



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: November 19, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Juanita Jackson/854-4467

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Sherri E. Fleming,
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request from the Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Department To Print 5,000 Copies of the Urban Coyote Brochure

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

See attached

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of this item.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

See attached

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

See attached

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Leslie Browder, County Executive, Planning and Budget Office
Cyd Grimes, CPM, Travis County Purchasing Agent
Nicki Riley, CAP, CMA, Travis County Auditor
Patty Lennon, Financial Analyst, Travis County Auditor's Office
Aerin Toussaint, Analyst, Planning and Budget Office
Sherri Fleming, County Executive, HHSVS

Where We Are

Coyote sightings near greenbelts in Travis County are increasing as the adaptable animals discover that an urban environment provides many sources of food.

Coyotes have adjusted to the human population expansion of Travis County, and have already dispersed into the developed urban landscape where they tend to thrive.

As humans expand their living areas and coyotes expand their range, contact is inevitable.

This brochure provides information about what you can do to stay safe, help avoid coyote-human/pet conflicts and work with agencies to address the problems associated with urban coyotes.

While the coyote problem isn't going away, it can be managed and mitigated.



More Information

- Call 3-1-1

austin **3-1-1**

Your All Day, Any Day, Info Center

- Web Resources

USDA Pamphlet –
Coyotes in Towns and Suburbs
<http://go.usa.gov/Dzyj>

Texas Agrilife Extension's
Coyote Resources
<http://goo.gl/SaAVeQ>

Request an educational program
for your community: (512) 854-2994.



LIVING WITH
**URBAN
COYOTES**
IN AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY

What to do, who to call

Abundant Food

Coyotes have succeeded in the urban environment largely because of their varied behavior and diet.

Urban coyotes have access to rodents, rabbits, fruit, insects, carrion, household garbage, compost piles, pets, pet food, and water from ponds and landscape irrigation runoff.

Lush home landscapes and greenbelts within urban areas attract food for coyotes and give coyotes space to move around. Coyotes will also prey on domestic livestock and poultry, deer and other urban wildlife.

Some people intentionally, or in many cases unintentionally, feed coyotes.

No Fear

The most serious problem with the urbanization of coyotes is that they adapt to being around people. As they lose their fear, coyotes become bolder in approaching people and may put themselves in hazardous situations they would normally avoid.

Coyotes are active mainly during the nighttime, but they can be moving at any time during the day. Most sightings of coyotes occur during the hours close to sunrise and sunset.

The abundance of food regulates coyote numbers, reproduction, survival, dispersal and territories. In the wild, coyotes generally have home ranges of 3 to 16 square miles. But in suburban areas, where resources are plentiful, coyotes may need only 1/4 to 1/2 square mile. This can lead to large coyote populations, increasing the chance of contact with humans.

Do's and Don'ts for Residents

1.

Do not feed coyotes or other wildlife.

2.

Eliminate sources of water.

3.

Position bird feeders so that coyotes can't get the feed.

4.

Do not discard edible garbage where coyotes can get to it.

5.

Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.

6.

Feed pets indoors whenever possible. Pick up any leftovers if feeding outdoors. Store pet food where it is inaccessible to wildlife.

7.

Trim and clean, near ground level, any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for coyotes or prey.

8.

Don't leave children unattended.

9.

Don't allow pets to run free. Keep them safely confined and provide secure nighttime housing for them. Walk your dog on a leash and accompany your pet outside, especially at night.

10.

Discourage coyotes from frequenting your area. If you start seeing coyotes around your home or property, chase them away by shouting, making loud noises or throwing rocks.

If You See a Coyote

To report coyote sightings, especially aggressive behavior toward people or pets, call 3-1-1. The information gathered through 3-1-1 will be relayed to Texas Wildlife Services for response/follow-up.

Call 9-1-1 to report a coyote attack on a human.

Government Action

Travis County and Texas Wildlife Services, a Department of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, have partnered to address the coyote problem in Travis County. The City of Austin participates in this partnership.

Under the agreement, Texas Wildlife Services will provide technical assistance and direct control. Technical assistance involves assisting the public by providing advice, recommendations, information, educational material, and educational programs.

Direct control will involve removal of coyotes that exhibit aggressive behavior toward people or pets, and pose a risk to human health and safety.

