

# “CAMPAIGN COEXISTENCE”

(Human and Coyote)

Part 1

Yorba Linda, CA August 4, 2010



# OBJECTIVE

- To Understand the Problem
- Introduce ideas to integrate Federal, State, County and City government services, pest control businesses (i.e. private trappers) with citizens and non profit organizations to address potential coyote public safety incidents and pet loss in Yorba Linda.
- Discuss Communication and participation plan to influence behavioral change of Humans and Coyotes. Long term solution –Education)
- Better understand Human mindset and Coyote imprint conditioning principles that has got us to current situation (Reduce Fear Factor).
- Call to Action



# Understanding What Happened

- 2008 Firestorm (Perfect Fire Conditions)
- Fuel load, wind, temperatures, climate
- Residential devastation, property loss
- Habitat loss Chino Hills State Park
- Mother Natures Response –displacement of wildlife. Triggers increased reproductive capacity when and where food, water, shelter and space is available.



# Carrying Capacity

The maximum number of animals that an area can support with food, water and shelter.

Yorba Linda –High .

Ideal conditions to support Coyotes within city limits. Food, water and shelter (habitat). Plenty of rodents, waterfowl and domestic pets.

Natural habitat and greenbelts exist throughout the city. Most of the coyotes live and raise their young within city limits.



# What a Coyote Likes

- Nice place to live to den up, hunt, reproduce and raise a family without fear of human intrusion. Easy accessibility to rodents, small game mammals, birds, waterfowl, domestic pets and their food, fruit, vegetables, food scraps in trash receptacles. Irrigated water from sprinkler systems, V ditches to minimize erosion, man made lakes and ponds. Areas where run off can pool and provide an easy drink of water. Natural water sources for urban edge coyotes aren't always dependable, they like our irrigated water.



# What a Coyote Likes

- Easy prey items such as small dogs left unattended in back yards. Domestic cats and feral cats running loose on a regular basis, chickens and ducks. New housing tracts with large yards and undeveloped land. Yards that back up to hillsides that have dense vegetation.
- Paths where people walk their dogs. Coyotes pick up scents and make their mark.
- Fallen fruit and unpicked vegetables, unsecured compost bins, trash, bird feeders that are not maintained, aviaries, rabbit hutches that attract rats, gophers, mice, raccoons and opossums.



# What a Coyote Likes

- Transportation corridors where they can move freely within city limits to their hunting grounds i.e. Green belts with native and introduced landscape that provides good cover for them to remain unseen as much as possible. Flood control channels, equestrian, biking, hiking trails that provide escape routes back to native habitat. They like parks, plant nurseries and golf courses. Scents are like reading a newspaper for the coyote telling them where to go to find food. When they are rewarded in finding food in our environment, they return.



# What a Coyote Doesn't Like

- Landscape that has been trimmed where there is no place for themselves or food prey items to hide or for them to den. Trimming bushes and plants off the ground reduces habitat for coyote prey, insects grubs, worms that are all part of the food chain. They don't like it when we secure our animals and their food because they have to look elsewhere to find it. They want to find food and consume it with the easiest amount of energy expenditure, that's the way mother nature made them. It's a matter of survival. We cut down their food source and mother nature will reduce their numbers.



# DFG (NRVP) Mission

- “Providing Conservation and Enforcement Education in Servant Leadership”
- Servant Leadership –The unconditional giving of time and talent towards a common Mission and Vision.
- SVP –Develops Servant Leaders within the community with Service, Vision and Purpose



# DFG Role

- Integrate Government services through better communication and accountability.
- Assist with Implementation of community education plan. (Preparation and planning).
- Review and discuss options.



# Resource Potential

- Citizens of Yorba Linda
- Yorba Linda City and County Officials
- Orange County Animal Care
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Brea Police Department
- Orange County Sheriff's Department
- U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services
- Private Pest Control Companies (Coyote Specific)
- Cal Poly Pomona (Wildlife Management Staff)
- Yorba Linda School District



# Conservation Coaching

## B-A-S-I-C

- Believing Attitude Starts In Caring
- Believing Awareness Starts in Communication
- Believing Action Starts In Commitment
- Believing Accountability Starts In Community



# What Can Fish and Game Do?

(Communication Education, Outreach with Enforcement)

- Assist with setting up “Wildlife Watch” groups in identified affected areas of city through DFG’s NRVP Program to keep DFG, City and County and residents informed.

Wildlife Watch groups utilize the same principle as “Neighborhood Watch” bringing the community together with agencies to bring awareness and initiate a plan to solve a common problem (In this case behavioral change through communication and accountability).



# Wildlife Watch

## What does it do?

- It's a program that develops better communication with residents to document and remove wildlife attractants in their community that could lead to public safety wildlife concerns. It holds both sides accountable in building trust between civil servants and residents.

It educates people who intentionally or unintentionally feed wildlife.

It allows everyone involved to monitor an affected area and determine if they are responding to the education by the results they are or are not getting.

It allow us to identify those animals with documentation that are an imminent threat versus those that just sightings.

It teaches you what to do and how to respond in an emergency.



# Public Safety Coyotes

When the DFG or a private trapping company remove a coyote, the animal is euthanized. We do not relocate coyotes due to carrying capacity issues and disease issues. We remove only those coyotes that show bold and aggressive behavior towards humans with a lack of fear.



# Action Plan Recommendation

- Initiate a 5 year study on Coyotes in the city of Yorba Linda by contacting Cal Poly Pomona to see if a graduate student can do a Master or PHD thesis on the interaction of Humans and coyotes to monitor population, food availability, the effects of trapping. Emphasis needs to be on cultural adaptation as well in continuing education which is the key.



# Action Plan

- Implement DFG Wildlife Watch Programs Within various sectors of the city. Start in the perimeter areas of the city that border Chino Hills State Park (Urban Edge) Bryant Ranch Area, Dominguez Ranch, Yorba Ranch, Hidden Hills, Vista Del Verde and San Lorenzo and also East Lake Village area and interior.



# Action Plan

- Start a volunteer campaign to encourage residents to maintain the vegetation on their property. This will assist with reducing fuel for fire and wildlife issues.
- Don't get lulled into a sense of security with fire. It is mother nature's way of keeping things in balance with habitat and wildlife.



# Coyote Review

- Our goal is to “Keep Them Wild”.
- Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep the rodent populations under control. They are by nature fearful of humans.
- If coyotes are given access to human food, pets, or garbage their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear and may threaten human safety.
- Relocating a problem coyote is not an option because it only moves the problem to someone else’s neighborhood.



# A Few Coyote Reminders

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes. The result may be deadly conflicts with pets or serious injuries to small children.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Be aware that coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young.
- Mom kicks her kids out of the den usually in October.



# Coyote Precautions (Cont)

- If followed by a coyote make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.
- If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest law enforcement office. (911)
- Put garbage in tightly closed containers, that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially during times of dry climate.



# THANK YOU

- Being part of this meeting is very much appreciated by me and our DFG staff. We all have an opportunity to make a big difference in the Yorba Linda community and learn from it. Great things are about to come out of this meeting.
- You have an opportunity to be part of the solution. You have a unique city which is beautiful and diverse in wildlife resources.

