

# Town of Bow Mar Coyote Management Policy

## Introduction

Coyotes are an integral part of Colorado's ecosystem, including in the Town of Bow Mar. As a highly adaptable species, they play a vital role in controlling rodent and small mammal populations. However, urban environments can lead to increased human-coyote interactions, which may cause safety concerns. Based on recommendations received from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (“CDOW”), this plan emphasizes cohabitation with coyotes while addressing potential risks to residents, pets, and property through education, prevention, and incident response.

## Goals and Objectives

1. **Promote Safe Coexistence:** Educate the community about coyote behavior and the importance of cohabitation.
  2. **Minimize Conflicts:** Implement strategies to reduce attractants and manage interactions.
  3. **Incident Reporting and Response:** Establish a clear protocol for reporting and addressing incidents of coyote aggression or unusual behavior.
  4. **Collaboration with Authorities:** Partner with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (“CDOW”) for guidance and support.
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## Section 1: Education and Awareness

### Community Outreach

- **Printed and Digital Materials:** Distribute information through digital media, signs, and provide town website content outlining practical steps to avoid conflicts with coyotes.

### Key Educational Messages

- **Prevent Attractants:**
  - Secure garbage bins with lids and store them in enclosed areas when not in use.
  - Do not leave pet food, birdseed, or fallen fruit outside.
  - Remove brush piles and other potential denning sites near homes.
- **Pet Safety:**
  - Keep pets on a leash during walks.
  - Supervise pets in yards, especially during dawn and dusk.

- **Behavioral Understanding:**
    - Coyotes are naturally wary of humans but may lose fear if food-conditioned.
    - Use hazing techniques, such as making loud noises or waving arms, to deter coyotes.
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## **Section 2: Conflict Prevention**

### **Habitat Management**

- Collaborate with residents to promote landscaping that minimizes hiding spots and den opportunities.
- Maintain open spaces and trails in a manner that discourages coyote encroachment.

### **Enforcing Guidelines**

- Consider the adoption of and enforce ordinances that prohibit the feeding of coyotes or other wildlife.
  - Issue reminders during seasons when coyote activity is more visible, such as mating and pup-rearing periods.
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## **Section 3: Incident Reporting and Response**

### **Incident Reporting**

Residents are encouraged to report the following to the Town of Bow Mar and the CDOW:

- **Aggressive Behavior:** Coyotes acting unusually bold or attacking pets.
- **Denning in Residential Areas:** Coyotes establishing dens close to human activity.

Reports can be submitted through the following:

- **CDOW Hotline:** Residents may report coyote sightings to CDOW at (303) 291-7227

### **Incident Response Protocol**

- **Initial Assessment:** Town officials, in consultation with CDOW, will evaluate reports to determine the severity and risk level of the incident.
- **Education and Intervention:** For non-threatening incidents, provide residents with educational resources and guidance on deterrence.
- **Targeted Actions:**

- If a coyote exhibits aggressive or unusual behavior, work with CDOW to assess the need for trapping or relocation.
  - For repeated aggressive incidents, lethal control measures may be considered. However, according to CDOW, removing a coyote creates a territorial void that will quickly be filled by another.
  - **Follow-Up:** Ensure proper communication with the reporting party and provide updates when possible on the resolution.
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#### **Section 4: Collaboration with Colorado Division of Wildlife**

- **Incident Reporting:** Maintain an open line of communication with CDOW for all reports of aggressive or unusual coyote behavior.
  - **Guidance and Support:** Request assistance from CDOW in developing or refining management strategies.
  - **Joint Actions:** Coordinate on response efforts, including public messaging and, when necessary, wildlife intervention.
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#### **Conclusion**

The Town of Bow Mar's Coyote Management Plan prioritizes coexistence while ensuring public safety. Through education, prevention, and collaboration, Bow Mar aims to successfully live alongside its coyote population.