

Coyotes

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Why are they here?

Predators

- They're here because red wolves aren't.
- Killing off Red Wolves created a vacuum
- No other large predators around, bears and cougars – a void in the food chain
- Coyotes are naturally expanding their range
- This won't stop



Why are they here in our neighborhoods

Food!

- Coyotes eat food scraps, fruit and veggies
- They will eat small prey – squirrels, small dogs, outside cats, chickens





Trapping and Killing

Control methods that don't fix the problem

- Trapping and euthanizing – puts pressure on the population and makes breeding pups increase
- Leg traps, poison and snares – these animals are dogs, meaning anything that hurts them will hurt a pet dog, cat, fox, racoon, bobcat, child. – non target species
- Shooting to kill – again pressures population to expand, dangerous in communities – could have mistaken identity – a loose pet dog

What can be done?

Control what we can – food sources

- Secure compost
- Secure trash
- Reinforce chicken coups
- Reinforce yard fencing for pets
- Don't leave small pets unattended or loose.
- Don't leave pet food outside
- Keep domestic pet cats indoors



What can be done?

Negative interactions-

- If a coyote seems to be acclimating and threatening, create negative interactions, yell, bang pots and pans, look intimidating to the coyote to scare it off.
- While on walks carry a can of rocks or an airhorn to use if you feel a coyote is too close or interested.
- Aggressive Coyotes should be reported.
- Don't try and befriend or feed coyotes, that will exacerbate aggression.





Conclusions

- Coyotes aren't going away
- Controlling through removal and killing will only encourage more breeding. Reporting and removing nuisance / aggressive coyotes should be done on a case by case basis.
- Controlling access food sources – trash, compost, pet food
- Protecting pets – don't let small pets loose or unattended, secure and predator proof chicken coops - should be done regardless for hawks, owls, racoons, possums etc.
- Paying for trapping and removal to get rid of Coyotes is an endless money pit, should be used for nuisance or aggressive coyotes on a case by case basis.

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