



February 1, 2022

**DELIVERED BY E-MAIL**

(amo@amo.on.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Re: Coyote Response Management Plan (All Wards)

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Oshawa City Council considered the above matter at its meeting of January 24, 2022 and adopted the following recommendation of the Corporate Services Committee:

- “1. That the proposed City of Oshawa Coyote Response Management Plan, as outlined in Attachment 1 to Report CORP-22-01, dated January 4, 2022, be endorsed; and,
2. That the City of Oshawa's Hunting and Firearms By-law 126-97, as amended, be further amended as outlined in Attachment 2, to provide an exemption for licensed hunters or trappers contracted by the City; and,
3. That the Mayor send a letter to the Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, with a copy of Reports CORP-21-48 Coyotes in the City of Oshawa, CORP-21-60 Proposed Coyote Response Management Plan as well as this report CORP-22-01 Coyote Response Management Plan and Council resolution, and copy Premier Doug Ford and Durham Regional MPPs requesting that the Ministry:
  - Undertake research and data collection on the coyote population in Oshawa;
  - Conduct activities to reduce coyote/human conflicts in Oshawa; and,
  - Review and update the legislation to make responsibilities and authority clearer; and,
4. That a copy of this report and Council resolution be provided to The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Durham Region municipalities, Durham Regional Police Service, the Durham District School Board, the Durham Catholic District Board and Coyote Watch Canada.”

Please find attached a copy of Report CORP-22-01 for your information.

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If you need further assistance concerning the above matter, please contact Tracy Adams, Commissioner, Corporate Services Department at the address listed below or by telephone at 905-436-3311.



Mary Medeiros  
City Clerk

/fb

- c. Corporate Services Department  
Durham Region Municipalities  
Durham Regional Police Service  
Durham District School Board  
Durham Catholic District School Board  
Coyote Watch Canada

To: Corporate Services Committee

From: Tracy Adams, Commissioner,  
Corporate Services Department

Report Number: CORP-22-01

Date of Report: January 5, 2022

Date of Meeting: January 10, 2022

Subject: Coyote Response Management Plan

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

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## 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to the following November 8, 2021 Corporate Services Committee direction ([CORP-21-60](#)) regarding Proposed Coyote Response Management Plan:

“That Report CORP-21-60, dated November 3, 2021, concerning the proposed Coyote Response Management Plan be referred to the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee to provide input to staff by December 16, 2021.”

Attachment 1 is the revised City of Oshawa Coyote Response Management Plan (C.R.M.P.).

Attachment 2 is a by-law to amend Hunting and Firearms By-law 126-97.

## 2.0 Recommendation

That the Corporate Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the proposed City of Oshawa Coyote Response Management Plan, as outlined in Attachment 1 to Report CORP-22-01, dated January 4, 2022, be endorsed;
2. That the City of Oshawa’s Hunting and Firearms By-law 126-97, as amended, be further amended as outlined in Attachment 2, to provide an exemption for licensed hunters or trappers contracted by the City;
3. That the Mayor send a letter to the Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, with a copy of Reports CORP-21-48 Coyotes in the City of Oshawa, CORP-21-60 Proposed Coyote Response Management Plan

as well as this report CORP-22-01 Coyote Response Management Plan and Council resolution, and copy Premier Doug Ford and Durham Regional MPPs requesting that the Ministry:

- Undertake research and data collection on the coyote population in Oshawa;
  - Conduct activities to reduce coyote/human conflicts in Oshawa; and,
  - Review and update the legislation to make responsibilities and authority clearer.
4. That a copy of this report and Council resolution be provided to The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Durham Region municipalities, Durham Regional Police Service, the Durham District School Board, the Durham Catholic District Board and Coyote Watch Canada.

### **3.0 Executive Summary**

Not applicable.

### **4.0 Input From Other Sources**

Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee and Coyote Watch Canada were consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **5.0 Analysis**

In [Report CORP-21-48](#), Coyotes in the City of Oshawa, staff outlined relevant legislation, roles and responsibilities related to coyotes and wildlife in the community, actions taken to date and actions to be taken in the future.

In [Report CORP-21-60](#), Proposed Coyote Response Management Plan, staff provided details for further actions taken, further consultation and an overview of the principles that guided the development of a Coyote Response Management Plan.

This report CORP-22-01 provides feedback received from the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee on Report CORP-21-60 and presents an updated Coyote Response Management Plan for approval.

#### **5.1 Feedback from Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee (O.A.C.A.C.)**

At its meeting on November 23, 2021, the O.A.C.A.C. reviewed Report CORP-21-60 and the attached C.R.M.P. See **Table 1** below for a summary of the recommendations approved by the Committee and City staff's corresponding response.

Table 1 – O.A.C.A.C. Recommendations

Item #	O.A.C.A.C. Recommendations	Staff Response
1	That injured or ill coyotes be addressed; particularly enhancing the discussion of the current reporting function via <a href="mailto:service@oshawa.ca">service@oshawa.ca</a> ; and,	Staff agree with this recommendation and have added reference in Sections 6.1.4 and 8.2 of the C.R.M.P. and will include in future communications to the public.
2	That educational endeavors being undertaken as part of the Coyote Response Management Plan to address the dangers associated with coyotes and the use of flexi-leashes for dogs; and,	Staff agree with this recommendation and have added reference to flexi-leashes to the coyote webpage ( <a href="http://www.oshawa.ca/coyotes">www.oshawa.ca/coyotes</a> ) and will include in future communications to the public.
3	That the plan include 'that all captured coyotes will be evaluated for injury, illness and release by a veterinary, wildlife rehabilitator or animal shelter professional before a lethal solution is carried out; and,	Staff currently undertake this activity when any injured or ill wildlife are captured.  It is not recommended that coyotes captured under the C.R.M.P. are assessed for possible rehabilitation and subsequent release as they have been determined to be a danger to the public.
4	That the minimum qualifications for any Agent being hired under the Coyote Response Management Plan be clarified; and,	Staff agree with this recommendation and have enhanced Section 8.3 of the C.R.M.P. to provide greater clarity.
5	That additional guidance be provided as to how coyotes will be correctly identified before carrying out lethal solution (provide minimum standards of what is considered a confirmed match to the offending coyote can be established - including threshold and a list of factors to be considered such as: location where found, predominate colouring, estimated size, any unique markings, trail cam footage showing problem behaviour, etc.); and,	While there may be some situations when it is impossible to correctly identify an aggressive coyote before an animal is removed, staff will do their best to make that determination and have added reference to related activities in Section 8.4 of the C.R.M.P.

Item #	O.A.C.A.C. Recommendations	Staff Response
6	That additional definitions regarding how domestic animals and potentially other wildlife are not trapped instead or released without harm be included (add signage and/or close the area around traps); and,	The complex nature of the work involved with trapping and eliminating coyotes cannot guarantee there will be no impact to other wildlife or domestic animals but staff appreciate the importance of working to minimize that impact and have added related guidelines to Section 8.5 of the C.R.M.P.
7	That prescriptive language on how trapping may be done be added, specifically to consult Coyote Watch Canada for information about traps and detail procedures for monitoring traps and releasing or transporting animals once trapped; and,	Staff agree to consult with the Ministry and/or C.W.C. in determining the most humane methods and have added reference in Section 8.6 of the C.R.M.P.
8	That the plan specify allowable methods that an Agent may use to euthanize coyotes once identified and captured to avoid the usage of more stressful and painful methods like heart sticks or gas chambers being utilized.”	Staff agree to consult with the Ministry and/or C.W.C. in determining the most humane methods and have added reference in Section 8.6 of the C.R.M.P.

## 5.2 Hunting and Trapping Legislation

While meeting many requirements around licensing, use of fur, disposal, etc. the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 permits the hunting or trapping of coyotes during open season. Open season for coyotes in Southern Ontario is all year.

The City of Oshawa [Hunting and Firearms By-law](#) indicates that, with some exemptions, it is an offence for a person to discharge a firearm within Oshawa. Additionally, hunting is prohibited in most areas, as shown in Schedule “A” of the By-law, generally speaking as South of Winchester and in the areas immediately surrounding the communities of Raglan and Columbus.

As such, it has been determined that a stand-alone by-law is not required but that an exemption from the Hunting and Firearms By-law should be established for any licensed Agent contracted by the City.

**Attachment 2** is an amending by-law to provide that exemption.

## 6.0 Financial Implications

Costs associated with undertaking the various Response Options as needed can be funded by the Council approved Operating Budget.

## 7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

The recommendation in this report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Goals of Accountable Leadership, Social Equity and Environmental Responsibility.



Brenda Jeffs, Director,  
Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services



Tracy Adams, Commissioner,  
Corporate Services Department



<b>Policy:</b> Coyote Response Management Plan			
<b>Issued:</b> January 24, 2022	<b>Revised:</b>	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 15	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Related Policies:</b>	Boulevard By-law 136-2006; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997; Hunting and Firearms By-law 126-97; Lot Maintenance By-law 127-2007; Nuisance By-law 65-2009; Property Standards By-law 1-2002; Responsible Pet Owner By-law 14-2010, Waste Collection By-law 113-2008		

## 1.0 Purpose/ Background

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the City's Coyote Response Management Plan to support a safe Coexistence with urban coyotes using education, behaviour modification and the implementation of a tiered and escalated approach in response to human-coyote conflicts. This Policy ensures that the Coyote Response Management Plan aligns with applicable legislation such as the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 and City By-laws such as the Boulevard By-law 136-2006, Hunting and Firearms By-law 125-97, Lot Maintenance By-law 127-2007, Nuisance By-law 65-2009, Property Standards By-law 1-2002, Responsible Pet Owner By-law 14-2009 and Waste Collection By-law 113-2008.

## 2.0 Policy Statement

The safety and well-being of the city's residents and household pets is a top priority. The City's Coyote Response Management Plan incorporates public safety, education, environmental impacts and enforcement to promote safe communities for people and their household pets and to foster a safe Coexistence with coyotes. The Policy outlines applicable legislation and City By-laws, responsibilities, best practices and Response Options, which increase the community's knowledge and understanding of how urban coyotes behave and how to reduce or eliminate conflicts.

The Coyote Response Management Plan is based on the following principles:

- The safety of people and household pets are a priority in managing coyote interactions.
- Coyotes serve an important role in ecosystems by helping to control the population of rodents, rabbits and other urban mammals.
- A community-wide coyote education program is necessary for achieving Coexistence among people, household pets and coyotes.
- Preventive practices such as reduction and removal of food attractants, habitat modification and responding appropriately when interacting with coyotes are key to minimizing potential negative interactions.
- Solutions for coyote conflicts must address both problematic coyote behaviours (such as aggression toward people and household pets) and problematic human behaviours (intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes and leaving household



pets outside unattended or permitting them to run at large in a public space) that contributes to conflicts, Incidents and Bites to People and Pets.

- According to scientific research and Wildlife experts, coyote removal programs are ineffective for reducing coyote population or preventing human-coyote conflicts, and as such, the City seeks an emphasis on non-lethal coyote management techniques.
- Lethal removal of a coyote is an option if it is deemed necessary and as a last resort, and should attempt to be selective and aimed at specific individual problematic coyote(s) whose undesirable behaviour cannot be changed by other methods. Lethal removal will only be considered when a coyote is sick or injured and cannot be rehabilitated or has bitten a person.

### 3.0 Scope/Application

The Coyote Response Management Plan applies to all property within the City of Oshawa's municipal boundaries.

### 4.0 Definitions

**Agent** means an individual or corporate entity representing the City of Oshawa during a business transaction (e.g. legal representation, real estate transactions, etc.).

**Bite** means a situation in which a coyote wounds or attempts to wound a person or a pet.

**Classes of Agent** means an agent as defined in Ontario Regulation 665/98, Section 132(1):

- Trappers licensed under Ontario Regulation 667/98 (Trapping);
- Members of a landowner's immediate family, acting on behalf of landowner on landowner's own land;
- Persons whose business is primarily the business of removing nuisance wildlife if they harass wildlife or if they capture and release it if it is capable of being released;
- Employees or agents of a municipality whose responsibilities relate to Wildlife control;
- Persons who hold a valid outdoors card and who meet the accreditation requirements for a licence to hunt described in section 11 or 12, for the purposes of killing or harassing the wildlife but not capturing it. O. Reg. 665/98, s. 132(1); O. Reg. 171/13, s. 7; O. Reg. 544/17, s. 13 (1); O. Reg. O. Reg. 434/20, s. 6 (1).

**Coexistence:** means the act of people and coyotes existing together without negative interaction by taking an active role in ensuring coyotes in their community remain wild by removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, Hazing coyotes in their neighbourhood and learning about coyote ecology and behaviour.

**Encounter** means a direct interaction between a person and/or household pet and a coyote(s) with no physical contact and that is without Incident. For example, a coyote

following, approaching or chasing a person and/or pet but a person and/or household pet is not bitten.

**Hazing/Aversion Conditioning** means a method of negative association in which scaring a coyote away from an area where it is not wanted and includes but not limited to: making loud noises, waving arms, popping open an umbrella, shaking car keys or other noisy objects, throwing objects near, but not at the coyote.

**Incident** means a conflict between a person and coyote(s) where the coyote exhibits any of the following behaviours: growling, baring teeth, lunging or making physical contact with a person or household pet but a person or household pet is not bitten.

**Relocation** means to move a problem coyote to another location.

**Response Options** are City actions that may be taken based on the classification and demonstrated coyote behaviour. The actions reflect an escalated response based on the level of conflict.

**Sighting** means a visual observation of a coyote(s) where there is no interaction between the coyote(s) and a person or household pet.

**Wildlife** refers only to wild vertebrates such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. It does not include domesticated animals.

## **5.0 Applicable Legislation and City By-laws**

### **5.1 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 (“the Act”)**

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry regulates fish and game through the authority of the Act. The Act provides municipal landowners the authority to use Classes of Agents to attempt to resolve Wildlife control problems.

Municipal landowners may harass, capture or lethally remove a coyote, if it is reasonably believed to be damaging or is about to damage property or use one of the Classes of Agent to do so. Municipalities can hire licensed hunters or trappers to help deal with furbearing mammals (coyotes) within their municipal boundaries and only on their property, unless they have obtained permission from a property owner for private property. A municipality does not need a special permit or authorization from the Ministry to do this.

These animal control activities can only be carried out during the open season unless the animal is damaging or about to damage property. Hired hunters or trappers must comply with the conditions of their licence, follow hunting and trapping rules and follow any local By-laws. If the coyote is live trapped and captured, release or Relocation must happen within one (1) km from the trapping site. In Oshawa open season for coyotes is all year.

## **5.2 Boulevard By-law 136-2006 (“Boulevard By-law”)**

The Boulevard By-law aims to ensure that boulevards (part of a highway, curb, street, sidewalk, etc.) are maintained to be free of long grass, weeds, shrubs, hedges, debris, waste, refuse and litter, and discarded bird feed; things that can be attractants to rodents and, therefore, Wildlife such as coyotes.

## **5.3 Hunting and Firearms By-law 126-97 (“Hunting By-law”)**

The Hunting By-law sets out regulations for hunting and the use of firearms in the City of Oshawa and is enforced by Durham Regional Police Services. With few exemptions, it is an offence for a person to discharge a firearm within Oshawa. Hunting is prohibited in most areas, as shown in Schedule “A” of the Hunting By-law, south of Winchester Road and in the areas immediately surrounding the communities of Raglan and Columbus.

While property owners and tenants are regulated under this By-law, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act provides municipalities the ability to carry out these activities as noted in Section 5.1.

The Hunting By-law provides an exemption for licensed hunters or trappers contracted by the City to conduct activities as needed in this Plan.

## **5.4 Lot Maintenance By-law 127-2007 (“Lot Maintenance By-law”)**

The Lot Maintenance By-law aims to ensure that properties are maintained in a way that keeps them free of long grass, weeds and debris, and discarded bird feed; things that can be common attractants to rodents and, therefore, Wildlife such as coyotes.

## **5.5 Nuisance By-law 65-2009 (“Nuisance By-law”)**

The Nuisance By-law prohibits the feeding of Wildlife either advertently or inadvertently through the leaving of food or attractants. Specifically, anything that attracts rodents (e.g. mice, rats) or predatory Wildlife (including coyotes) to a premise would constitute a violation of the Nuisance By-law.

## **5.6 Property Standards 01-2002 (“Property Standards By-law”)**

The Property Standards By-law prescribes minimum standards for the maintenance and occupancy of buildings, structures, and surrounding lands.

Relevant standards include, for example, appropriate refuse storage in order to deter rodents and therefore coyotes, securing of building exteriors to prevent wildlife or pests from entry and sufficient pest control to prevent infestation.

## **5.7 Responsible Pet Owner By-law 14-2010 (“Responsible Pet Owner By-law”)**

The Responsible Pet Owner By-law ensures animals are kept and treated in a humane and responsible manner. One relevant standard is that animals are prohibited from running at large, and must be restrained by a leash not exceeding two (2) metres in length. This helps create a safe Coexistence between household pets and coyotes by

restraining dogs and other household pets. Additionally, the By-law restricts the keeping of livestock (including chickens) to farms which assists in preventing the attraction and depredation of such species by coyotes in urban settings.

## **5.8 Waste Collection By-law 113-2008 (“Waste By-law”)**

The Waste By-law prohibits the deposit of household garbage into a container in a public space such as one in a City park, trail or greenspace. It also prescribes the appropriate times and locations for the setting out of waste for collection in an effort to deter Wildlife.

## **6.0 Responsibilities**

There are a number of community partners and City Branches that contribute to the role of Wildlife management in the City of Oshawa. An overview of roles and responsibilities related to coyotes is provided below.

### **6.1 Community Partners**

#### **6.1.1 Coyote Watch Canada (“C.W.C.”)**

C.W.C. is an all-volunteer Federal Not-For-Profit organization that advocates positive human-Wildlife experiences with a focus on coyotes. Community outreach is offered through education, research, mediation, intervention, and conflict resolution. C.W.C. collaborates with a broad range of stakeholders to develop and implement non-lethal, sustainable human-Wildlife conflict solutions. They provide educational programming, a first-response team, on-site field investigation, assessment and mitigation directives, Wildlife rescue and release assistance, private, municipal-and provincial-level consultation, digital mapping programs, tracking of Sightings, training, educational resources, and municipal Wildlife framework models.

#### **6.1.2 Durham Regional Police Service (D.R.P.S.)**

While prioritizing their calls for service, D.R.P.S. may respond to reports of coyotes when an individual feels their safety is imminently threatened. Officers have the authority and ability to lethally remove an animal if they feel it is necessary to ensure public safety or if there is an injured/ill animal that is incapacitated or suffering, but will not do so for an animal displaying normal, non-aggressive behaviour.

#### **6.1.3 Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (“the Ministry”)**

The Ministry typically does not provide direct Wildlife control including coyote control as well as they do not coordinate collaring or removal of coyotes. Instead, they provide support to landowners and municipalities dealing with problem coyotes by providing advice and information on:

- How to prevent conflicts with coyotes by making private property uninviting
- What to do if you Encounter a coyote

- Actions landowners can take to protect their property
- How to find a licensed trapper
- Actions municipalities can take to address conflict situations on municipal property.

In addition, they may collect a coyote carcass for testing if it is warranted.

#### **6.1.4 Property Owners and Tenants**

Property owners and tenants have an important role to play to help avoid coyote conflict. Property owners and tenants are asked to report coyote sightings, including those who appear ill or injured, to Service Oshawa. In addition, they are responsible for undertaking efforts to prevent interactions with coyotes by limiting attractants and not encouraging the coyote to engage by providing a feeding source.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act also provides property owners or their Class of Agent, the authority to capture, kill or harass coyote(s), on the property owner's property, that are damaging or about to damage their property. During the open season, a property owner may also invite a licensed hunter or trapper to hunt or trap coyotes on their property. However, property owners must abide by municipal By-laws including the Hunting and Firearms By-law 126-97.

The City is not responsible for managing coyotes on private property and is not liable for any risks or outcomes that may occur if a private property owner chooses to engage in actions intended to trap or kill a coyote(s) on their property. Respect for other Wildlife and household pets must be considered.

### **6.2 City of Oshawa**

#### **6.2.1 Corporate Communications**

Corporate Communications assists in the development and distribution of communications through the City's website, social media channels, newspaper advertisements, to name a few. Staff conduct outreach with the media to ensure that they and the public have an accurate representation of the facts surrounding events and appropriate terminology is used.

#### **6.2.2 Municipal Law Enforcement ("M.L.E.")**

M.L.E. Officers respond to reports of ill or injured Wildlife by capturing the animal if they are able to, and taking it to Animal Services or a local veterinarian for assessment. If appropriate, injured wildlife will be euthanized or may be transferred to a wildlife rescue organization for rehabilitation.

M.L.E. also monitors Encounters, Incidents, Bites to Pets or People in order to:

- determine if targeted communication should be distributed within a neighbourhood;
- investigate neighbourhood area for evidence of coyote attractants (food, shelter, water) and address removal of attractants;

- gather information including obtaining descriptions of coyote(s) and asking a variety of questions of witnesses as recommended by C.W.C.;
- patrol for violations of By-laws that may be contributing to coyote behaviour and issue fines as appropriate (e.g. Lot Maintenance, Property Standards, Responsible Pet Owners By-law, etc.);
- educate residents by distributing educational material and training on Hazing/Aversion Conditioning techniques;
- engage community partners as appropriate (e.g. Coyote Watch Canada, Agent, D.R.P.S., Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, etc.);
- monitor best practices of other municipalities; and,
- work with the Ministry to assist in the testing of any eliminated animals at their request.

The Director of Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services and/or the Commissioner of Corporate Services have the authority to direct the elimination of a coyote as outlined in Section 7.2.4.

### **6.2.3 Parks and Waste Operations**

Parks and Waste Operations are responsible for the maintenance of parks including waste removal, installation of signs and fencing, cutting of grass and naturalized areas, to name a few.

### **6.2.4 Service Oshawa**

Service Oshawa receives reports of coyotes, records details and classifies the information into the following categories: Sighting, Encounter, Incident, Bite to Pet or Bite to Person. The information is used by M.L.E. to determine the appropriate Response Option. Service Oshawa also contacts M.L.E. staff to conduct real-time monitoring and response to Incidents and Bites to Pets or People.

## **7.0 Best Practices**

The following outlines information on best practices to assist property owners in deterring coyotes from their property as well as outlines a Coexistence approach and techniques to minimize coyote conflicts.

### **7.1 Deter Coyotes from Property**

#### **7.1.1 Remove Food Sources**

Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with sources of food, which can eliminate their ingrained fear of humans and result in negative interactions among coyotes, people and household pets.

To reduce food attractants:

- Never feed or leave food out for a coyote or other Wildlife.
- Remove food sources from yards, including birdseed and fruit that has fallen to the ground.
- Avoid feeding household pets outside.
- Store garbage, compost and pet food in a place coyotes and other Wildlife cannot access.
- Keep garbage in containers with tightfitting lids. Place containers curbside on the morning of collection and not before.
- Do not deposit household waste into waste containers in City parks.

### **7.1.2 Remove Water Sources**

Remove outdoor water sources such as water bowls for household pets and watering cans.

### **7.1.3 Eliminate Shelter Opportunities**

Spring is denning and pupping season where coyotes concentrate their activities around dens or burrows to shelter their young. To reduce attraction to private property: remove debris, dead brush and wood piles; cut long grass; secure any gaps in sheds, decks, crawl spaces or foundation walls; and, secure any buildings on the property. Motion sensor lights can be helpful to discourage coyotes from entering private property at night.

### **7.1.4 Attend to household pets**

Coyotes may consider household pets as potential prey or possible competitors for food sources. To minimize risk to household pets, do not leave them outside unattended.

Free-roaming household pets, especially cats, may attract coyotes into residential neighbourhoods. Coyotes may seek out or attack small prey, which could include cats, rabbits and small dogs. This is considered normal coyote behaviour and does not indicate a danger for people. Dogs can be vulnerable if coyotes are accustomed or habituated to people (usually due to feeding) or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season). Attacks on larger dogs are rare, and generally only occurs when dogs are off-leash or coyotes feel their territory or pups are threatened (generally during their breeding season - January to March).

### **7.1.5 Manage Feral Cat Colonies**

Feral Cat Colonies must be registered with the City. Their surroundings and food sources should be maintained in such a way as to not be an attractant to coyotes:

- Feral cats should be fed only during the day and at a set time.
- Any leftover food should be picked up immediately.
- Properties are to be maintained in compliance with requirements of the Lot Maintenance By-law.

## 7.2 Coexistence Options and Techniques

Coyotes lose their fear of people often when they learn to associate humans with a food reward. Readily available food sources in our neighbourhoods create negative coyote interactions and human-coyote conflicts. There are a number of options and techniques that can be implemented which are outlined below.

### 7.2.1 Education and Outreach

The City uses a variety of communication methods to provide information so property owners and tenants can make appropriate decisions about safety and managing private property and household pets (refer to Section 7.1 for examples of education messages).

Some of the methods include: information on the City's website [www.oshawa.ca/coyotes](http://www.oshawa.ca/coyotes) with resources and access to an e-learning module; social media messages; working with community partners such as C.W.C.; installing temporary signage where coyotes are active; literature and public outreach in neighbourhood areas where coyotes have been repeatedly reported.

The City has implemented several By-laws to address issues and support concerns of the community. Relevant By-laws include those that address the feeding of Wildlife, prohibiting dogs from running at large; private property maintenance, and littering, to name a few. These By-laws are in place to help ensure safety for the community; therefore, those who do not comply may be subject to Orders and Administrative Monetary Penalties. The City disseminates communications to inform the public about these By-laws.

### 7.2.2 Hazing/Aversion Conditioning

Hazing, or Aversion Conditioning, is an activity or series of activities meant to re-establish or maintain coyotes' fear of people; to discourage coyotes from entering areas where people are present (such as parks and yards); to discourage coyotes from approaching people and household pets; and, to increase awareness about coyote behaviour and involve the community in coyote management efforts.

Hazing involves generating loud noises, making humans appear big by waving arms over head, spraying water, shining bright lights, using motion sensors, throwing objects near, but not at the animal. Using a variety of different Hazing tools is critical because coyotes can become desensitized to the continued use of just one technique, sound or action. It is important to continue Hazing the animal until it leaves the area.

The City has posted an e-learning module that includes a component on Hazing to support community safety efforts, it is available at [www.oshawa.ca/coyotes](http://www.oshawa.ca/coyotes).

### 7.2.3 Relocation

Live trapping and Relocation of Wildlife is regulated and requires release within one (1) km from the trapping site. The Ministry does not grant exceptions for a coyote to be relocated more than one (1) km from its place of capture. The intent of the restricted release distance is to:



- prevent the spread of diseases and parasites to populations in other areas;
- ensure the animal has the best possible chance of survival by releasing it as close as possible to its home range;
- prevent or reduce the potential for problem activity in other areas; and,
- prevent exchange of genetics between the different Wildlife populations and ensure carrying capacity is not surpassed within a specific area.

Relocation has proven to be ineffective in reducing coyote populations or addressing root causes of conflict. Coyotes are highly territorial (coyote territories do not overlap), and pairs will defend territories ranging in size from a few km<sup>2</sup> (where food sources are abundant) to up to and more than 100 km<sup>2</sup> (where food sources are minimal/scarce).

Coyotes are highly mobile, and are known to travel great distances over short periods of time. When removed from an area, coyotes are often quickly replaced by transient coyotes looking for a vacant home range.

#### **7.2.4 Elimination**

Coyotes are very intelligent and therefore it is very difficult to capture a coyote in a traditional “live trap” which attempts to lure the animal in with bait and a door that closes behind. A restraining trap or restraints can be used, where the coyote is restrained and then moved to a different location for elimination. However, there is a risk that such traps can pose a danger to other Wildlife and household pets.

Research has shown that when lethally controlled, coyote populations exhibit a “rebound effect” (a surge in their reproductive rates), allowing for quick regeneration of their population numbers and may open a gap for coyotes from other areas to move into the territories.

The capture or humane lethal removal of a coyote would only occur as a last resort and as follows:

- in the event of a confirmed Bite to a Person or if a coyote has been determined to be sick or injured and cannot be rehabilitated
- as a last option when all other Response Options and measures have failed and it has been determined that there is a threat to public safety
- the removal would attempt to focus on the individual problematic coyote(s) only
- would require significant investigation efforts to attempt to ensure the correct animal(s) is removed
- would only be carried out by a qualified and licensed Agent hired by City staff

## 8.0 Coyote Interactions and Response Options

The City may undertake a variety of activities in response to, and in order to prevent coyote conflicts in the community.

### 8.1 Monitoring and Data Collection

The City collects and monitors data provided by residents to help identify where coyotes are frequently seen and to identify human-coyote conflict. Gathering data will assist in targeting educational communications and conflict mitigation efforts, as well as the ability to measure success in reducing conflicts over time.

When numerous Incidents are reported in a specific neighbourhood, the City may use trail cameras to help collect information on coyotes including pattern of behaviour and to help identify a coyote that is responsible for the unusual behaviour. This information is used to help inform appropriate Response Options including community communication.

### 8.2 Communications

The City's website ([www.oshawa.ca/coyotes](http://www.oshawa.ca/coyotes)) has a variety of useful information on how the community can coexist with coyotes including, but not limited to:

- a free e-learning course on Coyotes in the Urban Landscape;
- how to deter coyotes from private property (e.g. back yard);
- what to do during a coyote Encounter;
- how to report injured Wildlife; and,
- seasonal behaviour that may increase the number of reports of coyotes and information on how to contact Service Oshawa to report a coyote.

In addition, Corporate Communications annually issues public communications (including but not limited to public notices and social media messages) that correspond to seasonal coyote behaviour and that may increase the number of Sightings in the city. For example:

- Winter during mating periods (January - February)
- Spring during den selection/pup rearing (March - June)
- Fall during dispersal of pack members (September - October)

### 8.3 Agents hired by the City

Any Agents hired by the City in accordance with this Plan must be able to provide the following:

- WSIB Certificate of Clearance
- Commercial General Liability insurance and Automobile insurance as recommended by the Durham Municipal Insurance Pool

- Valid hunting version Outdoors card with small game licence listed
- Valid trapping licence
- Valid firearms licence

#### 8.4 Identification of Problematic Coyotes

In an effort to accurately identify any coyotes which may be required to be removed as a result of a Bite to Person, the City may undertake some of these activities:

- Interviewing witnesses to incidents
- Inspection of photographic and video evidence of incidents
- Collection of information such as size, colour, unique markings, etc.
- Placement and monitoring of trail cameras
- Observation by Officers

#### 8.5 Reducing Harm to Domestic Animals and Other Wildlife

The complex nature of the work involved with trapping and eliminating coyotes cannot guarantee there will be no impact to other Wildlife or domestic animals but staff appreciate the importance of working to minimize that impact and may do one or more of the following:

- Placing warning signage
- Closing park or public space
- Regular and frequent monitoring of traps by qualified and licensed Agent
- Limit trapping hours

#### 8.6 Approved Trapping and Euthanasia Techniques

The City will work with qualified and licensed Agents to ensure the most humane methods of trapping and euthanasia are used including consulting with C.W.C. and/or the Ministry on recommended methods.

#### 8.7 Behaviour Driven Response Options

The following table outlines classifications and City Response Options, which are based on the nature of the interaction. Response Options may vary on a case-by-case, location-by-location basis and are based on confirmation of details of occurrence.

Classification	Coyote Behaviour	City Response Options
Sighting	Coyote seen moving through or resting in an area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track and monitor information</li> </ul>

Classification	Coyote Behaviour	City Response Options
	Repeated and multiple sightings in one area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All preceding response measures</li> <li>• Distribute educational material to immediate neighbourhood</li> <li>• Parks staff may review garbage cans in the area to ensure they meet best practices for coyote deterrence</li> </ul>
	Coyote seen entering a private property yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All preceding response measures</li> </ul>
	Coyote den identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All preceding response measures</li> <li>• Conduct site inspection and investigation</li> <li>• Investigate area for evidence of coyote attractants and address removal of attractants</li> <li>• Install temporary signage (e.g. Curbex, park signs)</li> <li>• Secure area with temporary fencing</li> <li>• Temporarily closure of public area</li> <li>• Reduce naturalized growth</li> <li>• Removal of park garbage containers</li> <li>• Engage community partners as appropriate</li> <li>• Contact local schools to provide educational material and request that they advise their local school community</li> </ul>
<b>Encounter</b>	Coyote following or approaching a person or pet without Incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All preceding response measures</li> </ul>
<b>Incident</b>	Coyote aggressive toward person or pet (showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping without Contact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All preceding response measures</li> <li>• Pro-active patrol for by-law violations that may be contributing to behaviour and take appropriate enforcement response</li> <li>• Dispatch an M.L.E. Officer to investigate, collect information and conduct aversion conditioning techniques</li> </ul>
<b>Bite to Pet</b>	Coyote wounds or attempts to wound a pet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All preceding response measures</li> </ul>

Classification	Coyote Behaviour	City Response Options
<b>Bite to Person</b>	Coyote wounds or attempts to wound a person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All preceding response measures</li> <li>• Report Bite to Durham Region Health Services, Durham Region Police Services and the Ministry</li> <li>• Notify members of Council</li> <li>• Engage a qualified and licensed Agent to investigate and if required attempt to humanely eliminate the responsible coyote(s) following recommended methods by C.W.C. and/or the Ministry</li> </ul>

## 9.0 Policy Administration

This Policy is reviewed by the Director, Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services or designate at least every three (3) years to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with legislation and current business processes or as required based on legislative changes.

The Director, Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services is authorized to make minor or housekeeping amendments to this Policy, as required.

For further information regarding this Policy, contact Municipal Law Enforcement at 905-436-3311 or email at [service@oshawa.ca](mailto:service@oshawa.ca).

## 10.0 Resources

Coyote Watch Canada

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997

Ontario Regulations 665/98

Ontario Regulations 667/98

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

Municipalities: Brampton, Burlington, Collingwood, Mississauga, Oakville, Ottawa, Toronto, Vaughan

[Preventing and managing conflicts with coyotes](#)

The Humane Society of the United States

Corporate Services Committee Report [CORP-21-48](#)

Corporate Services Committee Report [CORP-21-60](#)

**11.0 Approved**

<b>Authority</b> City Council	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
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**By-law -2022  
of The Corporation of the City of Oshawa**

Being a By-law to amend By-law 126-97, as amended (the "Hunting By-law"), to provide an exemption for a licensed hunter and/or trapper retained by the Corporation of the City of Oshawa pursuant to the Coyote Response Management Plan.

**WHEREAS:**

1. Report CORP-21-48 dated October 4, 2021 recommended to City Council that the Corporation of the City of Oshawa (the "City") develop a Coyote Response Management Plan outlining situations related to coyote sightings and encounters and strategies on how the City will respond to each of these situations;
2. At its meeting on January 24, 2022, Report CORP-22-01 Council directed that  
  
That the City of Oshawa's Hunting and Firearms By-law 126-97, as amended, be further amended as outlined in Attachment 2, to provide an exemption for licensed hunters or trappers contracted by the City;
3. The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997, c. 41 ("*Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*") and its regulations permit a person with a valid licence to hunt and trap coyotes under the authority of that licence, while also authorizing municipalities to hire a professionally qualified hunter and trapper whose responsibilities are related to wildlife control, including the hunting of coyotes;
4. Section 11 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 ("*Municipal Act, 2001*") provides that municipalities may provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public, including the passing of by-laws in order to ensure the health, safety and well-being of persons, the protection of those persons and property, and also of animals;
5. Section 119 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a local municipality for the purpose of public safety to prohibit or regulate the discharge of firearms;
6. Sections 23.1, 23.2, 23.3 and 23.5 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorize a municipality to delegate certain powers and duties;
7. The City's Hunting By-law, which sets out regulations for hunting and the use of firearms in the City of Oshawa, requires amendments in order to permit exemptions for a licensed hunter or trapper hired by the City, and to further update references to statutes in the City's Hunting by-law that are now repealed; and,
8. The Council of The Corporation of the City of Oshawa considers it desirable to further amend the City's Hunting By-law;

**NOW THEREFORE** The Corporation of the City of Oshawa by its Council enacts as follows:

1. Subsection (c) of the Recitals section in the City's Hunting By-law is hereby amended by deleting the phrase, "Ontario Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M. 45" and replacing with the "*Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25*".
2. Subsection (d) of the Recitals section in the City's Hunting By-law is hereby amended by deleting the phrase, "Ontario Game and Fish Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.G.1" and replacing with the "*Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 41*".
3. Subsection 1.01(b) in the City's Hunting By-law is hereby amended by deleting the phrase, "Ontario Municipal Act" and replacing with the "*Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25*".
4. Subsections 1.01(g) and (i) in the City's Hunting By-law are hereby amended by deleting the phrase, "Ontario Game and Fish Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.G.1" and replacing with the "*Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 41*".
5. Subsection 1.01(i) in the City's Hunting By-law is hereby amended by deleting the phrase "Animal Services Officer" and replacing with "Municipal Law Enforcement Officer".
6. Subsection 3.02, "Exemptions" in the City's Hunting By-law is hereby amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and replacing with the following new subsection (c):

"(c) a hunter or trapper issued a valid licence under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 41*".
7. Section 4.00, "Hunting" in the City's Hunting By-law is hereby amended by including the following new subsection 4.03:

"4.03 Exemption: Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4 of this Hunting By-law, nothing in this By-law shall serve to prohibit hunting and trapping in Oshawa for a hunter or trapper hired by the CITY's Commissioner of Corporate Services and/or Director of Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services under subsection 3.02(c) of this Hunting By-law."
8. This by-law shall come into full force and effect the date of passage.

By-law passed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

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Mayor

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City Clerk