



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Jones and Members of the Board

FROM: Karen Proctor, Town Administrator

DATE: August 15, 2019

RE: Coyotes

DISCUSSION:

In January a resident voiced a concern about a pack of coyotes that appeared to have manged and possibly distemper and in the past couple months we have heard that a few dogs have been killed or injured by coyotes. Staff contacted other Cities and Towns in the area to see how they handle these coyote concerns. In addition, I spoke at length with Jay Stewart of Animal Damage Control (ADC).

Jay Stewart from ADC explained that one method would be to use cage traps to capture the coyotes. He stated that this method is the least effective and costly. In addition, this can cause some controversy with the animal advocates and therefore suggests the Town would need lots of documentation of the coyote sightings and issues. The most effective method would be leg-hold trapping. In order to trap coyotes, the Town would need to go through an extensive permitting process through the Division of Wildlife and the Health Department. To even be eligible for a permit, there must be documented aggression by a coyote against humans or livestock (commonly defined as domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce labor and commodities such as meat, eggs, milk, fur, leather, and wool).

Live (Cage) Trap/Euthanasia: Live traps are allowed without the need of an exemption permit. The offending coyote may not be relocated and must be euthanized as soon as possible after being trapped. Caution should always be used to make sure that domestic animals and/or children are not trapped. Signs must be posted and traps checked every three (3) hours to ensure public and domestic animal safety. If the non-target coyote is trapped, it may be released at the trap site and cannot be moved to another area for release. Care must be taken when releasing a non-target coyote from a life trap since the coyote may be frightened and may have been injured in this process. It is recommended and preferred that active traps are constantly monitored.

- Pros:
- Allowed without special application process.
 - Humane trap.
- Cons:
- Methods of euthanasia may create a dangerous situation.
 - Children or non-target animals can potentially be caught.
 - Non-target coyotes may be caught.
 - Expensive if following the recommendation that active traps are constantly monitored.

Leg-hold Trapping: If leg-hold trapping is recommended as a last resort, the Town would need to apply for a trapping exemption through Tri-County Health Department, and if the exemption is obtained, hire a private trapper to trap the offending coyote(s). Identification of the offending coyote should be done as part of the investigation performed by a law enforcement agency. The trapper will be required to post clear signage and employ public safety measures to notify the residents and landowners. All required permits/applications with the Tri-County Health Department will be on file in preparation of submitting to Tri-County in the event of an emergency situation. The offending coyote may not be relocated and must be euthanized as soon as possible after being trapped. Caution should always be used to make sure that domestic animals and/or children are not trapped. Signs must be posted and traps checked every three (3) hours to ensure public and domestic animal safety. It is recommended and preferred that active traps are constantly monitored.

- Pros:
- May be necessary if a human has been bitten by a coyote.
- Cons:
- Not selective for the offending coyote.
 - Non-target animals could be trapped.
 - Considered a method that is not humane and requires application and approval by the Colorado Department of Health and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.
 - Expense is potentially the highest option due to the number of days and trap visits that may be required.

The Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) states that “Coyotes are very difficult to catch in a live trap, but this may be an option available within the city limits. However, relocation is not an option, thus the coyote would have to be killed once captured. In the metro area, it may be possible to contract with a private trapper who has a CPW permit to help with euthanasia.

“CPW does not allow the relocation of coyotes for many reasons. Studies show coyote relocation is not effective and a relocated coyote will often travel (and can trek up to 300 linear

miles) back to their capture site (Gehrt, 2006). Relocation is stressful and unsuccessful for a coyote (chances are it will be moved to another coyote's territory) and can also pose a risk to personnel. Disease spread is also a consideration with wildlife relocation. Coyotes may be live trapped on private property but must be killed once captured. Trapping is a short-term fix; removing a coyote simply opens territory for other coyotes to move in. This practice is ongoing, costly, and ineffective. If you do not remove the attractants, you will not remove the problem."

The City of Centennial states, "Coyotes are a constant source of concern for our citizens within Centennial." In their website they provide educational material and their Coyote Management Plan. The City of Centennial's strategy is to educate their citizens to learn how to coexist with wildlife and only intervene when there has been evidence of violent attacks on people or livestock.

The first and ultimately best step is education and awareness. Elements of education and awareness include having information on the Town website and in the newsletters. The Town can utilize educational materials from organizations that are knowledgeable in the areas of coyote ecology and behavior. The best resource for obtaining this information is found on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website. The CPW website contains multiple brochures, flyers and Coyote information resources to protect pets, reduce Coyote conflicts in your neighborhood and instructions regarding human interactions.

ACTION:

In January, Staff posted information on the Town of Foxfield website along with a message encouraging residents to contact the Arapahoe County Sheriff's office if they see any aggression against humans or livestock. There have been no calls noted on the Sheriff's call list regarding coyotes. Staff will continue to try to put out information and educational materials regarding co-existing with coyotes and how to protect your pets.