

Coexisting with Coyotes: Celebrating the Marin Coyote Coalition



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Welcome!

A few house rules for our pack



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Introductions

- David Herlocker, Naturalist – Marin County Parks
- Keli Hendricks, Ranching with Wildlife Coordinator – Project Coyote
- Captain Cindy Machado, Director of Animal Services – Marin Humane Society

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Program Objectives

- Overview of natural history of coyotes
 - Dynamics of Marin coyotes
- Successful coexistence strategies
 - Hazing techniques and keeping pets safe
- History of the Marin Coyote Coalition
 - Urban coyote response in Marin

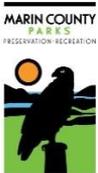
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David Herlocker

Naturalist

Marin County Parks



Coyotes: Basic Life History



Life Cycle

- **Winter** – Breeding
- **Spring** – Give birth, use dens
- **Summer** – Raise pups (pups begin to venture beyond den area)
- **Fall** – Some pups disperse. Pair bonding (established pairs). Pair formation & territories established



Vocalizations



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Pair Establishment

- Mate selection
- Territory selection
- Home range



Diet

Although coyotes are classified as carnivores, they feed on fruits and vegetables when available.

One study of urban coyote scat found:

- Rodents (42%)
- Fruit 23%
- Deer 22% *
- Rabbit 18%

Only 2% included garbage, and just 1.3% showed evidence of cats.



Body Language





Typical Dens



Den Protection

- Only in spring
- Primarily an act
- May be directed at people (if you see this, you are too close to an active den)
- Usually directed at dogs



Why does the coyote feel threatened by my dog?



Coy Wolf

- **Scientific classification:** formerly *Canis latrans* var. and *Canis latrans* x *C. lycaon*. As of March 2016, *Canis oriens* – literally meaning eastern canid
- **Food habits:** small to medium-sized mammals such as mice/voles, rabbits, and woodchucks, all the way to deer including fawns of the year and adults (mostly in late winter/early spring)
- **Size:** 30-55 pounds, average 32-40 pounds. 4-5 feet long from nose to tail tip



MOTHER AND PUPS AT DEN

- Dens only used during pupping (till pups are weaned – about a month)
- Pups may be moved frequently (several dens in territory)

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On average, only about half of the pups survive their first year



LATE SUMMER – FALL

- Pre-adolescent pups learning by observation
- Learn to locate berries (and which ones to eat)
- Spending more time away from parents



FIRST WINTER

- Pups nearly full grown
- Some stay with parents (remain in territory, sleep separately, may hunt independently or with siblings, parents)
- Some living independently (“solitary residents,” no territories, travel great distances)
- Resource limitations, personality conflicts may cause “exclusion” which leads to dispersal (not really seasonal, may happen any time of year)



Family Life

- Packs are made up of family members
- Only alpha male and female breed
- Territorial - packs keep transient coyotes away
- Pairs are monogamous and mate for life
- Siblings and fathers help raise litters
- VERY strong family bonds - yet often spend time apart



Keli Hendricks

Ranching With Wildlife Coordinator

Project Coyote



What is Project Coyote?

- National Nonprofit
- Coalition of scientists, educators, ranchers, and citizen leaders
- Advocate on behalf of America's native predators



Our Programs

- Coyote friendly communities
- Reform predator policies
- Ranching with wildlife
- Keeping it wild
- Science

Coexistence is a Neighborhood Effort!

If you think neighbors are providing food or shelter for coyotes, talk to them. Report any intentional feeding (it's illegal) to your Animal Care & Control or local Humane Society. Additional tips and tools are available for download from ProjectCoyote.org - please share with your neighbors!

SCAN IT
WATCH IT
bit.ly/coyotevideo



 ProjectCoyote.org

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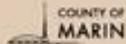
Ranching with Wildlife

Building Sustainable Communities, Preserving our Heritage



What: Workshop re non-lethal solutions to reduce livestock-predator conflicts
Where: Rockin' H Ranch & Vineyards - 6614 Lakeville Hwy, Petaluma, CA
When: March 26, 2016
2-5PM
RSVP: April Hendricks
darbyhendricks@icloud.com or
707-479-7806

Come learn about the Marin Livestock & Wildlife Protection program and non-lethal solutions to reduce livestock-predator conflicts including livestock guard animals and new innovative techniques including disruptive stimuli-based deterrents like Foxlights.





Marin Livestock & Wildlife Protection Program

- First of its kind in the nation
- Cost share program
- Assists ranchers with non-lethal livestock protections



- Late 1990's outcry over Wildlife Services
- Use of 1080 collars in Marin
- WS demanded use of “All the tools in their toolbox”
- 2000 – County ended contract
- BOS approved non-lethal program
- Cost share to assist ranchers with NL tools



Connolly, G.E., R.M. Timm, W.E. Howard, and W.M. Longhurst. 1976.
Sheep killing behavior of captive coyotes.
J. Wildl. Management 40:400-407.

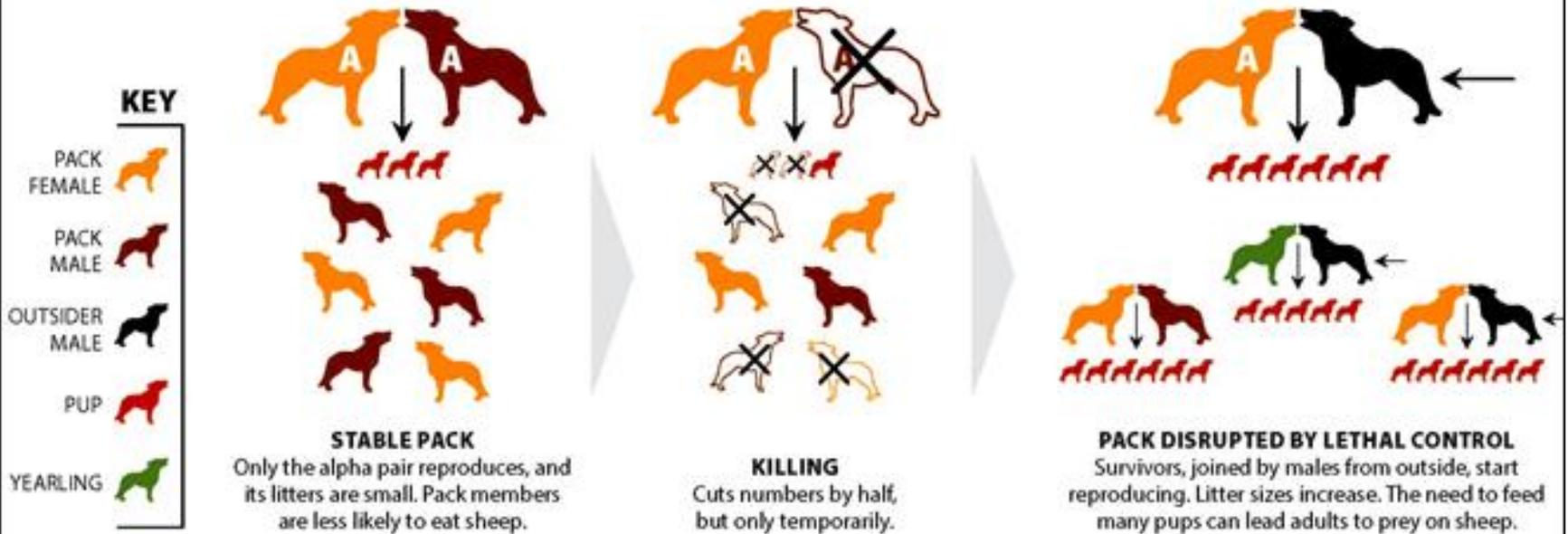


photos: G. E. Connolly



Why **KILLING** Doesn't Work

Shoot or poison coyotes and you will have just as many again within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring sooner, and litter sizes will grow.



Non-Lethal Tools

- Livestock guardians
- Night Pens
- Fencing
- Foxlights
- Shed lambing



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Benefits of MLWPP

- Pro-active!
- Saves County money
- Stabilizes coyote communities
- Predation of livestock down
- Humane
- Model for other communities



Coyote vs. Raccoons

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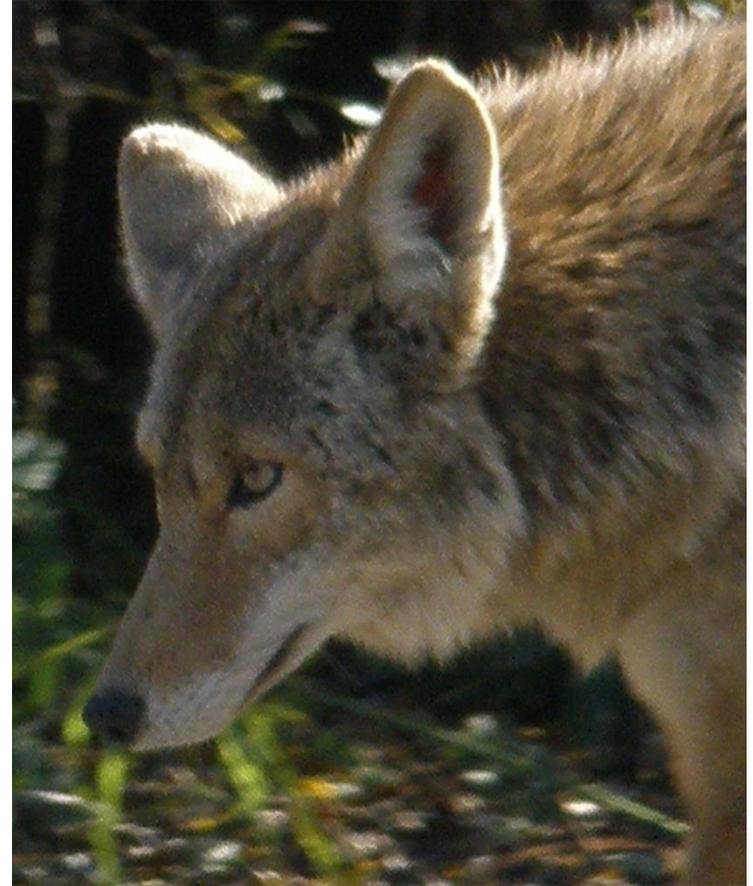
Attitude is Everything Coexistence is Possible



Captain Cindy Machado

Director of Animal
Services

Marin Humane Society



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Marin Humane Society's Role

- Animal Services provider for all of Marin and its cities through a contract
- Ensure public safety
- Ensure welfare of all animals, including wildlife
- Coordinate resources and network with other agencies on wildlife issues



History of the Marin Coyote Coalition

- 2002 coyotes came to Mill Valley & South Marin
- September 2002 coalition held first meeting
- Mill Valley PD, Fish & Game, Edna Maguire School, Animal Protection Institute (Project Coyote), In Defense of Animals, Marin Humane Society, Marin Open Space, US Geological Society



History of the Marin Coyote Coalition

- October 2002 first public forum held in Mill Valley – learned of coyote lethally removed
- Scott's Valley Homeowner's Association
- 2003 MHS & API created coyote task force
- Major public education and outreach program began
- Focus on “coyote hot spots”



History of the Marin Coyote Coalition

- USGS coyote collaring project
 - The value of coyote “Clint” 2002-2007
- 2004 passed wildlife feeding ban in Marin
- NPS hazing project with tourist-fed coyotes
- “Collaboration, Dialogue, Community Outreach”





History of the Marin Coyote Coalition

November 2005 Independent Journal Editorial:

“County gets high marks on coyote effort”

“Local ranchers and animal –rights activists appear to be on the same page in this effort. That collective energy and its early success should be encouraged”

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Responding to Marin Coyotes



Responding to Coyotes

- Marin Humane Society Goals:
 - Educate, educate, and educate more
 - Reduce public fear, build awareness
 - Encourage responsible land stewardship
 - Encourage keeping pets safe and supervised
 - Respond to potential public safety threats
 - Be brave and adaptable – try many new things!



Responding to Coyotes

- Coyote den sights
- Coyote pupping events
- Coyote predation on pets
- Coyotes on school grounds
- Coyotes in new neighborhoods
- “Aggressive” coyote encounters
- Coyotes on bike paths, crosswalks, downtown areas, yards, decks, hiking trails, parks



AP / Scott Stewart, File

Responding to Coyotes

Rescue



rehabilitate



release



Responding to Coyotes

Wildlife feeding = **TROUBLE!!**



Feeding Coyotes



Responding to Coyotes - Feeding

- Feeding wildlife is illegal in Marin and California
- MHS will send an officer to investigate
- Prefer to educate offenders
- Citations result in a fine and/or court



Responding to Coyotes - Hazing

- Be as loud and obnoxious as possible, then be even louder and even more obnoxious!!!!
- Alter your techniques – the more the better
- Encourage all neighbors to participate



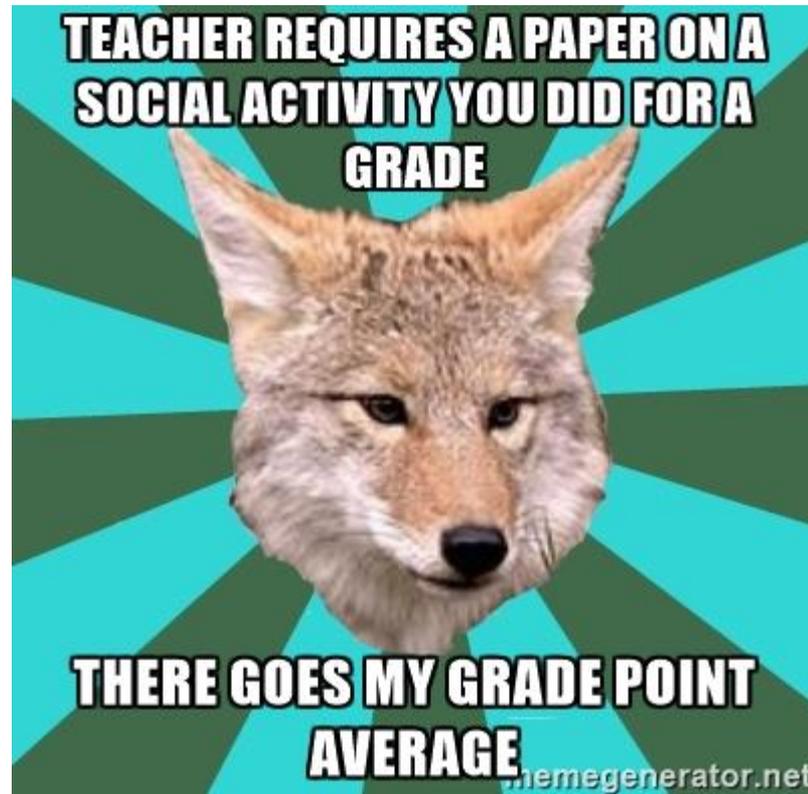
Common Hazing Tools

- Shaker cans
- Tennis ball chuckers
- Marine horns, blow horns
- Many kid toys work great
- Strong garden hose spray, super soakers
- Whistles, drums, noise-makers, yelling, mobile phone sounds, pots and pans
- Pepper spray or Halt – use with caution



Coyote Hazing

Do NOT harm – TEACH



Keeping Pets Safe

- Safe confinement urged
- Leash dogs when in coyote areas
- Your pet could be on the menu
- Alert/educate other pet guardians
- Always supervise small pets when outdoors
- Consider a “catio” or cat fence



Coyote Roller Fencing



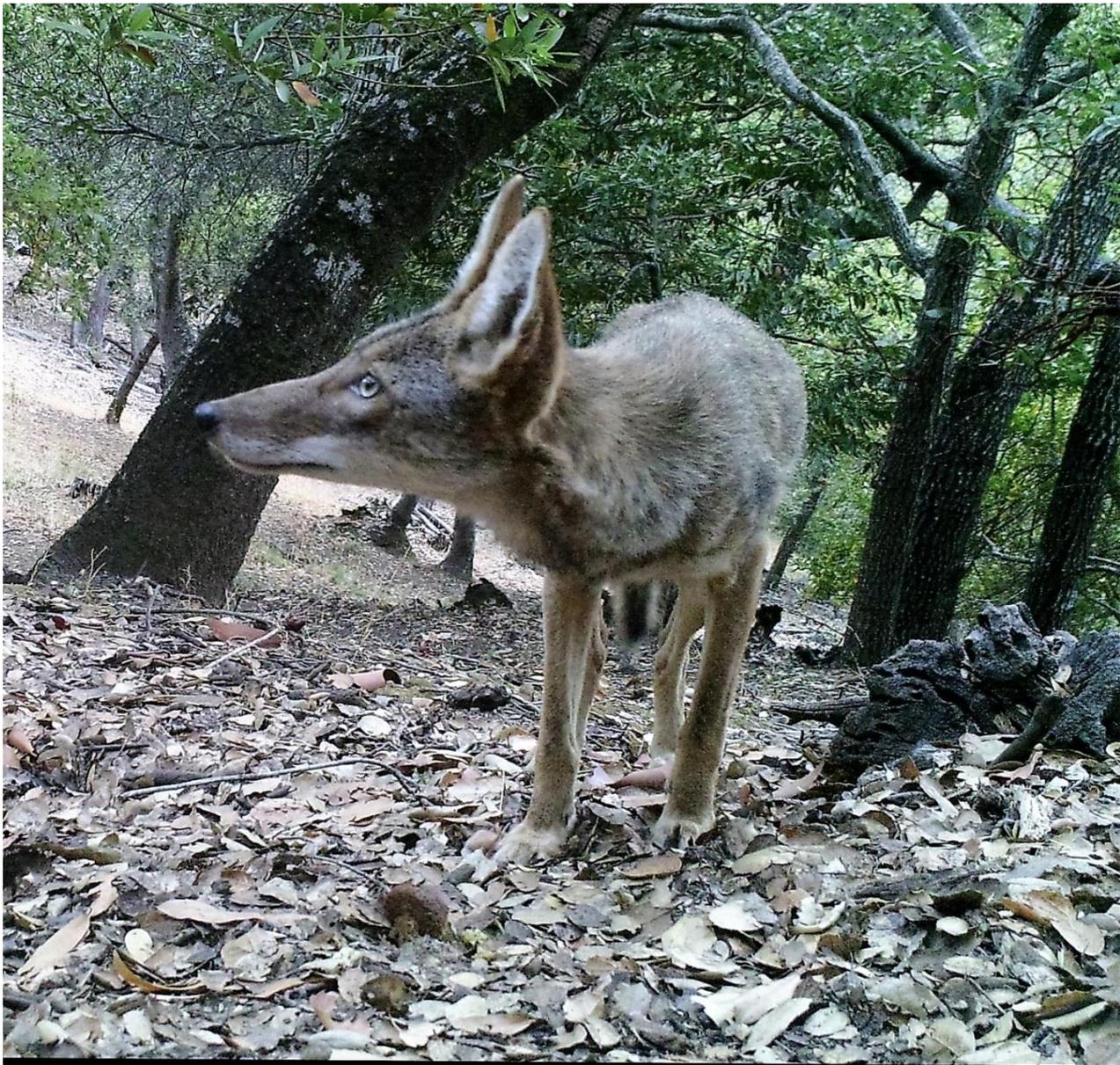


Proper Feral Cat Management



- Supervised feeding
- Area kept clean of feed and trash
- Only amounts cat will eat are put out
- Lifetime caretaker
- Outdoor weather-proof shelters with emergency exit doors
- Permission from landowner





0000 [Battery icon] [Signal icon] 052F 11°C 07/24/2016 06:20:58

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The Marin
Humane Society



Questions?



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Please Contact Us



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