



Agenda Item 90

Approvals: _____

City Manager _____

Dept. Head ES

Attorney _____

Finance _____

AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Date: August 15, 2017

Department: Coastal Animal Services Authority
Prepared By: Kimberly Cholodenko, General Manager

Subject: *COYOTE SAFETY IN SAN CLEMENTE*

Fiscal Impact: None

Background: Due to recent sightings and concerns raised by San Clemente residents, it is important to educate the public on coyotes and their behavior.

Coyotes are considered "wildlife" by the State of California, and are afforded some protection under the law. Coyotes are not the serious threat that some people believe since attacks on humans are very rare. It is when coyotes become accustomed to humans that they lose their fear and can become more aggressive.

Coyotes play a very important role in our ecosystem, helping to keep populations of rodents and other small mammals under control. Additionally they feed on raccoons, birds, insects, berries, fruits/vegetables, human garbage, outdoor pet food and small pets left unprotected. Coyotes are therefore one of the most adaptable animals, living in our urban areas.

Coyotes are most active, during their mating season, December – February, and during pup-rearing season May – July. This urban carnivore is also most active daily at sunrise and sunset, and during the evening hours in search of food.

To coexist, it is important that coyotes do not associate urban areas with food. Coyotes are naturally fearful of humans, however they readily lose that fear when people provide food/water or shelter for them, or otherwise do not try to deter them from visiting. Eliminating sources that attract coyotes can be very effective in decreasing their numbers in these urban areas.

Discussion: The behavior of residents in communities plays an important role in reducing conflicts with coyotes and other wildlife. People should never intentionally feed wildlife, and should be mindful of never unintentionally feeding coyotes as well. Residents should make sure to promptly pick up low hanging and fallen fruits in their yard, keep trash in a secure container, secure compost piles, feed pets inside, and keep small pets inside or on a leash near themselves, especially at night.

Coyotes are attracted to neighborhoods due to the availability of garbage, pet food and even pets, which coyotes see as prey. The following list illustrates some of the attractants that draw coyotes close to people. Remove these attractants to discourage coyotes from visiting your property:

- Outdoor pet food or water
- Birdseed or food sources that attract small mammals
- Accessible garbage or compost
- Fallen fruit or berries from trees or shrubs
- Shrubs, woodpiles, decks or any other structure that can provide cover or be used as a den

If confronted by a coyote, the most effective and humane manner to deter them is to "Haze" the animal. Hazing includes making loud noises, moving your arms up and down, and/or throwing rocks in an effort to be a threat to the animal. This behavior should intimidate the coyote and scare it into retreating and leaving the area

It is recommended that residents discourage any behaviors that would attract nuisance and/or dangerous wildlife, to maintain a safe and secure neighborhood for all to enjoy.

**Recommended
Action:**

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council receive and file report.

Attachments:

Power point Presentation

Notification:



Coyote Safety City of San Clemente

Prepared by Kim Cholodenko, CISA
General Manager

What can you do before you see a coyote

- Minimize hiding spots and attractants on your property or at least be aware of them.
- Secure foundations of your home or building
- Secure trash cans, compost and garbage
- Clean up fallen fruit from trees and bushes
- Never leave pets unsupervised, cats are safest in the house
- Do not feed pets outside
- Clean up around bird feeders

When you see a coyote...

- NEVER run from a coyote, this teaches the coyote that it wins and can invoke a “chase” reflex. Coyotes can run up to 40 mph, you won’t outrun it!
- Get the Coyote’s attention, you want to make sure it knows You are the reason it is scared and is running away.
- Make sure the coyote is able to run away (not sick or injured), has a place/direction to run (not cornered). If the Coyote can’t run away, hazing will not be effective.
- If a coyote is in your yard scare it away banging pots & pans together and/or squirt it with a garden hose.
- Use the methods of “Hazing” a coyote to discourage undesirable behavior such as:
 - Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote
 - Noisemakers: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, “shaker” cans full of marbles, pennies or washers, pots, lid or pie pans banged together
 - Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls or rubber balls

Dog walking techniques when a coyote is present

- There are several tools for repelling coyotes that you can carry with you while walking your dog. You should always walk your dog on a leash. If you see a coyote, either pick up your dog (if possible) or place him or her behind you before hazing the coyote. Then:
 - Blow a whistle or air horn at the coyote.
 - Squirt a squirt gun at the coyote.
 - Yell and wave your arms.
 - Use a homemade noisemaker, such as pennies in a soda can (sealed with duct tape).
 - Pick up sticks or rocks and throw them towards the coyote.