

A close-up photograph of a coyote's head and shoulders, looking slightly to the right. The coyote has grey and brown fur, large pointed ears, and yellowish-green eyes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

Town of Kiawah Island Coyote Management Plan

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INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

The goal of this plan is to provide a management strategy and guidelines for staff responses to conflicts with coyotes. Public safety is the primary concern of the Town, and coyotes and other wildlife will be managed with human safety as the priority. This plan seeks to achieve a balance between the importance of human safety and the benefits of maintaining natural wildlife populations. While education outreach tools are an important part of this plan, the Town recognizes that there are situations where immediate, lethal control of coyotes may be necessary.

This coyote management plan is based on a thorough review of scientific literature on coyote behavior and population dynamics and existing coyote management plans from other municipalities across SC and other states (see References). This plan is guided by the following basic principles:

1. Human safety is the top priority in managing human-coyote interactions.
2. Coyotes serve an important role in ecosystems by helping to control the population of rodents, rabbits, deer, raccoons, armadillos, and other suburban mammals.
3. Preventive practices such as reduction and removal of human-associated food attractants, habitat modification and responding appropriately when interacting with wildlife are key to minimizing potential conflicts with coyotes.
4. Solutions for coyote conflicts must address both problematic coyote behaviors (such as aggression toward people and attacks on pets) and the problematic human behaviors (intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes and letting pets outside unattended) that contribute to conflicts.
5. Lethal control may be utilized when the Town determines that a coyote poses an immediate threat to humans, but the Town recognizes that non-selective coyote removal programs are ineffective for reducing coyote population sizes or preventing human-coyote conflicts.
6. A community-wide program that involves residents is necessary to achieve coexistence among people, coyotes and pets.



THE COYOTE

Due to their intelligence and adaptability—in addition to extensive urbanization and the subsequent decline of larger predators—coyotes have expanded their range across North America. Coyotes are now found in all states in the U.S. except Hawaii and have become well established in nearly every ecosystem.

They live in deserts, swamps, tundra and grasslands, brush, dense forests, cities and suburbs. People can live among coyotes yet never see them. Often it's only an evening chorus or group howling and yipping that alerts us to the presence of this wild canid in our neighborhoods. It is important to keep in mind that coyotes have been interacting with and adapting to people for more than a hundred years.

ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Coyotes are curious, smart and adaptable creatures and Kiawah Island provides the perfect balance of food, shelter and water for them. Coyotes play an integral role in their environment by providing ecosystem services and helping to maintain species diversity. Coyotes in suburban areas not only provide free rodent control by feeding on mice and rats, but also help to regulate the population size of other species that may cause conflicts with people, including white-tailed deer, raccoons, and armadillos.

GENERAL BIOLOGY, REPRODUCTION AND BEHAVIOR

Appearance and signs: Most coyotes weigh approximately 25-35 pounds, although their long legs and thick fur make them appear larger. Coyote fur varies in color from gray-brown to yellow-gray. They have a black-tipped tail which helps to distinguish them from other canids such as foxes. Coyotes also have yellow/amber eyes (which help to distinguish them from domestic dogs), large ears and narrow, pointed muzzles.

Since coyotes are naturally skittish and afraid of humans, they are infrequently seen, although sightings are more likely to occur during the breeding season (January-March).

Coyote prints are similar to those of a domestic dog but are usually observed in a straight line (as opposed to the meandering path of domestic dog tracks). More commonly, coyote howling or other vocalizations may be heard. Coyotes produce a variety of sounds (including howls, barks, whines and yips) to communicate with one another and defend their territory. Small groups of two or three coyotes can distort their voices and sound like a group of 20. Coyotes also use scat (feces) to communicate by depositing it in the middle of a trail or on the edge of their territory. Coyote scat is similar to dog scat in size and appearance, but unlike dog scat, it is rope-like and typically filled with hairs, seeds and bones.

Diet: Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores with great flexibility in their diet. They generally hunt small mammals such as mice, rats, and rabbits but will also eat fruit and berries and even scavenge road-killed animals. In suburban areas, coyotes are also known to eat pet food, unsecured garbage and compost. They may also prey on unattended domestic pets such as cats and small dogs if given the opportunity. This does not indicate a danger to humans, but is rather a natural coyote behavior in suburban areas. This behavior can be prevented by reducing human-associated food attractants and not letting pets outside unattended.

Social structure: Most coyotes (called resident coyotes) live in family groups with one breeding pair and their offspring from the current year. Coyotes do not hunt in packs but work together to defend their territory from other coyote family groups. Other coyotes (called transient coyotes) live alone or as an isolated mated pair.

Coyotes mate once per year during their breeding season (which occurs from January through March). During the pup season (April through August), the breeding pair will give birth to pups (typically in April or May). Litter size depends on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area. The average litter size is four to seven pups. Coyotes will place their pups in a den for the first 6 weeks, after which the pups will learn to hunt with their parents. During dispersal season (September through December), the pups from the previous year (yearlings) will leave the family group and become transient coyotes in search of a new home range.

Habitat: Coyotes are naturally crepuscular (most active at dawn and dusk) but often shift to more nocturnal activity in urban and suburban areas in an effort to avoid people. Coyotes prefer open space and natural preserve areas over human-dominated landscapes but are extremely adept at living in proximity to people. Coyotes thrive in these areas because food, water and shelter are abundant.

Home range sizes vary for each individual coyote. Research has shown that home range sizes for resident coyotes average 2–5 square miles, while transient coyotes have larger home ranges (averaging 10 square miles). Home range size can be an important indicator of resource distribution and abundance and may correlate with population density.

COYOTE ATTRACTANTS IN SUBURBAN AREAS

Coyotes are drawn to suburban areas for the following reasons:

1. **Food.** Suburban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes, who 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 and unsecured compost or 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. To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:
 - Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote.
 - 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.
 - Never compost any meat or dairy unless the compost is fully secured.
 - Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, to help discourage coyote activity near residences.
 - Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave trash cans out overnight, they are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.
2. **Water.** Suburban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of storm water impoundments, 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, 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 their 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.** Pets are a normal part of a suburban landscape. Within their territory, coyotes may consider pets as potential prey or potential competitors. Free-roaming pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to minimize risk to pets is to not leave them outside unattended.
 - **Cats.** Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but will also prey on slightly larger mammals including rabbits and raccoons. Approximately the same size as a raccoon or rabbit, free-roaming outdoor cats may also be seen as eligible prey items by coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on cats are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people. The only way to protect cats from coyotes is to keep cats indoors.
 - **Dogs** are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes who are accustomed or habituated to people (usually due to wildlife feeding) or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season).
 - Small, unattended dogs may be seen as potential prey for coyotes. It is important to keep dogs on a leash 6 feet long or shorter when outdoors. Coyotes may view a dog on a leash longer than 6 feet as an unattended pet. Attacks on unattended small dogs are normal coyote behavior in urban areas and do not indicate a danger for people.

COYOTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES

MONITORING AND COLLECTING DATA

Monitoring and data collection are critical components of an effective coyote management plan. This is best accomplished with input from both residents and Town officials using an online reporting form.

The purpose of monitoring human-coyote interactions is to document where coyotes are frequently seen, to count how many coyotes are within an area and to identify human-coyote conflict hotspots. Gathering specific data on incidents will allow for targeting of educational campaigns and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

All coyote sightings should be reported by filling out the [Town's Online Coyote Sighting form](#).

A Coyote Incident Form (Appendix A) will be used as appropriate to collect additional information to allow for consistent reporting of coyote incidents. Contact information—including the date, time, name, address and phone number of the individuals submitting the report—should be included, as well as specific information about the incident.

HUMAN-COYOTE CONFLICT DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will be used for the process of categorizing human-coyote conflicts:

Observation:

The act of noticing signs of a coyote, such as tracks, scat or vocalizations, but without visual observation of the coyote.

Sighting:

A visual observation of a coyote. A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.

Encounter:

A direct meeting that is between a human and coyote with no physical contact and that is without incident.

Incident:

A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits any of the following behaviors: growling, baring teeth, lunging or making physical contact with the person. A human is not bitten.

Human attack:

A human is bitten by a coyote(s).

Provoked: An attack where the involved human encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include a human hand-feeding a coyote or approaching a coyote with pups.

Unprovoked: An attack where the involved human does not encourage the coyote to engage or is attempting to protect a pet from a coyote attack.

The following definitions will also be used for the process of categorizing conflicts among coyotes and pets.

Pet attack:

Coyote kills or injures a domestic pet.

Attended: Pet is on a leash less than 16 feet in length or is in the presence of a person less than 16 feet away.

Unattended: Pet is free-roaming, walking off-leash more than 16 feet from a person, or on a leash longer than 16 feet.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

A critical element of a successful coyote management plan is the education and awareness of residents.

Education is the key to having residents make appropriate decisions regarding their safety and managing their property and pets. This involves decreasing food attractants, taking precautions with pets and creating tolerance of normal coyote behavior.

An educational campaign should focus on how residents can coexist with coyotes successfully. Educational outreach opportunities include:

1. Educational materials. These can include brochures, informational postcards mailed or hand-delivered to specific neighborhoods with a high number of coyote sightings and interactions, detailed information and appropriate links made available on local websites, e-newsletters, or coyote signage posted in appropriate parks and open spaces.
2. Training. Provide educational seminars and training sessions to the public.
3. An outreach and education team. Composed of trained community volunteers (Appendix B), a team can help with community outreach by tabling at community events, and/or following up directly with individuals and neighborhoods who may have concerns.

HAZING: AN INTERVENTION TECHNIQUE

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Coyotes in urban and suburban environments, however, may learn that neighborhoods provide easy sources of human-associated food while presenting few real threats. These coyotes, having lost their fear of humans, may visit yards and public areas even when people are present and may cause conflicts with people and pets. Humans have contributed to this habituation of coyotes by not reacting when they see a coyote. We have a tendency to either ignore them due to fear or to be enamored by them because they are wild and it is “cool” to see one. To coexist safely, it’s important to modify this behavior and attitude in resident coyote populations.

The best solution for addressing problematic coyote behavior is by instituting a community-based hazing program (See Appendix B).

Hazing is an activity or series of activities that is conducted in an attempt to change behaviors of habituated coyotes and/or to re-instill a healthy fear of people in the local coyote population. Hazing can help maintain coyotes’ fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards, greenbelts and parks.

A hazing program encourages the use of negative conditioning actions without employing weapons or causing bodily harm to the coyote. The more often an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing coyote behavior. Being highly intelligent animals, coyotes who are hazed quickly learn to avoid neighborhoods, people and pets.

The goals of hazing are to:

- Reverse the habituation of coyotes to people, teaching them to once again fear and avoid humans
- Discourage coyotes from entering public areas such as parks, playgrounds and yards when people are present
- Discourage coyotes from approaching people and pets
- Empower residents by giving them tools to use when they encounter a coyote, thereby reducing their fear of coyotes
- Increase awareness about coyote behavior among residents and involve the community in coyote management efforts

Basic hazing: Consists of directly facing the coyote and being “big and loud” by waving your arms over your head and making loud noises until the coyote(s) chooses to leave. Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical because coyotes can become desensitized to the continued use of just one technique, sound or action (see Appendix B). Basic hazing can be performed by anyone and includes the following techniques:

- Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote.
- Making loud noises with whistles, air horns, megaphones, soda cans filled with pennies, pots and pans.
- Throwing projectiles such as sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls or rubber balls at of the coyote.
- Pepper spray can be used as an effective deterrent.

High-intensity hazing: Consists of approaching the animal quickly and aggressively, throwing projectiles, paint balls, pepper balls, rubber balls or pepper spray at the coyote. High-intensity hazing should only be carried out by trained professionals such as Wildlife Biologists and Code Enforcement Officers. High-intensity hazing should be used in specific areas in response to more egregious incidents.

LETHAL CONTROL

Lethal control will be utilized when the Town determines that a coyote(s) poses an immediate public safety risk to humans. Lethal control may be utilized when interactions with coyotes escalate to the level of incident or attack.

Lethal control efforts should focus on the offending coyote(s) only, rather than the coyote population at large. This requires significant surveillance efforts to make sure that the correct animal(s) is targeted and removed.

Research has shown that when widespread lethal control programs are implemented, coyote populations exhibit a “rebound effect” (a surge in their reproductive rates), allowing for quick regeneration of their population numbers. The disruption of their family group structure leads to an increase in the number of females breeding in the population, and the increase in available resources leads to larger litter sizes, earlier breeding ages among females and higher survival rates among pups. This allows coyote populations to bounce back quickly, even when as much as 70 percent of their numbers are removed through lethal control efforts.

SCDNR’s [Coyote Biology and Control in South Carolina](#) states:

“When necessary, it is possible to control coyote-related damage at the local level by targeting and removing the specific offending animals. If coyotes in the area are not causing specific depredation problems, it is suggested they not be removed merely because of their presence. Coyotes are territorial, and the removal of non-depredating coyotes may result in replacement with coyotes that are more prone to cause problems.”

Attempting to control overall coyote numbers can be frustrating as new immigrant animals often quickly fill the voids left from the removal of resident animals. In addition, reproduction may actually increase from the removal of these resident coyotes with animals beginning to breed at younger ages, although reproduction still only occurs once annually and the overall fecundity of coyote populations with younger coyotes tends to be lower.”

Lethal control should be considered as only one of a suite of management interventions (e.g., removal of attractants, hazing, etc.) to mitigate potential conflicts with coyotes.

HUMAN-COYOTE CONFLICT CLASSIFICATION AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

Coyote Behavior	Classification	Response
Coyote heard; scat or prints seen	Observation	Distribute educational materials and information on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen moving through the area (day or night)	Sighting	Distribute education materials and information on normal coyote behavior.
Coyote seen resting in area (day or night)	Sighting	If area frequented by people, educate on normal coyote behavior and how to haze to encourage animal to leave. Look for and eliminate attractants.
Coyote entering a yard (no person present)	Sighting	Educate on coyote attractants; provide hazing information and yard audit.
Coyote following or approaching a person with no incident	Encounter	Educate on hazing techniques. Look for and eliminate attractants.
Coyote following or approaching a person and pet with no incident	Encounter	Educate on hazing techniques and pet management. If an open area, consider posting education signs to alert other residents to keep dogs on leash and to haze coyotes.
Coyote entering a yard with pets, no incident	Encounter	Educate on coyote attractants and pet management, provide hazing information and yard audit*.
Coyote entering yard with people and pets, no pet attack occurring	Encounter	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on coyote attractants and pet management, provide hazing information and yard audit.
Coyote injures or kills unattended pet in back yard	Unattended Pet Attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on coyote attractants and pet management, provide hazing information and yard audit.
Coyote injures or kills pet off-leash in open space area	Unattended Pet Attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management and hazing, Look for and eliminate food attractants. Post education signs in open area to alert other residents to keep dogs on leash and to haze coyotes.

Coyote Behavior	Classification	Response
Coyote injures or kills pet off-leash with human nearby (within 16 feet)	Attended Pet Attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management, coyote attractants and hazing, Perform yard/neighborhood/public area audit. Post education signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area. Implement high intensity hazing techniques (by Wildlife Biologists or Code Enforcement)—using airsoft guns, paintball guns, etc. Lethal removal may be warranted depending on the specific circumstances. If the offending coyote is lethally removed, it should not only be tested for rabies, but should also be given a full necropsy (to determine general health and whether feeding was involved).
Coyote injures or kills pet on-leash (within 16 feet)	Attended Pet Attack	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management, coyote attractants and hazing. Perform yard/neighborhood/public area audit*. Post education signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area. Implement high intensity hazing techniques (by Wildlife Biologists or Code Enforcement)—using airsoft guns, paintball guns, etc. Lethal removal may be warranted depending on the specific circumstances. If the offending coyote is lethally removed, it should not only be tested for rabies, but should also be given a full necropsy (to determine general health and whether feeding was involved).
Coyote aggressive toward person, showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without contact	Incident	Gather information on specific animals involved and report circumstances. Educate on pet management, coyote attractants and hazing. Perform yard/neighborhood/public area audit*. Post education signs and/or send educational materials to residents in the area. Implement high intensity hazing techniques (by Wildlife Biologists or Code Enforcement)—using airsoft guns, paintball guns, etc. Lethal removal may be warranted depending on the specific circumstances. If the offending coyote is lethally removed, it should not only be tested for rabies, but should also be given a full necropsy (to determine general health and whether feeding was involved).
Coyote has bitten human (Human encouraged coyote to engage by hand feeding, approaching coyote with pups, etc.)	Provoked Human Attack	Identify and gather information on all details of attack (including action of victim before and after attack, whether feeding or pets were involved, action of victim towards coyote and how incident was resolved.) Any human bitten by a coyote(s) will need to seek the advice of their physician concerning the administration of a post-exposure rabies vaccination. Educate residents on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing and pet management. Implement high intensity hazing techniques (by Wildlife Biologists or Code Enforcement)—using airsoft guns, paintball guns, etc. for any other habituated or bold coyotes in area. Lethal removal may be warranted depending on the specific circumstances. If the offending coyote is lethally removed, it should not only be tested for rabies, but should also be given a full necropsy (to determine general health and whether feeding was involved).
Coyote has bitten human (Human did not encourage coyote to engage or human intervened during pet attack)	Unprovoked Human Attack	Identify and gather information on all details of attack (including action of victim before and after attack, whether feeding or pets were involved, action of victim towards coyote and how incident was resolved.) Any human bitten by a coyote(s) will need to seek the advice of their physician concerning the administration of a post-exposure rabies vaccination. The offending coyote should be lethally removed, and not only be tested for rabies, but also given a full necropsy (to determine general health and whether feeding was involved). Lethal control efforts should focus on the offending coyote(s), rather than the coyote population at large. Educate residents on coyote attractants, yard/neighborhood audits, hazing and pet management. Implement high intensity hazing techniques (by Wildlife Biologists or Code Enforcement)—using airsoft guns, paintball guns, etc. for any other habituated or bold coyotes in area.

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

COYOTE INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Date: _____ Time of interaction: _____ Duration of Interaction: _____

Name of reporting party: _____

Address of reporting party: _____

Phone number of reporting party: _____

Address of interaction: _____

Location type (park, commercial property, residential property, natural preserve, vacant land, other): _____

Type of interaction: *Observation, Sighting, Encounter, Incident, Pet Attack: Attended/Unattended, Human Attack: Provoked/Unprovoked?* (See reverse for definitions) _____

Activity of reporting party prior to interaction (e.g., walking, running, riding bike): _____

Was the coyote being intentionally fed? Yes No

Was there pet food present? Yes No

Was unsecured garbage present? Yes No

Were other food attractants present? Yes No

(e.g., bird seed, compost, fruit, etc.) If yes, describe: _____

Was a pet involved? Yes No

Type of pet: Cat Dog Other _____

Breed/weight of pet:

Was pet on leash? Yes No

(If yes, was leash longer than 6 ft.?) Yes No

Description of interaction/what happened: _____

Actions taken by reporting party (e.g., ran away, hazed coyote, none, etc.): _____

How did coyote respond? (e.g.,* ran away, approached, etc.) _____

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Outcome of incident: _____

Human injuries: _____ Post-exposure rabies vaccination recommended: Yes No

Pet injuries: _____ Pet killed: Yes No

Coyote injuries: _____ Coyote euthanized: Yes No

Coyote necropsy results: _____

Stomach contents: human food: Yes No

Sign of disease: Yes No

If Yes, describe: _____

DEFINITIONS:

OBSERVATION:

The act of noticing signs of a coyote(s), such as tracks, scat or vocalizations, but without visual observation of the coyote(s).

SIGHTING:

A visual observation of a coyote(s). A sighting may occur at any time of the day or night.

ENCOUNTER:

A direct meeting that is between human and coyote(s) with no physical contact and that is without incident.

INCIDENT:

A conflict between a human and a coyote where the coyote exhibits any of the following behaviors: growling, baring teeth, lunging or making physical contact with person. A human is not bitten.

HUMAN ATTACK:

Provoked: An attack where the involved human encourages the coyote to engage. Examples include a human hand-feeding a coyote, approaching a coyote with pups or intervening in a coyote attack on a pet.

Unprovoked: An attack where the involved human does not encourage the coyote to engage.

PET ATTACK:

Coyote(s) kills or injures a domestic pet.

Attended: Pet is on a leash less than six feet in length or is in the presence of a person less than six feet away.

Unattended: Pet is free-roaming, walking off-leash more than six feet from a person or on a leash longer than six feet.

Appendix B:

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING A COMMUNITY-BASED HAZING PROGRAM

Because coexisting with wildlife involves the community, the most successful coyote hazing programs involve residents and volunteers. Residents are best equipped to respond consistently and at the most opportune times in their own neighborhoods, greenbelts, parks and open spaces. Coyotes will also learn to fear the general public faster if they are hazed by the residents that they already encounter in their home ranges.

Involving the community in coyote hazing efforts has the additional benefit of empowering residents and reducing their fear of coyotes by giving them tools to address coyote conflicts themselves.

Before attempting to haze coyotes on their own, residents should first be properly trained on the following topics:

- Basic coyote ecology and behavior.
- Seasonal behavior changes—breeding season, pups, denning behavior.
- Influences of human behavior on coyotes.
- How to identify and remove food attractants.
- Safety tips for pets.
- Hazing techniques, tools and tips for success.

When possible, in-person trainings and meetings are the best way to relay this information to residents and to train them in coyote hazing techniques. Supplemental materials, such as handouts, brochures and websites, can also provide this information when necessary.

CREATING A VOLUNTEER HAZING TEAM

A group of volunteers trained in coyote hazing techniques can be quite useful to respond to coyote conflicts in public areas (such as parks, playgrounds, etc.). The following guidelines are suggested for managing a volunteer hazing team:

1. Volunteers should be trained in proper coyote hazing techniques (as discussed above).

2. Volunteers should fill out a Hazing Interaction Report after each hazing activity.
3. Hazing Interaction Reports will include the following details:
 - Date, location, time of day, number of coyotes.
 - Initial coyote behavior, hazing behavior, coyote response.
 - Effectiveness ratings.
 - Tools and techniques used.
 - Additional details/comments.

COYOTE HAZING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Hazing is most effective when an individual coyote is hazed by a variety of people using a variety of tools and techniques.
2. The coyote being hazed must be able to recognize that the potential threat is coming from a person. Therefore, hiding behind a bush and throwing rocks or hazing from inside a car or house (for example) isn't effective.
3. When hazed for the first time, a coyote may not respond at first or may run a short distance away. If this happens, it is important to continue hazing (and intensify the hazing if possible) until the coyote leaves the area. Otherwise, the coyote will learn to wait until the person gives up. Inconsistent hazing will create an animal more resistant to hazing instead of reinforcing the notion that "people are scary."
4. Make sure to provide an escape route for the coyote. Do not corner the coyote or chase the animal in the direction of traffic or other people.
5. A group of coyotes should be hazed in the same manner as a single coyote. In a group, there will always be a dominant coyote who will respond first, and once he runs away, the others will follow.
6. Hazing efforts should be exaggerated at the beginning of a hazing program, but less effort will be needed as coyotes learn to avoid people and neighborhoods. Coyotes learn quickly, and their family members and pups will emulate their behavior, leading to a ripple effect throughout the local coyote population.
7. Certain levels of hazing must always be maintained so that coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits.

8. Obviously sick or injured coyotes should not be hazed by the general public. In these cases, police or animal control officers should be contacted.
9. People should never run from or ignore a coyote. Running from a coyote can initiate a chasing instinct, while ignoring a coyote creates habituation and negates the positive effects of hazing.
10. It is important to identify and remove possible coyote attractants in conjunction with hazing. Hazing will be less effective if food attractants are plentiful in a neighborhood.

Appendix C:

COYOTE YARD AUDIT CHECKLIST

(For homeowner use)

	OK	FIX	Ways to mitigate
FOOD			NEVER hand-feed or intentionally feed a coyote!
Pet Food			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
Water Sources			Remove water attractants (such as pet water bowls).
Bird Feeders			Remove bird feeders or clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.
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 barbeque 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.
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.
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.

We encourage you to take steps to eliminate attractants on your property in order 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.

REFERENCES

[Atlanta Coyote Project](#) (Atlanta, GA)

[City of Calabasas Coyote Management Plan](#) (Calabasas, CA)

[City of Isle of Palms Coyote Management Plan](#) (2018)

[Coyote Biology and Control in South Carolina](#) (2020)

[Guide to Living with Urban Coyotes](#) (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 2014)

[Impacts of Mesopredator Control on Conservation of Mesopredators and Their Prey](#) (2015)

[People or predators? Comparing habitat-dependent effects of hunting and large carnivores on the abundance of North America's top mesocarnivore](#) (2024)

[Solving Problems with Coyotes](#) (Humane Society of the United States, 2020)

[Town of Sullivan's Island Coyote Management Plan](#) (2014)

[Urban Coyote Research Project](#) (Chicago, IL)