

City of Greenwood Village **Comprehensive Coyote Management Policy**

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide strategic direction that increases the community's knowledge and understanding of how to live with coyotes and how to minimize human-coyote conflicts, and guides the Village's responses when human-coyote conflicts exist or potentially exist.

There can be enjoyment in coexisting with coyotes and also opportunities for conflict if the relationship is not managed carefully and appropriately. There is an environmental benefit to maintaining and encouraging coyote populations to exist in the Village.

This Policy seeks to give structure and definition to resolving human-coyote conflicts in a consistent and expedient manner. Village staff will implement actions that are consistent with this Policy.

Strategic Policy

This Policy includes four key strategies:

- 1) Conduct public education efforts on how to safely co-exist with coyotes and how to avoid human-coyote conflicts.
- 2) Enforcement of laws that prohibit the feeding of wildlife and requiring domestic animals to be leashed.
- 3) Active "hazing" of coyotes to instill or re-instill a healthy fear of humans.
- 4) Lethal control measures to eliminate Dangerous or Menacing coyotes.

Definitions

The following definitions will be used in obtaining information and identifying specific coyote behaviors. Using these definitions will help to standardize the record keeping and will assist in communicating coyote behaviors.

These definitions are listed in order of contact between humans and coyotes:

Observation: The act of noticing or taking note, specifically the observation of tracks, scat and vocalizations.

Sighting: Visual observation of a coyote.

Encounter: An unexpected direct meeting between humans and coyotes that is without Incident.

Incident: An unsafe situation where a coyote displayed abnormal behavior.

Attack: An aggressive action initiated by the coyote that involves physical contact with a human.

These are definitions of the initiations of contact:

Provoked: When a human attempts to touch, injure or lure with food or other attractant. This definition excludes the act of Hazing.

Unprovoked: When a human or domestic animal did not try to touch, injure or use an attractant.

These are definitions of coyote behavior in alphabetical order:

Dangerous Coyote: A coyote that has Attacked a person, exhibits Unprovoked aggressive behavior towards a human and/or poses a significant threat to human safety.

Depredating: A coyote that is preying on pets or livestock.

Habituated Coyote: A coyote that exhibits little or no wariness of the presence of people.

Menacing Coyote: A coyote or pack of coyotes that exhibit(s) abnormal behavior but does not qualify it as a Dangerous Coyote. This may involve a coyote or pack of coyotes involved in an Unprovoked Incident or a coyote or group of coyotes, including Habituated Coyotes, which could potentially endanger public safety.

Normal Coyote: A coyote that displays natural wariness and healthy fear of humans.

Nuisance Coyote: A coyote that shows wariness of humans but may have Depredating behavior.

General Definitions:

Coexistence: To exist together at the same time. Coexistence requires an active effort on the human's part and includes a knowledge and understanding of wildlife habitat, ecology, behaviors and appropriate responses.

Habitat: Habitat is a place where a coyote lives and grows. Habitat includes food, water and shelter.

Hazing: Hazing coyotes is an activity or series of activities that instills or re-instills natural wariness and fear of humans. Hazing activity does not physically damage the coyote, property or humans.

Strategy 1: Public Education and Awareness

The first element of the policy is an education and awareness effort. This strategy utilizes in-house and external resources. The information will be communicated using a variety of media such as website links, Channel 8 programming, newsletters and printed material. Educational and awareness information will be provided for schools, neighborhoods and Council District meetings, as well as other opportunities as they arise.

Information will be provided about removing areas of coyote habitat from residential property, identifying coyote attractants and removing them, reviewing the laws

prohibiting the feeding of wildlife and the conditions which requires the use of leashes, information on approved hazing methods and tools residents can use to instill wariness of humans.

Strategy 2) Active Enforcement of Laws Regarding Animals

The Village has a regulation that prohibits intentional feeding of certain kinds of wildlife, including coyotes. Because intentional feeding of coyotes is a factor in their becoming habituated to humans, residents must understand that this activity is illegal. Enforcement of this regulation will be a high priority. Similarly, pets allowed to roam off leash oftentimes contribute to human-coyote conflicts and enforcement of the leash laws will be stepped up.

Strategy 3) Coyote Hazing Effort

The Village will implement a Hazing effort aimed at all coyotes. The effort will be carried out primarily by uniformed officers in the Village's Animal Control Division, who are officers of the Greenwood Village Police Department. If the officers use Hazing tools which launch any type of projectile, such as pepper balls or paint balls, such tool and its projectile may only be used on public property unless a private property owner has given prior written permission to use these tools on their property. The public will be offered information about other hazing tools and methods such as yelling, waving arms, using air-horns and throwing cans, and will be discouraged from using any Hazing tool which includes the use of projectiles. A geographic specific public notification/communications plan should be part of this strategy.

Strategy 4) Lethal Control

The Village will implement lethal controls only when coyote behavior is identified as Menacing or Dangerous. Information on coyote behavior will be recorded, analyzed and reported by the Police Department. Lethal controls may only be implemented lawfully and only on Village property unless a private property owner has given prior written permission to use lethal controls on their property. Lethal control may also be utilized immediately by Police Officers when or if a coyote(s) poses an immediate danger to a human. Lethal control measures will not be used indiscriminately against the coyote population. A geographic specific public notification/communications plan should be part of this strategy.

Village Staff Plan

The Village staff will develop, implement and from time-to-time modify, as may be needed, a Tactical Coyote Plan that is in agreement with this Strategic Policy.