What is Being Done?

Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services works throughout the year to prevent and respond to instances of aggressive coyote behavior. Our approach to coyote control is multifaceted and includes:

✔ **Public Education** – Animal Services Officers are available to speak with residents one-on-one, either in-person or by telephone, as well as at club meetings and other gatherings. For more information, please call Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services at **(949) 497-0701** (Press 0) or email coyotes@lagunabeachcity.net.

✔ **Hazing** – Animal Services Officers use sound, visual, and tactile stimuli to frighten coyotes and discourage their presence in residential areas.

✔ **Habitat Management** – Animal Services Officers work closely with Laguna Woods Village and other private properties to eliminate “layups,” dens, and other areas where coyotes might hide, lurk, rest, or breed.

✔ **Trapping** – Trapping and other methods of population control are employed as conditions warrant. Research shows that there is a fine line between effective and ineffective population control efforts. While targeted trapping can be effective in disrupting aggressive behavior, it is not undertaken, nor would it be successful, as a strategy for reducing long-term populations. Coyotes also learn to avoid and manipulate traps over-time, causing continual trapping to be both impractical and ineffective.

**MYTH:** Coyotes can be completely eradicated – It is not possible to eradicate all coyotes due to their breeding and territorial patterns, nor would it be wise given ecosystem implications. Research shows that, often times, when coyotes are aggressively eradicated, their reproductive rates increase, with breeding occurring earlier and in greater numbers.

**MYTH:** Coyotes can be controlled by poison or sterilization – It is generally illegal to use poisons or toxicants to control coyotes. Similarly, there is no practical and, perhaps, lawful, sterilization practice.

**MYTH:** Coyotes can be relocated – Trapped coyotes must be destroyed as relocation is generally illegal and would, in any case, involve an unacceptable level of risk and liability.

*Our efforts are only as effective as residents are vigilant.* Please do your part and follow the laws and recommendations described on the back of this flyer.
What Can Individuals Do?

✔ **OBEY LEASH LAWS** – Keep your dog on a leash when outdoors. Allowing dogs to be off-leash for even “just a moment” (e.g., while bringing in the mail, unloading groceries, or at the end of a walk) greatly increases the risk of a coyote attack. When returning home from a walk, do not remove your dog’s leash until you are inside with the door securely closed behind you. **Allowing dogs to be outdoors without a leash is illegal and carries fines and penalties!** (Laguna Woods Municipal Code §5.14.010)

Walk your dog using a leash of six feet or less. The greater the distance between you and your dog, the more likely a coyote is to attack. **Walking dogs using a leash longer than six feet in length is illegal and carries fines and penalties!** (Laguna Woods Municipal Code §5.14.010)

✔ **WHEN YOU WALK, WALK SAFELY** – Walk your dog in groups, whenever possible, and carry a whistle, air horn, or other noisemaker to startle any coyotes you encounter. In addition, stand tall, shout, flail your arms in a defiant manner, and throw rocks or other small objects.

✔ **KEEP CATS INDOORS** – Free-roaming cats are easy prey for coyotes, no matter the size or breed. Keep your cat inside your home to ensure its safety and avoid emboldening coyotes.

✔ **KEEP PET FOOD AND WATER BOWLS INDOORS** – Especially with the drought resulting in drier creeks and streams, pet bowls are convenient sources of food and water for coyotes. Keep pet bowls indoors at all times. Doing so has the added benefit of enhancing your pet’s safety while eating and drinking.

✔ **DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE** – Though often times well intentioned, feeding wildlife draws coyotes closer to populated areas where they can lose their natural fear and caution, making them a threat to both people and pets. **Feeding wildlife is illegal and carries fines and penalties!** (Laguna Woods Municipal Code §5.20.070)

✔ **PICK-UP FALLEN FRUIT** – Fruit trees are grown in many areas of Laguna Woods. Coyotes are omnivores, which means that they eat both meat and vegetation. Pick up fallen fruit, and remove fruit hanging within three feet of the ground, to prevent fruit trees from becoming sources of food for coyotes.

✔ **REPORT AGGRESSIVE COYOTE BEHAVIOR** – Too often, residents fail to report encounters with aggressive coyotes or make their reports to entities other than Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services. As your animal control provider, we are only able to act on reports that we actually receive.

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If you encounter a coyote exhibiting aggressive behavior, off-leash dogs, or feeding of wildlife, please call Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services **(949) 497-0701** (Press 0)