**14 Coyote Police Incidents in 2014 – scattered throughout City**

*Estimated between 30-35 coyote in SLP*
Coyote Management

- Things you can do before even seeing a coyote
- How to identify coyotes
- Brief overview of coyote behavior
- Hazing tools and techniques
- Conclusion
Before you see a Coyote:

- Clean up fallen fruit from trees/bushes
- Secure trash cans, compost heaps & garbage
Before you see a Coyote:

- Landscape/property management
- Fences – coyote rollers, fence extensions
Before You See a Coyote:

- Landscape/property management
- Minimize hiding spots and attractants on your property or at least be aware of them
Before You See a Coyote:

- Secure foundations of buildings and decks. These provide ideal shelter and denning locations for both fox & coyote.
Before You See a Coyote:

- Never leave pets out unsupervised
- Cats are safest in the house
- Do not feed pets outside
- Clean up around bird feeders
Coyote Identification

- A coyote is:
- A Coyote is not:
Coyote Identification

- At a distance there can be some confusion between fox and coyote, but there are some distinct differences:
  - **Coyotes are larger** – they come up to about your knee or a little higher
  - **Fox are smaller** – below your knee, Grey fox are shorter than Red fox
Coyote Identification
Coyote Identification

- Coyotes are also different colors:

- As are Fox:
And there are 2 different kinds of fox!

Red:

And Grey:
Coyote Identification

- Coyote Face
- Fox Face
Coyote Behavior

- Why do Coyotes like St. Louis Park?
  - They are attracted to the food, shelter and water available in St. Louis Park
  - They enjoy a lack of competition for these resources
  - They are top dog here and have no threats to worry about
Coyote Behavior

- Although coyotes are carnivores, they are opportunistic and eat almost anything, including vegetables, plants and bugs!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diet Item</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rodents</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-tailed Deer</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cottontail</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird Species</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invertebrates</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human-associated</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskrat</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Cat</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Based on the contents of 1,429 scats collected during 2000-2002. Some scats contained multiple items, therefore the percentages exceed 100%
Coyotes are also vulnerable to a variety of diseases, including parvo enteritis, mange, distemper and rabies. Heartworms afflict coyotes in areas, as do other internal parasites. Coyotes are considered to be old at 10 to 12 years of age.
Coyote Behavior

- Coyotes are very opportunistic feeders – whatever is available and easiest to obtain is what’s on the menu (*not just other wild animals!*)
  - Pet food
  - Compost waste
  - Feed sites (Bird Only) – DON’T FEED WILDLIFE; **City of SLP ordinance**
  - Unattended pets – they look like prey to Coyotes
Coyote Behavior

- **Shelter** – Coyote find shelter in anything from low brush to culverts to dens dug underneath decks, sheds and other out buildings.
Coyote Behavior

- **Water** – landscape water features, swimming pools, natural ponds and streams all provide water sources. Be aware of what sources they may be accessing near your homes.
Coyote Behavior

- A Coyote’s year is broken down into 4 “seasons”:
  - **Breeding/Mating Season** – Dec – Mar
  - **Denning Season** – Mar – May
  - **Rearing Season** – May – Sept
  - **Dispersal Season** – Sept - Dec

- Coyote behavior changes with these “seasons”
Breeding/Mating Season - Mid-December through mid-March

During this time Coyotes become more socially aggressive:
- Defending against potential mating challengers. Tend to mate for life...
- Become more territorial – defending hunting and breeding areas against threats (i.e. other Coyotes and large dogs).
- Litter size dependent upon population density
Coyote Behavior

- **Denning Season** - Mid-March through mid-May
  - During this time coyotes spend more time providing for the pups:
    - Coyotes are less vocal during this time.
    - Territorial behavior focuses on the "core" areas around the den and less around the perimeters.
Coyote Behavior

- **Rearing Season** - Mid-May through mid-September
- As the pups get bigger and more independent:
  - Territorial behavior still focuses on the den area and less on the outer parts of the territory.
  - Hunting and movement activity is more concentrated in night or dawn/dusk hours.
Coyote Behavior

- **Dispersal Season** - Mid-September through mid-December
  - Young adults begin to disperse, searching for their own territories:
    - With more young adults looking for new home territories, sightings of Coyotes increase.
    - Territorial behavior relaxes among established individuals and family units.
When You See a Coyote

- Make sure you:
  - NEVER run from a Coyote
    - This teaches the Coyote that it wins!
    - It is likely to invoke a “Chase” reflex
    - Coyotes can run up to 40 mph, can you?

- Get the Coyote’s attention
  - You want to make sure it knows YOU are the reason it is scared and is running away

- Ensure the coyote:
  - Is able to run away (i.e. not sick/injured)
  - Has a place/direction to run (i.e. not cornered)
  - If the Coyote can’t run away, hazing will not be effective
Why Not Just Kill or Remove Them?

- You will never kill/remove 100% of the coyotes
- Will trigger biological rebound response
- New coyotes will move into vacated territories

Only Effective Methods:
- Poison – Only legal for Federal Agents
- Traps –
  - Very low rate of capture
  - Time & labor intensive = Expensive
  - Illegal by ordinance
  - Risk of capturing “non-target” animals - pets
Why Not Just Kill or Remove Them?

- **Shooting**
  - Danger of collateral damage
  - Illegal by ordinance
  - Extremely limited areas safe for firearms
    - Coyotes will learn areas and simply avoid them
    - Can’t create more safe shooting lanes
Why Haze Coyotes?

- Removal (Lethal) Methods don’t work
- Problems with coyotes arise when resident coyote populations become accustomed to human activity and are no longer scared of humans
- Hazing reestablishes and reinforces the fear of humans and breaks the cycle of conflict
- Hazing puts you in control of the situation.
Why Haze Coyotes?

- Whenever we see wildlife, we have 3 options:
  - Actively entice it closer
  - Do nothing – ignore it or simply watch it pass by
  - Active discourage it or chase it away
- The first 2 options present no negative consequence and teach wildlife we are not a threat.
- Hazing provides that negative consequence and teaches Coyotes to be afraid of us.
Why Haze Coyotes?

- No other method provides the long term results that Hazing does.
- Hazing can be done immediately – no wait time for Police or another service to address the situation.
- Hazing is free.
- Hazing presents no potential for collateral damage.
- Hazing is legal for everyone to do.
Hazing Coyotes

- What does this coyote think of the spectators?
- Not much!
- Why?
Hazing Coyotes

- For hazing to be effective, you must get the coyote’s attention. The coyote needs to understand you are what it is scared of & running away from.
Hazing Coyotes: Tools of the Trade

- Voice
- Body
- Noise Makers
- Air Horns
- Cans with pennies, rocks or old batteries in them
Hazing Coyotes: Tools of the Trade

- Whistles
- Water hoses (when weather permits)
- Squirt guns
- Pots & pans
Hazing: Got the Tools, Now What?

- **When do I haze a Coyote?**
  - Any time, EVERY time you see a Coyote

- **How do I haze a Coyote?**
  - Start with yelling and waving your arms
  - If that doesn’t work, escalate your efforts
    - Use shaker cans, noise makers, throw things
    - Run towards the Coyote
  - Get another person to help, if available
Hazing: Got the Tools, Now What?

- **Things to expect:**
  - The Coyote will not run away immediately.
  - The Coyote may only run a few feet or yards and then turn around and look at you. It’s checking to see if the threat is real.
  - Initially, you will need to use the most aggressive methods to haze.
  - The Coyote may return after the initial hazing.
## Hazing: Do’s & Don’ts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Do</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get the Coyote’s attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get between the Coyote &amp; any children or pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue hazing until the Coyote has left the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a variety of methods</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Don’t</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haze obviously sick or injured Coyotes or Coyotes with no escape path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haze from inside a house, car or behind cover. Be in full view!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haze “pre-emptively”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow the Coyote to stay in the area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Hazing: Final Tips

- Be aggressive
- Use a variety of techniques and tools
- Don’t be afraid
- Be diligent
If you need assistance, do not hesitate to call
- Emergency situation – 911
- Non-Emergency – 952-924-2618
  - Explain situation
  - Ask for Animal Control to respond
Hazing Coyotes: Links to Other Sources

- Videos
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKhP7tt3ZfU
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5lFe0S2WhE

- Print Information:
  - http://urbancoyoteresearch.com/
  - http://www.humanesociety.org/
  - http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/coyotes/index.html
  - http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/wild_neighbors/coyote_mgmt_plan_co.pdf
Conclusion

- Coyotes are not looking to hunt & eat you!
- Coyotes only present problems if we allow them to
- Coyotes perform many pest removal services
- You can control most every encounter