

Coyote Seminar August 16, 2017

(Held at the Sea Pointe Estates Clubhouse)

Attended by 23 homeowners



Presented by:

David Dodge, California Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dana Friedman, San Clemente Animal Control Officer

Coyote Background

Life span approximately 4-7 years. Family size is 4-14 but only the alpha male and alpha female will mate. New pups in the spring. . If one of the alphas dies, another from the pack becomes the alpha. Located in all states except Hawaii. Reason they are numerous is southern California is easy source of food. We feed the coyotes, directly by leaving food outside and indirectly by attracting their favorite food, rabbits and rats, with bird seed droppings, vegetable gardens and fruit trees. Dogs and cats are vulnerable, if under 20 pounds. One pack has an operating radius of one half mile. SPE could possibly support two packs.

State Fish and Wildlife Commission Recommendations

Do your best to eliminate food sources in your yard. Keep your pets on a leash. Hazing is the best weapon. This includes yelling, screaming, waving arms, throwing golf balls, blowing whistles, walking sticks and baseball bats. Very few people haze. Keep veggie gardens and fruit trees "clean" If coyotes come within ten feet of you call Animal Control immediately. We want coyotes to be afraid of us. If they are afraid of us they will move to a new area. Many of our cities are making plans to deal with the problem. Our city has no official plan.

State Policy: No action will be taken against a coyote unless someone is proven to be bitten by one of the critters. If someone is bitten, a team will be dispatched to trap and euthanize the animal. . Mr. Dodge’s experience is that only the young and dumb get trapped and cited caution that trapping and euthanizing coyotes doesn’t necessarily make them go away and in some cases can trigger more breeding and larger litters of coyote pups.

San Clemente Animal Control

Officer Friedman stated that almost no coyote sightings or complaints have been reported by our community and that he was surprised to hear we had a problem. Like the state, the city will not trap. He emphasized the state’s position that hazing is the best way to drive coyotes away. The city currently doesn’t have a policy on how to deal with coyotes that are perceived to be “life threatening” prior to a bite. The best things we can do is HAZE, and then document our encounters, as a community, and report them to Animal Control. We should report coyote attacks on or pets, coyote encounters with children and aggressive coyote behavior when they will not move away after hazing. Officer Friedman will work with us as we monitor the situation and help provide input and response to deal with the problem. If warranted, he can track coyotes that are not afraid of humans and destroy their dens in an effort to drive them away.

Sea Pointe Estates Action Plan

- Develop a community awareness plan
- Coordinate with Animal Control sightings and incidents.
- Interface with other San Clemente area communities
- Continue to use our community email system to keep our residents aware of the latest info.
- Interact with San Clemente City Council if necessary
- Your Board of Directors will continue to keep everyone informed of new information.

Report Coyote Encounters to Sea Pointe Volunteer Tracker – Jerry Maio

On behalf of our community, longtime resident, Jerry Maio, has volunteered to track and report sightings and incidents and to be our interface with Animal Control Officer Dana Friedman. He has been “trained” on what specific information to gather. He will also be reporting incidents to the UCANR Coyote Cacher, a survey website, to help researchers determine trends in human-coyote encounters.

- Contact Jerry at Jerrymaio@yahoo.com or (949) 661-0231
- Be sure to leave a phone number so he can follow up if more details are needed
- You may also call Animal Control Direct at (949) 492-1617, but also let Jerry know.

How to HAZE a Coyote –

- Yell or scream while waving arms
- Throw rocks or golf balls at the animal
- Blow whistle or air horn
- Use mace for coyotes, walking sticks and baseball bats if they get within 10 ft.

Analysis of Coyote attraction for our community prepared by the Board of Directors

Community environment: Our community is adjacent to a wilderness area containing thousands of acres. We have an open border to this area. Approximately 100 residents have dogs. They pee and poop in their yards. The rabbits and squirrels do the same. We have 20 doggie bag stations throughout the community. Each giving off strong dog scents. Couple these scents with prevailing winds blowing from the ocean across our community into the wilderness area on the other side of the community. This is providing a coyote food buffet of attraction.

Dog loss. We are losing about 1-2 dogs per year. This small number suggests that the main food source for the coyotes is rabbits, squirrels, rodents and gophers.

Bottom line: Dog owners should take responsibility for the safety of their dog. The owner cannot just let their dog run free. Not even in the backyard.

Additional Information can be found attached or on our website at www.seapointeestates.org

- “Living with California Coyotes”
- “Keep me Wild”

Board of Directors