

# Los Angeles County

Department Of

## Agricultural Commissioner / Weights & Measures

**Kurt E. Floren**

*Agricultural Commissioner / Director of Weights & Measures*



## Living with Urban Coyotes

**Elizabeth Bondy Ag/W&M Insp. II**



# Legal Status

## **COYOTES:**

- Considered “nongame” animals;  
Thus, no protections except animal abuse protections
- Illegal to relocate them;  
If trapped, must be euthanized - or - released on site
- No registered pesticides for use on coyotes;  
Illegal to poison / Can cause secondary poisoning
- Illegal to feed them (misdemeanor)

# Illegal to Feed Coyotes!

L.A. County Code of Ordinances, Title 10 ANIMALS

- Chapter 10.84 FEEDING OF CERTAIN PREDATOR ANIMALS
- 10.84.010 Providing food for certain rodents or predator animals prohibited
- A. Except as otherwise provided for herein, no person shall feed or in any manner provide food to a nondomesticated rodent or a nondomesticated mammalian predator.
- B. For purposes of this chapter:
  1. “Rodent” includes ground squirrel
  2. “Mammalian predators” includes coyote, raccoon, fox & opossum(Ord. 81-0029U § 1 (part), 1981)





# Coyote Legal Patchwork

## **Federal: USDA Wildlife Services**

- Does not operate in L.A. County

## **State: CA Department of Fish & Wildlife**

- Intervenes with any human bites
- Human bites must be reported to them

## **Local: L.A. County & Cities**

- L.A. County ACWM & Animal Care & Control  
are often called to respond to sightings
- Some Cities have Coyote Management Plans,  
appointing PD's &/or animal control  
to handle coyote conflicts

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

713 HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
974.1101



HARRY L. HUFFORD  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

October 7, 1981

ADOPTED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

*Planning*  
Daniels  
*Howell*

APPENDIX A

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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CHAIRMAN  
PETER F. SCHADARUM  
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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

114

OCT 13 1981

*James E. Wize*  
JAMES E. WIZE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

On September 1, 1981, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, the Board instructed this office, the Agricultural Commissioner and the Department of Animal Care and Control to review programs to control predatory animals in foothill areas, and identify actions that should be taken to protect the public. Also, at the October 6, 1981 Board meeting, Supervisor Hahn referenced a recent Los Angeles Times news story (copy attached) on coyote problems in urban areas and requested a report on this matter.

Background

Urban expansion into hillside areas has created an undesirable interface with predatory animals. Readily available household garbage, pet foods, and water have spawned great numbers of bold urban coyotes foraging in close contact with increasing numbers of hillside residents. As explained in the attached newspaper report, feeding of urban coyotes by residents has become a major problem because coyotes now appear to associate the human environment with food supplies.

During the past three years this situation has resulted in at least six attacks on humans, including the death of a three year old child. In addition to physical attacks on humans and small pets, coyotes also present a potential threat of spreading rabies and distemper.

The Departments of Agricultural Commissioner and Animal Care and Control have developed a three-pronged program to protect the public from future attacks. This program stresses public education and information, training staff from control agencies throughout the County on coyote management and direct suppression of offending animals in the unincorporated area.

# Bold Urban Coyotes

Aggressive/threatening behavior towards a person

Including: attacking, biting, scratching, lunging,  
charging, growling & stalking



# Bold Urban Coyotes

If a Bold Urban Coyote (BUC) is referred to ACWM and it is within our jurisdictional authority, we may:

- Interview residents and investigate interactions
- Attempt to identify the specific BUC
- Set a trap & trap the BUC – **IF** conditions permit
- Euthanize on site

Recall: No relocation allowed by law



# Exclusion of Coyotes

- High walls (angled out at top)
- Coyote rollers
- Dog runs
- Catio or other outdoor enclosures
- Especially exclude crawl spaces from Mar-May





# Sanitation (Food)

- Maintain fruit trees (remove fruit)
- Maintain bird feeders
- Make sure trash & compost is inaccessible
- Limit time that pet food & water is outside



# Sanitation (Habitat)

Expose bottom (1-3 ft) of dense vegetation  
or of low hanging trees  
to prevent hiding places





# Hazing

- **Make eye contact**
- **Make loud noises:**  
Clapping, snapping fingers, yelling, pots & pans, air horns, whistles, cans w/rocks or coins, garbage bags
- **Make self authoritative & big as possible,**  
waving arms, charging at coyote, chasing coyote out of sight
- **Throw objects at coyote; Spray w/hose**





# Extra Tips to Protect Dogs

- When walking dogs, carry a noisemaker
- Use a tight leash, NOT an extendable/retractable one
- If able, avoid coyote prime time from dusk to dawn
- If unable to exclude coyote from yards, supervise dog when outside



# Extra Tips to Protect Cats

- Feral Cats:

One of the top attractants to coyotes in L.A. County

- If feral cat population is unavoidable:

- Feed cats only during the day and at a set time—and pick up any leftovers immediately
- Provide escape routes for cats
- In treeless or open areas, erect "cat posts"—long pieces of wood (four inches by four inches or corner posts) that stand out of the ground at least ten to twelve feet. These can be climbed by cats but not by coyotes
- Elevate feeding stations beyond coyotes'—but not the cats'—reach

# Extra Tips to Protect People

- Supervise toddlers when outside
- Never run from a coyote
- If a coyote approaches you, treat the coyote like a bear (don't approach, don't run, make loud noises, slowly back away)
- Call 9-1-1 if a coyote or other wild animal attacks or threatens to attack a human



# Reporting Coyotes to ACWM

Reports can be made through our online form at  
<https://acwm.lacounty.gov/coyote-sighting-report/>

- Or

By calling: 626-575-5462

Most coyotes  
are not  
aggressive &  
we can coexist  
with them

### Statistics:

- 1 U.S. fatality from coyote attack in 1981  
(compared to dogs that cause ~30-50 deaths/year)
- Bites: Extremely high correlation w/feeding

Reported Coyote Bites On Humans  
In L.A. County

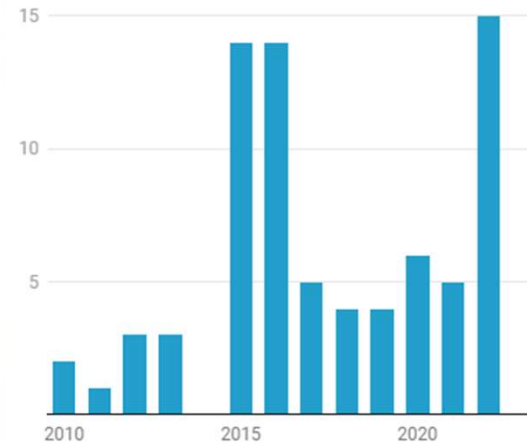


Chart: Caitlin Hernandez • Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

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### QUESTIONS?

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