



Animal Care Services

Living with Coyotes in Signal Hill

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

City of Signal Hill

City Council Meeting



Coyotes:

- **Species:** Canis Latrans (of the dog family), average 20- 40 pounds and looks similar to small German Shepherd).
- **Adaptable** to a variety of habitats (omnivorous: will eat almost anything), and primarily hunt and forage at night.
- **Frightened** of human beings and typically runs from conflict. Has coexisted in Long Beach habitats for many years.





Maintaining the Balance

- Animal Care Services turns to the **State and Federal Wildlife Agencies** for assistance but will always protect the health and safety of Signal Hill people and animals (1,673 wild or exotic animals impounded in 2010).
- **State Law:** healthy wildlife should be left alone (CCR 679.(f)(4). Feeding is also a form of harassment (CCR 251.1).
- **Trapping:** usually ineffective in urban and residential neighborhoods if attractants remain. Create an inhospitable environment or they will come back.

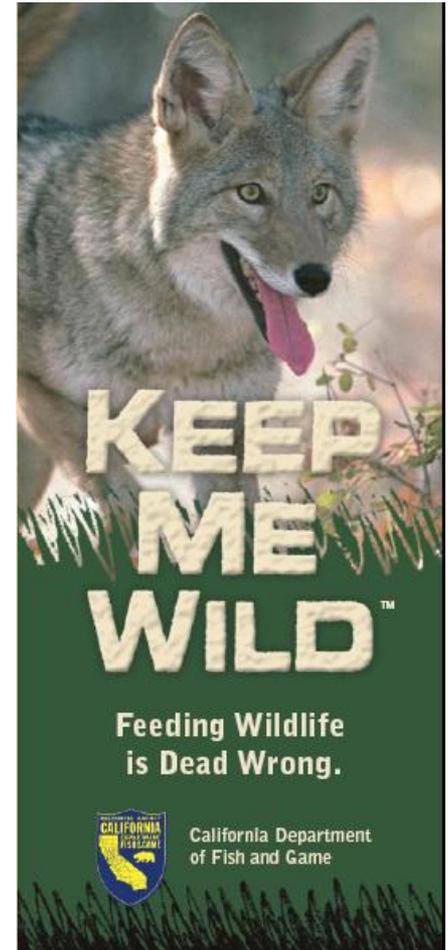


Responsible Agencies



Wildlife Oversight

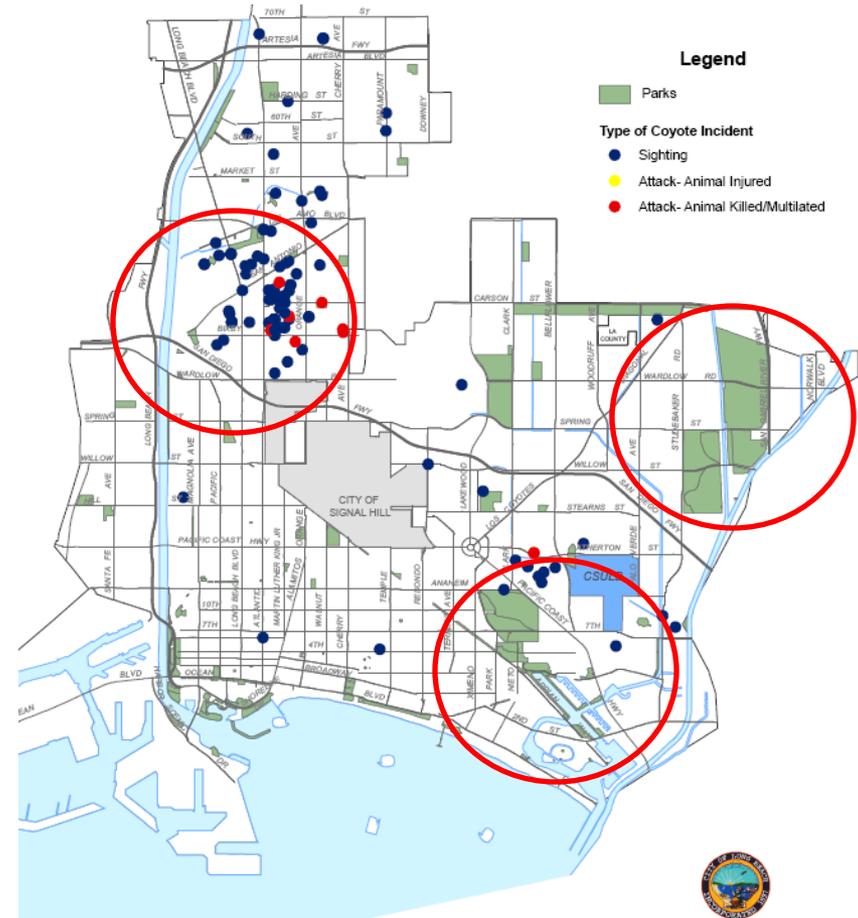
- **United States Department of Agriculture,**
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>
- **California State Department of Fish & Game (DFG)**
(562) 342-7100
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>
- **Animal Care Services Bureau**
(562) 570-PETS (7387)
www.longbeach.gov/acs





Regional Activity

- (10) year records of coyote presence in Long Beach. No record of coyote ever biting a human.
- 2000, 2001, 2005 & 2008 reported activity in Bixby Knolls, Bixby Village, Los Cerritos, El Dorado Park and Marine Stadium.
- Community education and prevention activities drove coyotes away in each location.





Coyote Threat Assessment

1. Increase in coyotes on streets and in yards at night
2. Increase in coyotes approaching adults and/or taking pets at night
3. Coyotes on streets, and in parks and yards, in early morning/late afternoon
4. **Coyotes chasing or taking pets in daytime**
5. **Coyotes attacking and taking pets on leash or near owners; chasing joggers, bicyclists, other adults**
6. **Coyotes seen in and around children's play areas, school grounds, and parks in midday**
7. **Coyotes acting aggressively towards adults in midday**

* *UC Davis, Pest Notes, Publication 74135, March 2007*





Animal Care Response

Animal Care Services will always respond to a public health or safety risk and work with partners to remove wildlife that:

- **Chase** or stalk walkers, joggers, bicyclists
- **Approach** humans or children's play areas in the midday
- **Bite** or attempt to bite people or other animals in the presence of human beings
- **Attack** pets on leash or in the arms of human beings.





Wildlife Watch Program

Developing an appropriate response begins with good information.

- **Phone:** call (562) 570-PETS
- **Email:** contact animalcare@longbeach.gov
- **Online:** report sightings 24-hours a day:
http://www.longbeach.gov/acs/urban_wildlife

Many resources about wildlife strategies including fliers, signs, repellents, and mapping of activity available online.





Removing Attractants

- **Food:** keep cats and small dogs (and pet food bowls) inside at night; pick-up dead fruit; secure trashcans. Smaller, domestic animals are a source of food.
- **Water:** cover pools, ponds and fix leaks or standing water.
- **Shelter:** trim trees and shrubs and cover all holes in deck, roof and fencing.
- **Behavior:** create a sense of fear in coyotes. Make loud noises and chase them away. Be aggressive.

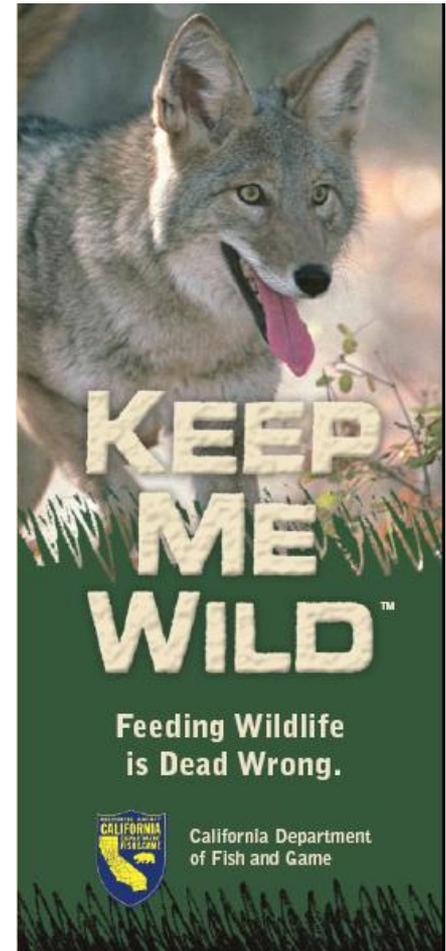


What Can I Do?



Engage and Educate Neighbors:

- **Remove** attractants and protect pets by keeping them inside at night (no roaming).
- **Inform** neighbors and distribute information
Download at: www.longbeach.gov/acs
- **Report** coyote activity online or by phone (24 hours a day at: [\(562\) 570-PETS \(7387\)](tel:5625707387))
- **Subscribe** to Animal Care Services listserv to receive updates by email at: animalcare@longbeach.gov.



Questions?



If we can't answer your question today, you can always contact us later. Or even better, come visit!

Animal Care Services Bureau
www.longbeach.gov/acs
(562) 570-PETS (7387)

