.” ¹

“Children are the primary targets of predatory attacks, which result in the most serious injuries and account for approximately 37% of all reported attacks.” ²

“Coyotes may view small children as potential prey and may also be stimulated to attack them due to the movement and sounds they make (walking, running, playing, rolling on the ground, and making some type of vocalizations).” ²

“A majority of attacks on children occur during daylight while the victims are playing outside in their back yard, front yard or driveway.” ²

“There are instances where coyote habituation is so severe that the coyotes can be considered an immediate threat to people, especially children and pets. This is when removal is often warranted. Lethal removal is accomplished either through trapping/euthanasia or shooting.” ³

1: “Coyote Management Plan.” Denver Parks & Recreation Natural Areas Program, Natural Resources Division, October 2009.

2: “Coyote attacks on Humans in the US and Canada.” White (HSUS) and Gehrt (Ohio State), Human Dimensions of Wildlife, 14:419–432, 2009.

3: “Urban Ecology and Management, Cook County, Ill Coyote Project.” Gehrt, S. Ohio State Extension Bulletin 929, 2006.

Hazing Does Not Work on Habituated or Aggressive Coyotes

“Virtually no data exist from controlled studies of urban coyotes as to the effectiveness of hazing in preventing or reversing habituation...There is uncertainty among professionals as to the effectiveness of hazing on altering the behavior of urban wildlife.

Giest (2007) questioned the effectiveness of hazing for canids (wolves, coyotes, dogs), particularly for more extreme forms of habituation.

Likewise, Baker (2007) doubted the effectiveness of hazing for coyotes exhibiting aggressive or habituated behavior.

Timm et al. (2007) stated that hazing is ineffective for coyotes in urban settings,

Schmidt and Timm(2007) wrote:

“If the majority of residents would undertake hazing efforts, such as making threatening movements toward coyotes that come toward residences, squirting them with a garden hose, or throwing rocks or sticks at them, it is possible that some degree of wariness toward humans could be maintained.”

Used regularly and consistently, hazing may be a useful preventative tool. But again, currently these assessments of the effectiveness of hazing on coyotes are based more on speculation than data.”

Text from “Assessment of Human-Coyote Conflicts: City and County of Broomfield, Colorado”, Gehrt, Young, Riley. USDA National Wildlife Research Center, paper 1218, 2011


http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdm_usdanwrc/1218

Boulder, CO City's Web Site: Aggressive Coyotes Nipped Several Pedestrians and Bicyclists. Month Long Hazing Didn't Work. After Hazing Stopped, 5 yr. Old bitten And 2 Coyotes Shot To Protect Public Safety.

Urban Coyotes

In January 2013, after several incidences where coyotes nipped pedestrians or bicyclists in east Boulder, the city worked with CPW to initiate a voluntary coyote hazing program. The program was designed to scare coyotes away from public trails and lands for public safety, while preventing the killing of non-offender coyotes.

Urban Coyote Hazing

The hazing, which occurred from Jan. 18 through Feb. 15, 2013, seemed to end coyote-human conflicts, as there were no reported incidents during the four weeks of hazing. However, weeks after the hazing program ended, a five-year-old boy was bitten and the two coyotes suspected were killed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers to protect public safety. Hazing programs will be considered in the development of future coyote management plans. 

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/wildlife/urban-wildlife-issues>

Examples of Trail Closures Due To Aggressive Coyotes in Denver Area

Coyote killed after reports of aggressive behavior near The ...
www.broomfieldenterprise.com/.../coyote-killed-af... ▼ Broomfield Enterprise ▼
 Jul 16, 2014 - A sign alerts residents the trail at The Field open space was closed in June because of coyote activity. An aggressive coyote was shot Tuesday ...

Broomfield closes trails at The Field Open Space due to ...
www.thedenverchannel.com/.../broomfield-closes-trails-at-th... ▼ KMGH-TV ▼
 May 28, 2014 - The Field Open Space in Broomfield has temporarily closed several trails due to reports of coyotes coming into contact with people and dogs ...

Trails Closed Because Of Coyote Behavior - 7NEWS ...
www.thedenverchannel.com/.../trails-closed-because-of-coyo... ▼ KMGH-TV ▼
 Jun 15, 2012 - There is a coyote den in near a trail and the 10th Avenue Pond and coyote ... Waterton Canyon remains closed due to bears - 7NEWS Denver ...

Several Trails In Broomfield Closed Due To Coyotes « CBS ...
denver.cbslocal.com/.../several-trails-in-broomfield-closed-du... ▼ KCNC-TV ▼
 Jun 9, 2014 - Several trails have been closed in Broomfield because of ... CBS Denver · 64°f ... "The coyotes have been coming up to the trail, defending their ...

Coyotes prompt trail closure | FOX31 Denver - KDVR.com
kdvr.com/2012/06/15/coyotes-prompt-trail-closure/ ▼ KDVR ▼
 Jun 15, 2012 - Not only occupied by humans, coyotes have been making use of the trails. There are reports of a coyote den in the area south of 10th Avenue, ...

Coyote bites jogger near Boulder Creek Path prompting ...
kdvr.com/.../coyote-bites-jogger-near-boulder-creek-path-prompti... ▼ KDVR
 Jan 3, 2013 - "While looking at (that coyote), a second coyote came close to her from ... at Boulder Community Hospital and a report was sent to park rangers. ... b



"We've known we have had coyotes on this property for several years," Kristan Pritz with the City and County of Broomfield said. "The coyotes have been coming up to the trail, defending their space."

Right now the city is working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to figure out what to do next, as it's not the first time the area has dealt with aggressive coyotes. Pritz says two years ago, not far from the park, children were bitten by coyotes, which lead to those animals being put down.

"That was a very concerning situation," Pritz said.

Now they're taking action before anything like that happens again.

"Rather than waiting for something to happen we decided to close the trails," Pritz said.

The park will remain closed until the pack of coyotes move on, which could take anywhere from a few weeks to several months.

Public Lands: Austin Current Coyote Management Plan vs. Denver Area Humane Society of US Plan

	Current Plan	HSUS Plan
Value urban wildlife (ecology education)	Yes	Yes
Monitor and collect data. Activity map.	Yes	Yes
Education and community outreach (coyote hazing, attractants and deterrents, signs, online information, printed brochures, classes, talks, news coverage, etc.).	Yes	Yes
Actively reducing attractants in private property (no food or water, no habitat to make dens or hide, no unattended children or pets)	Yes	Yes
Actively reduce attractants in public property (reduce deer, loose dog and feral cat population, prompt dead animal removal, prune all brush in public spaces 2 ft. high, close all holes in public spaces that could provide a den, etc.).	No	No
Enforce ordinances (no feeding wildlife, leash laws, dogs not allowed in preserves, garbage disposal at commercial sites, etc.).	Limited City enforcement	Limited City enforcement
Respond appropriately to human/wildlife conflicts.	Yes	Plan claims Yes
Prioritize human safety.	Yes	Unprovoked attack only
Prioritize safety of pets.	Yes	No
Consider targeted removal of documented aggressive coyote(s) prior to pets or humans attack.	Yes	No
As last resort, lethal control must be humane, in compliance with federal and state laws, and require prior approval from public land owner.	Yes	Yes
Multilevel permits, limited and slow action for lethal control for unprovoked human attack: If District Manager (DM) and Wildlife Specialist (WS) determine that continued threat to human safety persists after attack, then trapping (leg hold traps or snares) may be determined to be necessary. Natural Resource Manager and Parks and Wildlife Deputy Manager apply for a permit from Environmental Health Animal Care and Control. If permit is granted, WS and DM coordinate with APHIS on location, duration and details of trapping attempts.	No (City land manager approval: PARD, AWU WQL)	Yes
APHIS allowed to trap with leg hold traps	Yes	Yes
Police or Parks and Wildlife to shoot aggressive coyote if immediate danger	Yes	Yes
RESULTS, Human Attacks	Zero	Increased at least 200%

Austin's Current Coyote Policy Is More Humane Than AAC Recommendations

Austin Current Plan, 2005 (formalized with Nov. 2014 Resolution)	Denver Metro Area HSUS Based Plan, 2009	Seal Beach Coyote Management Plan, CA 2015 Long Beach Coyote Management Plan, CA 2015 Considering Seal Beach plan or more stringent policies for aggressive coyotes: Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, Irvine, Fountain Valley, CA
Lethal control considered for aggressive coyote, pet attack, or unprovoked human attack	Lethal control considered for unprovoked human attack.	Lethal control considered for aggressive coyote, and pet or human attack.
10-20 aggressive coyotes removed in the city each year. No human attacks.	Human attacks have increased at least 200% annually. Trails closed for months.	Reverting back due to citizens not using their fenced backyards, parks and trails due to aggressive coyotes. Afraid for their children and pets.

	Human Attacks	Pet Attacks	Cost
Austin Current Policy	0	stable	stable and affordable
AAC Recommendations	will increase	will increase	will increase