

10TH REPORT OF THE
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on October 6, 2016, commencing at 5:07 PM, in Committee Room #3, Second Floor, London City Hall.

PRESENT: W. Brown (Chair), K. Ashe, H. de Hoog, M. Gelinas, V. Lightfoot, E. Nicholas, M. Toplack and D. Simpson and J. Martin (Secretary).

ABSENT: P. Lystar, P. Newbould, A. Parsons, M. Puzanov and J. Sukhdeo.

ALSO PRESENT: D. Clarke and J. MacKay.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

2. Urban Wildlife Conflict Resolution Strategies for Communities

That it BE NOTED that the attached presentation from L. Sampson, Founding Director, Coyote Watch Canada with respect to Urban Wildlife Conflict Resolution Strategies for Communities, was received; it being noted that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) deferred discussion with respect to this matter to a future meeting of the AWAC.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

3. 9th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 9th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on September 1, 2016, was received.

4. Municipal Council Resolution - 8th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held August 30, 2016 with respect to the 8th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, was received.

5. Letter of Resignation - K. MacIntosh

That it BE NOTED that a communication dated September 6, 2016 from K. MacIntosh with respect to her resignation from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, was received.

6. Education/Outreach Joint Discussion of Advisory Committee Update

That it BE NOTED that a communication from M. Gelinas, with respect to an update from the Education/Outreach Joint Discussion of Advisory Committees, held on September 21, 2016, was received.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

7. Wildlife Sub-Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received a verbal update from W. Brown, on behalf of the AWAC Wildlife Sub-Committee.

8. Companion Animals Sub-Committee

None.

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

None.

VI. DEFERRED MATTERS/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 3, 2016

Fostering Healthy Communities



Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy

"The City of London Strategic Plan stresses the importance of a caring and compassionate public services. Referenced in the plan is the Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy which is the corner stone for the compassionate care of wildlife in our community."

The official website of the City of London



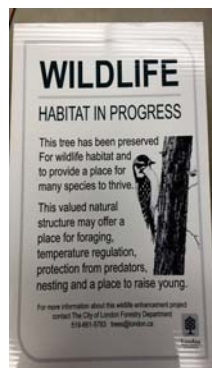
Tree Trimming Protocols



Bird Friendly Development Guidelines



Public Education and Environmental Stewardship



So what is co-flourishing?

Co-flourishing is a loving step up from co-existence. Co-existence implies just tolerating each other. Co-flourishing incorporates love and respect for everything and everyone.

Co-flourishing is win-win-win.



HISTORICAL ORIGINS FOR SOCIAL ATTITUDES



NATIVE MYTHOLOGY



TERMINOLOGY



Canids in the Community



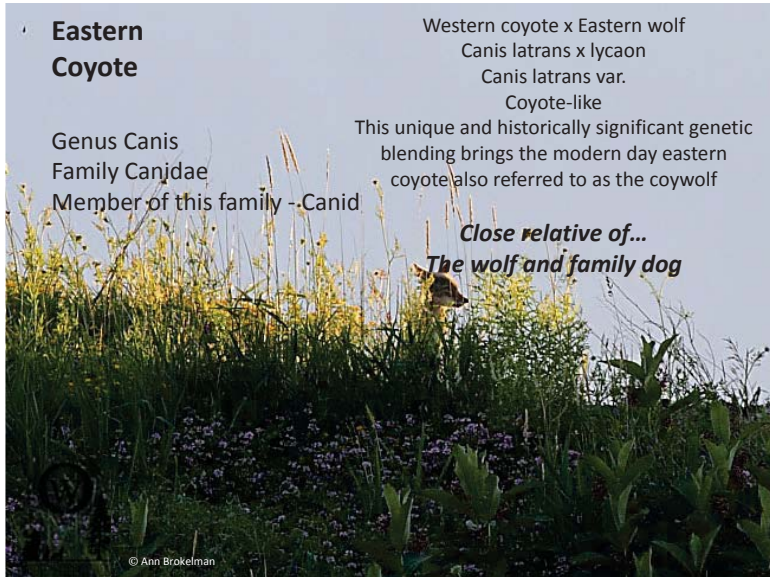
Eastern Coyote

Western coyote x Eastern wolf
Canis latrans x lycaon
Canis latrans var.
Coyote-like

Genus Canis
Family Canidae
Member of this family --Canid

This unique and historically significant genetic blending brings the modern day eastern coyote also referred to as the coywolf

*Close relative of...
The wolf and family dog*



COYOTE SIGNS

- We may see a coyote during the day or evening time
- Coyotes are active all year around
- We may hear a vocalization
- Coyotes leave paw prints behind called tracks.
- They also mark their territory by leaving behind other signs just like our pet dogs



Marking Territory With Flex Leg Urination



COYOTE SCAT





Fig. 2. Footprints of canid predators

COYOTE TRACK



- Coyotes are capable of breeding within the first year
- Gestation for the female is 62-63 days
- By nature, coyotes are fossorial denning under tree roots, mounds of earth
- Coyotes often have alternative den sites within their home territory
- Diurnal activity (often dusk and dawn) dependent on the habitat
- In stable territories, the alpha pair may have litters of between two to ten pups with an average of six

ECOLOGY

- Coyotes co-parent and share in the pup rearing duties
- Males will bring food back to the den for the nursing mother
- Coyote parents regurgitate food for the pups
- Pups are fully weaned around six weeks of age
- It is not uncommon for older siblings from previous litters, aunts or uncles to help with pup rearing
- Parents to teach pups appropriate survival skills
- Coyotes communicate by vocalizing



- Coyote pairs mate for life when left to thrive
- Both parents share the pup rearing responsibilities
- Coyotes defend their territory from outsiders
- Removing a coyote opens the land for another to move in
- Removing the attractants and educating citizens is a better option



Eastern Coyote Pair courtesy of Ann Brothman | coyote-watch.ca/canada.com

PAWS

Preservation

Awareness

Wildlife

Safety



HOTSPOTS

- Direct human feeding trails, parks, hydro corridors, backyard,
- Industrial parks, cemetery, travel stops (food/shelter)
- Bird feeders
- Dog walking locations *leash free park
- Improper garbage handling (containers)
- Construction sites (lunches)
- Outdoor pet feeding, *feral cat colony best practices
- Road kill management
- Rural lands - improper dead stock removal
- baiting coyotes, hunting



Hotspot Investigation

* Issues of rats due to infrastructure taking place wildlife is dispersed hence a potential for influx.

Observations and summary brief of our investigation:

- Fence repairs
- Fecal matter from domestic dogs attracts rodents, birds of prey, predators
- Garbage bin handling by residents varies from household to household.
- Anthropogenic food items in the landscape.
- Residents witness a neighbour feeding a coyote and other wildlife.
- BBQ clean-up (incl. trays)
- Bird feeders overflowing or poorly maintained major attractant
- Outdoor feeding of dogs and/or cats will attract animals to the food also drawing coyotes closer to dwellings.



Opportunistic Omnivores

- Adaptive, intelligent hunters and foragers
- Excellent sense of smell and hearing
- Diverse diet of small mammals, fruit, amphibians, insects, carrion, ungulate, and may prey on domestic pets and livestock
- Coyotes play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems



© Ann Brokelman

Coyotes are intelligent, capable hunters and forage for available foods.

They are excellent "mousers".
Over 80% rodents!

Diet: fruits, carrion, small mammals, grasshoppers, goose eggs



Resilient, Curious and Creative
Hunters and Foragers



Mother Nature's Clean-Up Crew



Alpha Is Everything



Mate For Life
Devoted Parents
Diligent
Territorial
Curious
Co-Parent Pup Rearing Duties
Vocal Communication
Older Siblings Aunts & Uncles

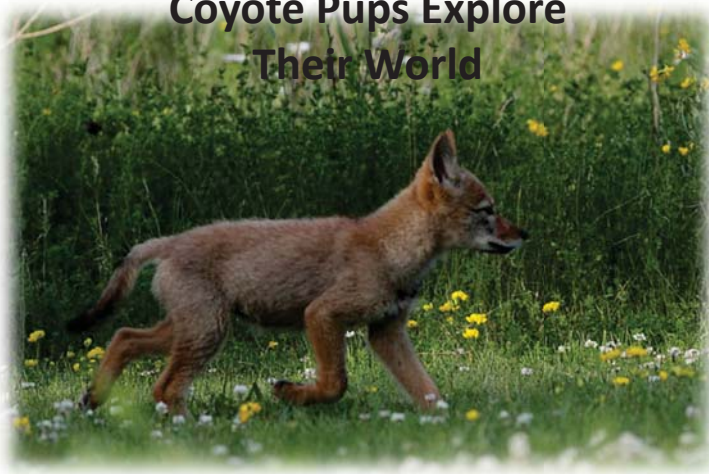


05/22/2013

Coyote Intelligence: Song dog parents encourage essential play activities between their young pups by bringing trinkets that consist of natural by-products such as feathers and bones. Sometimes they "borrow" toys from their domestic cousins such as balls and stuffy toys. Golf balls, fishing bobs and lures are common findings at coyote family dens and rendezvous sites.



Coyote Pups Explore Their World



- People mistake sightings like this photo for abandonment or a pup in need
- Coyotes are devoted and diligent parents
- Encounters with domestic dogs, people feeding pups and increased outdoor activities puts coyote families and dogs at risk





Humane Wildlife Strategy Framework

Co-flourishing In Your Community

- Living With Coyotes Program
- Non-Lethal Action Plan
- Partnerships
- Multi-Disciplinary Approach
- Compassionate Conservation
- Citizen Science
- First Response
- Rehabilitation
- Media alerts



Municipal Strategy Framework: Four Cornerstone Approach

Investigation

Education

Enforcement

Prevention



Coyotes are the best "eco-thermometer"

Living With Coyotes Model

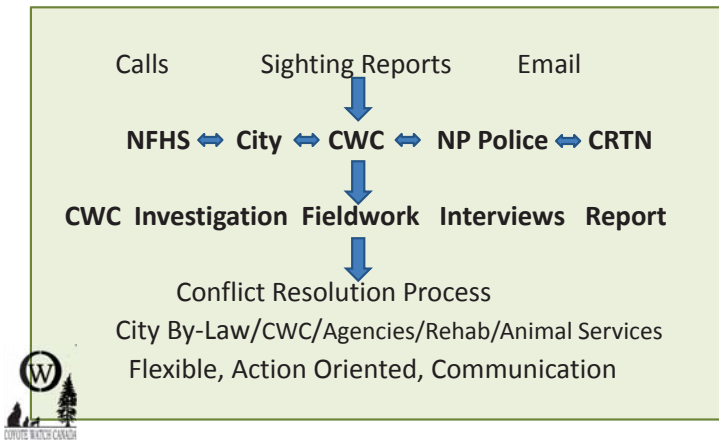
- PAWS and High Five For Safety
- Interactive website reporting system
- Reports shared between city and CWC
- Coyote Response Team Niagara
- Mapping & recording of sightings
- Coyote Hotline Number 905-931-2610
- Public Liaisons
- Municipal Coyote Strategy Framework

Identify By-Laws and Stakeholders

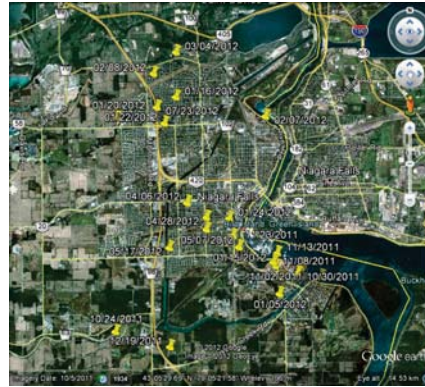
- Coyote Feeding By-Law 2011-37
- Property Standards by-law
- Leash & poop and scoop by-law
- Refuge companies
- District School Boards
- 'Nature' literacy organizations for newcomers
- Humane wildlife removal companies
- *Skedaddle (one of our partners)



Hierarchy For Action



Coyote Sighting Reports: Recording & Mapping



- Tool for Coyote Response Team
- Provides research foundation
- Monitoring city at a glance
- Assess level of community outreach needed
- Vital snapshot about coyote ecology & seasonal changes
- Connecting data & citizen science empowers the public
- Measurable outcomes for the Living With Coyote Program
- Safety & prevention support
- Location for training staff and/or volunteers
- Dispatch hazing crews to "hotspots"

URBAN NAVIGATORS

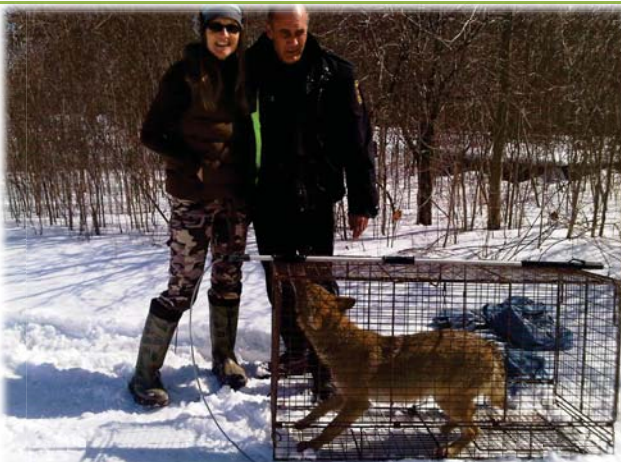
- Coyote parents teach pups how to safely navigate cityscapes
- Alpha 'Gus' taught his five young pups how to cross a very busy road.
- Wildlife, including coyotes (transient and in established territories) take advantage of railway beds, hydro corridors, and old roadways to travel
- Infrastructure changes, fencing, loss of habitat can impact movement patterns



CWC MUNICIPAL RESOURCES



Coyote Response Team in Action: Rescue & Release



Hazing Locations and Community Outreach

- Identify, mitigate, provide on-site fieldwork
- Key issues for infrastructure
- Policy development for wildlife/residents
- Public education
- Strategies that promote wildlife resiliency
- Provide print resources for residents and staff
 - Hazing, co-existing with wildlife, *door hangers
 - signage designs, posters, wildlife proofing
- *Door hanger design to meet community needs



Helping Our Wild Neighbours



Hazing 101

- Hazing is not a new technique
- Hazing (or aversion conditioning) is a method of negative association that safely compels wild canines to move away from humans, and may incorporate deterrents
- Restore a coyote's instinctual avoidance of humans and minimize encounters
- Hazing techniques are lifelong tools
- Communities that employ basic hazing experience measurable results while educating and empowering citizens
- *Each coyote has a different "food education"
- Human indifference is not an appropriate response
- *Remember that hazing is one of the tools in the toolkit for communities and must be used as part of an overall wildlife coexistence program



To haze or not...

- Lingering too long in residential areas
- Parking lots
- *Parks, trails where feeding occurs



- Coyotes do their best to maintain a safe distance or cautious proximity tolerance to people and pets
- Encounters that turn to conflict are often due to dogs off leash or human feeding
- Coyotes must hunt, defend their territory, raise their young expending energy
- Do not allow a domestic dog to chase, harass or disturb den sites
- Coyotes present in natural spaces must be left alone
- This location is a rendezvous site where the alpha pair rested
- Hazing them would be an inappropriate response

High Five For Safety

STOP pick up small children/pets

STAND STILL

SHOUT & wave your arms above the head

SLOWLY back away

SHARE the experience



***NEVER** turn your back and run from any canine

TOOLS FOR HAZING

- Your voice – LOUD & Assertive
- Waving arms high above the head
- Whistle
- Projectiles - Natural products- sticks, rocks
- Never throw 'at' wildlife



- Seasonal- Water hose or water gun
- Shake can filled with coins
- Umbrella *POP IT!*
- Large garbage bag- *SNAP IT!*



- Training Hazing Crews
- Be Wildlife Smart!
- PREVENTION WORKS!



COYOTE PARENTS And FAMILY PETS

- Coyote and fox parents are protective and caring and do not tolerate perceived threats to their young such as a domestic dog off leash
- Spring is a busy time for all wildlife families
- As pups become more independent, both parents may venture off to hunt leaving the pups behind near the den area or at safe and secure rendezvous site
- Please reconsider removing pups from wild spaces as you may very well be tearing a family apart
- Use common sense, respect wild neighbour's and report the feeding of wildlife



Hazing Coyotes and People With Dogs

- Preventing conflicts is easy
- Leashing companion pets is simple
- Coyotes that shadow or escort a dog walker
- Never run/turn your back, calmly leave the area
- Awareness about seasonal behaviour
- Report by-law infractions



PUPS IN THE DEN



Our Lethal History With Carnivores

- Permanent removal
- Small Game License
- Trapping, hounding, baiting
- No "bag limit"

- No accountability for coyotes killed
- "Nuisance or dangerous" labels
- Lethal actions are not solutions
- Killing does not address the real issues
- Uninformed communities- compassion now leads the way



Nature Literacy Fosters Non-Lethal

- Conflict to celebration
- Education & prevention replaces public fear, intolerance and killing
- Long term success can be measured
- Educate. Engage. Empower.

Building Coyote Connections

- Compassion-linked curriculum
- Multi-disciplinary approach arts, science, music
- Law enforcement skill development
- Understanding how human behaviour influences coyote behaviour – feeding, leash, persecution
- Media reports applying thoughtful journalism
- Opportunities that foster curiosity, exploration
- Preserving wild spaces
- Language and context

Gus and Shy



Gus and Shy's Family



Compassionate Coyote Connections

- Community safety first.
- Removing a coyote family creates a cascade effect
- Indiscriminate placement, non-target species
- Farming In Harmony- Carnivores
- Sound husbandry practices for livestock
- Sustainable Farming- Environment, habitat

Promote Preservation in Policy Development

- Wildlife proof natural scapes (signs, bins, p/u)
- Revisit and revise by-laws
- Do not allow the baiting of wildlife
- Never feed wildlife – report hotspots to City Staff Animal Control
- Connect with local council, nature groups
- Honour the sacred web of life
- The wildness of the canids

*In the spirit of preservation, walk with a
compassionate heart and mind*

**Our reality about nature is not
nature's reality...
Live and let live.**





Compassion, curiosity
and kindness... is
nurtured by engaging
in nature.



THANK YOU!

CWC Representatives
Agency Partners
City of Niagara Falls
Artists
Photographers
Bear With Us
Earthroots
Wolf Awareness Inc.
Ann Brokelman
Jacqueline Milner
City of London

Contact Us

coyotewatchcanada@gmail.com

www.coyotewatchcanada.com

Hotline Number (905) 931-2610

www.niagarafalls.ca/coyote/



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