



City of Lomita

# COYOTE

MANAGEMENT PLAN



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## Executive Summary

Coyotes are present throughout the South Bay region and have adapted to urban environments, including the City of Lomita. As development and human activity increase, interactions between residents, pets, and coyotes have become more common. The City of Lomita Coyote Management Plan establishes a comprehensive, proactive, and humane framework for managing coyote activity within the City.

The Coyote Management Plan is modeled on best practices used by neighboring South Bay jurisdictions. It prioritizes public safety, education, prevention, and consistent response protocols, while recognizing the ecological role coyotes play in the local environment. The Plan provides clear guidance for residents and City staff, establishes standardized definitions, and outlines a tiered response system to address escalating coyote behavior.

The Plan is intended to serve resource guide published on the City website.

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## 1. Introduction and Purpose

Coyotes are native to Southern California and have successfully adapted to urban environments throughout Los Angeles County. The City of Lomita acknowledges that coyotes are present within and adjacent to the community and that increased urbanization has resulted in more frequent human–coyote interactions.

The purpose of this Coyote Management Plan is to provide a clear, consistent, and effective approach to minimizing conflicts, protecting public safety, and promoting responsible coexistence between residents and wildlife. The Plan emphasizes prevention, education, and behavior modification, and establishes a tiered response system to guide City and Community actions.

In response to the rise of coyote activity in neighborhoods, City staff researched response from surrounding communities, analyzed various Coyote Management Plans, and researched coyote ecology to better understand and to create an appropriate plan for Lomita.

## 2. Goals and Objectives

The goals of this Plan are to:

- Protect human health and safety
- Reduce negative interactions between people, pets, and coyotes
- Prevent coyotes from becoming habituated to humans
- Promote responsible resident behavior that reduces coyote attractants
- Educate the community on coyote behavior and safety practices
- Provide residents and City staff with clear responses and escalation protocols

### 3. Background on Coyotes and Urban Conditions

Coyotes are native to Southern California and are a common and important part of the regional ecosystem. Over time, coyotes have adapted to a wide range of environments, including highly urbanized areas such as the South Bay community. The City of Lomita, like many neighboring jurisdictions, has experienced an increase in coyote sightings and encounters as urban development, habitat fragmentation, and human activity have expanded.

Coyotes are highly intelligent, opportunistic, and adaptable animals. In urban settings, they take advantage of food, water, and shelter sources created intentionally or unintentionally by human behavior. These sources may include unsecured trash, pet food left outdoors, fallen fruit, compost, irrigation runoff, rodents, and unattended pets. Dense landscaping, parkways, utility corridors, and undeveloped or lightly maintained properties can also provide shelter, travel routes, and denning opportunities.

Coyotes are primarily crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk, but they may be observed at any time of day. Daytime sightings alone do not indicate aggressive behavior. Increased daytime activity is often associated with seasonal changes such as breeding, denning, or pup-rearing, as well as reduced human activity in certain areas. It is also believed that the prolonged drought has limited potential food sources for the coyotes and thus drawn the coyotes to residential neighborhoods in search of food and water.

Coyotes typically live in territorial family groups consisting of a breeding pair and their offspring. Territory size varies based on available resources. When resident coyotes are removed, transient coyotes may quickly move into the vacant territory, which can result in increased conflicts if attractants remain present. For this reason, broad eradication efforts are ineffective, ecologically unsound, and not supported by wildlife management agencies. Long-term management focuses instead on prevention, behavior modification, and targeted response when public safety is at risk.

Understanding coyote behavior and the factors that contribute to human–coyote conflict is essential to reducing negative interactions and supporting community safety.

### 4. Guiding Principles

The City of Lomita’s approach to coyote management is guided by the following principles:

- Human safety is the highest priority
- Coyotes are a natural part of the Southern California ecosystem
- Prevention and education are the most effective long-term management tools
- Human behavior significantly influences coyote behavior
- Community-wide participation is essential for successful coyote management

## 5. Reporting and Monitoring

Residents are encouraged to report all coyote activity using the City of Lomita website or through the Lomita Connect mobile application to support consistent tracking and identification of patterns, hotspots, and trends.

### Reporting Guidelines

- Non-emergency sightings and encounters should be reported through the City's designated reporting channels.
- Emergencies involving immediate danger to people should be reported by calling 911.

### Information to Include in Reports

- Date and time of observation
- Location
- Description of the coyote's behavior
- Presence of people or pets
- Observed attractants
- Whether hazing was attempted and the outcome

## 6. Deterrence and Attractant Reduction

Reducing attractants and discouraging coyotes from frequenting residential areas are critical components of effective coyote management. Coyotes are most likely to become habituated when they associate neighborhoods with reliable food, water, or shelter sources.

Coyotes are drawn to urban and suburban areas for the following reasons and actions to deter coyotes should be taken:

1. **FOOD/TRASH** - Urban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes that primarily eat rodents such as mice and rats. However, coyotes can be further attracted into suburban neighborhoods by human-associated food such as pet food, unsecured compost or trash, and fallen fruit in yards. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead to coyotes associating humans with sources of food, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people and pets. To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:

- a) Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote.
- b) Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove sources of pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly.
- c) Never compost any meat or dairy (unless the compost is fully secured).
- d) Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, to help discourage coyote activity near residences.
- e) Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- f) Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans

curbside the morning of collection. If left out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.

- g) Securely bag attractive food wastes such as meat scraps or leftover pet food before discarding in outside trash receptacles.

2. **WATER** - Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of storm water impoundments and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, pet water dishes, etc., which support both coyotes and their prey. In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable.

3. **ACCESS TO SHELTER** - Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks and crawl spaces, etc., increase the amount and variability of cover for coyotes. They allow coyotes to safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes and businesses without detection. In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise young, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which their young are sheltered. Coyotes may take advantage of available spaces under sheds or decks for use as a den, bringing them into close contact with people and pets.

4. **UNATTENDED PETS** Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats but will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Animals that are approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit such as free-roaming unattended outdoor pets, especially cats and small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods.

- a) The best way to minimize risk to pets from coyotes (and the other dangers of outdoor life such as cars, disease, dogs and other wildlife) is to keep small pets indoors (or only let them outside in a secure enclosure or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness).
- b) It is important to either keep dogs on a leash six feet long or shorter when outdoors or to stay within six feet of them when outside. (Coyotes may view a small dog on a leash longer than six feet as an unattended free-roaming pet.)
- c) Although attacks on larger dogs are rare, coyotes will sometimes go after a large dog when they feel that their territory is threatened. This generally occurs during the coyote breeding season, which takes place from January through March. During this time, it is especially important not to let dogs outside unattended and to keep them on leashes (six feet long or less) when in public areas.
- d) Other domestic animals kept outside (such as rabbits, hens, etc.) may also be viewed as prey by coyotes. Protect outdoor animals from coyotes (and other predators) with protective fencing and by ensuring that they are confined in sturdy cages.

5. **FERAL/STRAY CATS/DOMESTICATED CATS** People who feed feral and stray cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well founded, as coyotes can be attracted to outdoor pet food left for cats. Although there is no sure way to protect outdoor cats from coyotes, the following tips can be helpful:

- a) To keep coyotes away from around your house, do not keep pet food outside, seal crawlspaces and attics, place fencing underneath porches, etc.
- b) Spay and neuter your cat. This will reduce the number of unwanted litters.
- c) Have your cat wear identification tags or a license. Microchip your cat at your vet and follow-up with the microchip company to make sure your contact information is correct and current. This ensures that you will be reunited with your lost pet.
- d) Do not let your cat roam so they will not fall victim to outdoor hazards such as vehicles, predators, accidental poisoning, drowning, infectious diseases, parasites, starvation, abuse and weather.
- e) Contact a local feral/stray cat rescue for help.

## 7. Hazing and Behavior Modification

Hazing is a humane technique used to reinforce a coyote's natural fear of humans and discourages bold or undesirable behavior for coyotes that have become too comfortable in the close proximity of people. Hazing is most effective when applied consistently and confidently.

Appropriate hazing techniques include:

- Standing tall and facing the coyote
- Making loud noises such as yelling or clapping
- Waving arms or using noise-making devices
- Throwing small objects toward, not at, the coyote
- Spraying water using a hose or spray bottle

Hazing should continue until the coyote retreats. Hazing should never place a person in danger or direct a coyote into traffic or toward other people. Injured or sick animals should not be hazed; such situations should be reported to the City.

Hazing is a humane method used to discourage coyotes from approaching people by reinforcing their natural fear of humans.

Hazing should only be performed when it can be done safely.

## 8. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Coyote management activities are governed by federal, state, and local laws. Feeding wildlife is prohibited under California law and applicable municipal codes. Harassment, trapping, or removal of wildlife may only occur under specific circumstances involving authorized agencies.

## 9. Tiered Response System

The City of Lomita will utilize a tiered response system to ensure consistent and appropriate actions in response to coyote activity.



### City of Lomita

## Coyote Management Plan

Coyote Action	Classification	Resident Response	City Response
<b>Normal Presence</b>	White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor Activity</li> <li>Report on Lomita Connect</li> </ul>	Provide educational information and track coyote activity.
Coyotes observed passing through or resting with no interaction			
<b>Increased Visibility</b>	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor Activity</li> <li>Report on Lomita Connect</li> </ul>	Increased monitoring and reinforcement of public education.
Coyotes observed near people without aggressive behavior			
<b>Habituation Indicators</b>	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazing</li> <li>Report on Lomita Connect</li> <li>Report to the Community Safety Division</li> </ul>	Targeted outreach, hazing support, and Community Safety review.
Coyotes entering yards, approaching people, or injuring pets			
<b>Aggressive Behavior</b>	Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazing</li> <li>Report on Lomita Connect</li> <li>Report to the Community Safety Division</li> </ul>	Community Safety will consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Coyotes biting or aggressively confronting pets			
<b>Human Attack</b>	Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call 911</li> <li>Contact the Community Safety Division at (310) 304-4982</li> </ul>	City will contact California Department of Fish and Wildlife for potential capture or lethal removal if necessary
Coyote bites or injures a person			

## 10. Public Outreach, Education, and Reporting

Public outreach and education are essential to the success of the City's coyote management efforts. Clear, consistent messaging helps residents understand normal coyote behavior, appropriate responses to encounters, and actions they can take to reduce conflict.

The City will use multiple communication platforms, including the City website, social media, digital newsletters, community meetings, and printed materials, to share information on coyote activity, seasonal behavior, pet safety, attractant reduction, and hazing techniques.

Educational efforts may be intensified during periods of increased activity, such as breeding and pupping season. Neighborhood notifications may be issued when elevated or aggressive behavior is reported.

**Reporting and Community Safety Response** - Community Safety will serve as the primary point of contact for coyote-related reports. Accurate reporting allows the City to track trends, identify hotspots, and respond appropriately.

Residents are encouraged to report coyote sightings and encounters using one of the following methods:

- Submitting a report through the City website
- Using the City's mobile application

Reports should include the date, time, location, description of behavior, presence of people or pets, and any observed attractants. Emergency situations involving immediate danger to people should be reported by calling 911.

Community Safety staff will review reports, document activity, coordinate with other City departments as needed, and implement appropriate response actions consistent with the tiered response system.

## 11. Conclusion

This Plan shall take effect upon adoption by the City Council. The City Manager or designee will oversee implementation, coordination among departments, and periodic review. Updates may be made based on evolving best practices, community feedback, or changes in local conditions.

Through education, prevention, and a coordinated response system, the City of Lomita seeks to minimize conflicts with coyotes while prioritizing public safety and promoting responsible coexistence.

## Appendix A - Definitions

- **ACTIVE COEXISTENCE:** Humans and coyotes exist together. Communities decide on community space, such as open spaces, where coyotes are appropriate and do not haze, feed, or interact with them in these areas. Humans take an active role in keeping coyotes 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 human is injured or killed by a coyote.
- **PROVOKED:** A human-provoked attack or incident where the human involved encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include dog off-leash in an on-leash area; dog on leash longer than six feet in length, or a human intentionally approaches or feeds the coyote.
- **UNPROVOKED:** An unprovoked attack or incident where the human involved does not encourage the coyote to engage.
- **ATTRACTANTS:**
  - o **FOOD/TRASH:** Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with sources of food, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people and pets.
  - o **WATER:** Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of storm water impoundments and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, pet water dishes, etc., which support both coyotes and their prey.
  - o **ACCESS TO SHELTER:** Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks and crawl spaces, etc., increase the amount and variability of cover for coyotes. They allow coyotes to safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes and businesses without detection. In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise young, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which their young are sheltered. Coyotes may take advantage of available spaces under sheds or decks for use as a den, bringing them into close contact with people and pets.
  - o **UNATTENDED PETS:** Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but will also prey on slightly larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs.

- Animals that are approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit such as free-roaming unattended outdoor pets, especially cats and small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods.
  - **FERAL/STRAY CATS:** People who feed feral and stray cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well founded, as coyotes can be attracted to outdoor cats or pet food left for cats.
- **ATTENDED ANIMAL LOSS OR INJURY:** When a person is within six feet of the pet and the pet is on leash and is attacked, killed, or injured by a coyote.
- **DOMESTIC ANIMAL LOSS OR INJURY:** A coyote injures or kills an unattended or free roaming pet and the attack was witnessed, recorded and/or determined by Animal Control. Also includes predation on domestic pets. Unattended animal loss or injury is normal behavior for a coyote searching for food sources.
- **UNATTENDED ANIMAL/PET:** Pets or animals that are free roaming, without a human present/nearby in a private yard or on a leash six feet or longer.
- **ENCOUNTER:** An unexpected, direct meeting between a human and a coyote that is without incident.
- **FEEDING TYPES:**
  - **INTENTIONAL FEEDING:** A resident or business actively and intentionally feeds coyotes including intentionally providing food for animals in the coyote food chain.
  - **UNINTENTIONAL FEEDING:** A resident or business is unintentionally providing access to food.
    - Examples such as accessible compost, fallen fruit from trees, left open sheds and doors, pet food left outdoors, among others.
  - **BIRD FEEDERS:** A resident or business with bird feeders that may provide food for coyotes, e.g. birds, bird food, rodents, squirrels. Bird feeders must be kept high enough from the ground so 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.
  - **UNSECURED TRASH:** Trash that is accessible to wildlife, e.g. individual garbage cans, bags or uncovered or open dumpsters or trash cans overflowing or where scattered trash is outside the receptacle.
- **HAZING:** Training method that employs immediate use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing techniques include loud noises, spraying water, bright lights, throwing objects, and

shouting. Hazing can help from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and play spaces. Hazing does not damage animals, humans or property.

- **THREAT INCIDENT:** A conflict between a human 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 human is not injured.
- **STALKING INCIDENT:** A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits the following behavior: follows a person with or without an attended pet on leash. A human is not injured.
- **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. Appendix B – Expanded Hazing Guidance

## Appendix B – Expanded Hazing Guidance

### APPENDIX B

# Expanded Hazing Guidance



### WHAT IS HAZING

Hazing is a safe and humane method used to make a coyote feel uncomfortable so it chooses to leave an area where it is not wanted.

**Hazing is not intended to harm the animal. Hazing is not harassment of wildlife.**

Human behavior shapes animal behavior. When residents respond consistently and confidently, coyotes learn to avoid people.

### HOW TO HAZE A COYOTE

- Stand your ground.
- Never ignore or turn your back on a coyote.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Yell loudly and make unpleasant, **frightening noises**.
- Move toward the coyote confidently if needed.
- Throw **small** objects in the direction of the coyote.
- Spray with a hose or water gun.

Continue hazing until the coyote leaves. Stopping too soon teaches the coyote to wait until you give up.

### IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

- Never injure the animal. Injured animals become unpredictable.
- Allow the coyote to escape safely.
- Do not drive coyotes toward homes, small children, or busy streets.
- Use a variety of tools so coyotes do not become accustomed to one sound or or method.

### HAZING TOOLS

- |                     |                |                              |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| • Voice             | • Sticks       | • Hoses                      |
| • Whistles          | • Small rocks  | • Spray bottles with vinegar |
| • Airhorns          | • Cans         | • Pepper spray               |
| • Bells             | • Tennis balls | • Bear repellent             |
| • Shaker cans       | • Rubber balls | • Walking sticks             |
| • Pots and pie pans |                |                              |

### REMEMBER


- **Consistency matters.**
- People must appear assertive and intimidating.
- Hazing reinforces that coyotes should avoid humans.

## Appendix C – Attractant Assessment and Yard Audit Checklist

We encourage you to take steps to eliminate attractants on your property to minimize conflicts with coyotes. We also urge you to share this information with friends and neighbors because minimizing conflicts is most effective when the entire neighborhood works together.

CHECK	OK	FIX	WAYS TO MIGRATE
FOOD SOURCES			Never hand-feed or intentionally feed a coyote.
PET FOOD			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
WATER SOURCES			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
BIRD FEEDERS			Remove water attractants (Such as pet water bowls) or decorative ponds/bird baths.
FALLEN FRUIT			Clean up fallen fruit around trees.
COMPOST			Do not include meat or dairy among compost contents unless fully enclosed.
BBQ GRILLS			Clean up food around barbecue grills after each use.
TRASH			Secure all trash containers with locking lids and place curbside the morning of trash pickup. Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors. Avoid overfilling trash cans.
LANDSCAPING			Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places and potential denning sites (Vegetation trimming or removal activities performed by certified tree contractors shall adhere to standard industry guidelines to avoid trees that contain active bird nests and/ or vegetation trimming or removal shall be conducted outside the bird nesting season (the nesting season is generally considered to extend from February 1 through August 31, and as early as January 1 for raptor species).
STRUCTURES & OUTBUILDINGS			Restrict access under decks and sheds, around woodpiles, or any other structure that can provide cover or denning sites for coyotes or their prey.
*FENCING			Enclose property with a 6-foot fence outside the front yard setback to deter coyotes. Ensure that there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground 6-inches or is fitted with a mesh apron to deter coyotes from digging underneath. must comply with the Lomita Municipal Code.
PETS			Never leave pets unattended outside. NEVER allow pets to "play" with coyotes. Fully enclose outdoor pet kennels. Walk pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length.


## Appendix D – Coyote Safety Tips




**CITY OF LOMITA CALIFORNIA**

### COYOTE SAFETY TIPS


► **Secure Trash and Compost**  
Take trash bins out the morning of trash pickup to prevent Coyote visits. Make sure all lids are properly closed. Clean garbage and recycling bins regularly with bleach or ammonia. Remove unsecured trash and strongly scented items from your property.



► **Clear Brush and Vegetation**  
Landscape overgrown ground-level brush. Rodents tend to nest in heavy brush and can serve as hiding spaces for coyotes as they hunt for food. Consider planting native flowers to attract birds instead.



► **Garden Upkeep**  
Remove all outdoor food sources. Pick ripe fruit off trees and promptly collect fruit that falls. In addition, remove bird feeders from yards, and promptly collect fallen bird seed.




► **Pet Safety**  
Keep doors and windows closed when unoccupied. Install motion-activated lights, noise, or alarms. Keep Small pets inside at night and do not leave pet food outside. Consider walking your pets on short leashes.

**NEVER FEED A COYOTE!**  
Feeding wildlife may result in a dangerous situation for people, pets, and the coyotes themselves.

**REPORT SIGHTINGS OR ATTACKS**  
Report Sightings on the City of Lomita's New App: Lomita Connect

**SCAN ME**



GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

## Appendix E – Tiered Response System



**City of Lomita**

### **Coyote Management Plan**

Coyote Action	Classification	Resident Response	City Response
<b>Normal Presence</b>	<b>White</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Activity</li> <li>• Report on Lomita Connect</li> </ul>	Provide educational information and track coyote activity.
Coyotes observed passing through or resting with no interaction			
<b>Increased Visibility</b>	<b>Green</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Activity</li> <li>• Report on Lomita Connect</li> </ul>	Increased monitoring and reinforcement of public education.
Coyotes observed near people without aggressive behavior			
<b>Habituation Indicators</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazing</li> <li>• Report on Lomita Connect</li> <li>• Report to the Community Safety Division</li> </ul>	Targeted outreach, hazing support, and Community Safety review.
Coyotes entering yards, approaching people, or injuring pets			
<b>Aggressive Behavior</b>	<b>Orange</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazing</li> <li>• Report on Lomita Connect</li> <li>• Report to the Community Safety Division</li> </ul>	Community Safety will consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Coyotes biting or aggressively confronting pets			
<b>Human Attack</b>	<b>Red</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 911</li> <li>• Contact the Community Safety Division at (310) 304-4982</li> </ul>	City will contact California Department of Fish and Wildlife for potential capture or lethal removal if necessary
Coyote bites or injures a person			