

City of Burlington Coyote Management Update Including Response to Recent Attacks

Summary of Burlington Oakville Coyote Management Recommendations and Staff Response and Next Steps (BOCM Report dated Feb 2022)

BOCM Report Recommendations	BOCM Category	City Staff Position/Recommendations and Comments	Proposed City Next Steps/ Requirements
1. Conduct an impact analysis by neighbourhoods to identify various controls that should be implemented to safeguard residents, children and pets from coyote attacks.	ANALYSIS	Agree - The depth and breadth of the impact analysis will need to be stipulated. A population and impact analysis would be beneficial and should be undertaken jointly by Burlington and Oakville with costs shared equally. City does not have internal capacity to complete this work which would require specialized urban wildlife data collection and analysis expertise. Assumption being there are qualified external agencies including potentially post-secondary research programs, that could complete this work. For example, the work of Dr. Brent Patterson, research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry's (MNRF) Wildlife Research & Monitoring Section, in studying the demographics, movement and behavior of Eastern Coyotes (<i>Canis latrans</i>) in an urban landscape.	Animal Services to work with Executive Director CPRM to review scope and determine next steps for completion of impact analysis by Q4 2022. City Manager to confirm joint participation and co-funding by Town of Oakville by Q3 2022 Estimated costing of the impact analysis to be confirmed.
2. Improve both the quantity and quality of signage relating to coyotes, and ensure it offers meaningful information on what to do in the event of sightings.	EDUCATION	Agree - Based on the digital images provided, appears coyote signage is inconsistent throughout the City of Burlington. Recently, additional signage designed and manufactured internally by the City has been installed including a specific focus on building awareness of aggressive behaviour and attacks. The inclusion of Coyote deterrence information should be reviewed for all future signage (or replacement of current signage). Future	Animal Services to work with Director of Corporate Communications & engagement and Director of Roads, Parks & Forestry to develop enhanced Coyote signage program and implement by Q2 2023 Additional budget cost for enhanced coyote signage program to be

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		budget requirement for enhanced signage will have to be assessed recognizing the City has internal expertise related to signage design, preparation and installation. Other external signage options including billboards and mobile signs to also be considered as suggested by BOCM.	included in considerations for 2023 Proposed Budget in Q1 2023
3. Current municipal by-laws should be amended to permit the laying of charges and assessment of fines for persons who feed coyotes.	PROTECTION	<p>Further Review Required - Municipalities have limited ability to increase set fines for enforcement taken under Part I of POA (issuing a ticket), which are approved by the office of the Senior Regional Justice. The current set fine for feeding wildlife is set at \$150.00.</p> <p>Penalty where enforcement proceeds under Part III of POA (laying of information) as currently included in the Animal Control By-law is currently set at maximum of \$5000. The maximum provided under this section can be increased by way of a by-law amendment, but the fine given will ultimately be determined by the jurist presiding over the matter in Court.</p> <p>The transition of the Animal Control By-law into the municipal Administrative Monetary Penalty System being developed by the Building and By-law Department will give the City greater flexibility respecting penalties and enforcement</p>	

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		<p>relating to contraventions relating to feeding wildlife.</p> <p>A municipal benchmarking will be conducted in Q4 2022 assess if the City should seek approval to increase the set fine relating to feeding wildlife for Part I offences and/or amend the maximum penalty for Part III offences in the Animal Control By-law.</p>	
4. Provide appropriate coyote management education and communication in schools and parks that border creeks.	EDUCATION	<p>Agree - This recommendation is fully supported and aligns directly with a great opportunity for the Animal Services to introduce a new Coyote Action and Awareness Program Pilot. The program would be multifaceted and include design and delivery of coyote educational presentations at schools and/or provide educational pamphlets to bring awareness to the issue (ideally utilizing the Animal Services officers for this direct community engagement). Our presence at the schools and in the community also provide a sense of security to the public that we are actively monitoring and addressing the situation. Amplified education outreach to targeted audiences will raise awareness in how to address/interact with contentious domesticated animals and wildlife. This targeted outreach will focus on schools yet will be directed to the educators as they are the parties</p>	<p>Recommend the Director of Building and By-law proceed immediately with the establishment of a Coyote Action and Awareness program specifically directed at coyote response.</p> <p>The Coyote Action and Awareness program project would be facilitated by the addition of 2 contract staff for a period of 2 years to ensure the program has the ability to capture two full cycles of coyote denning.</p> <p>Proposed costs to be confirmed for inclusion in 2023 Budget with program to commence in Q4 2022</p>

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		responsible for students. Additional outreach will be targeted at retail pet stores to ensure that residents know how to address wildlife if they cross paths with them in our communities.	
5. Change municipal by-laws to permit residents to increase fence heights in order to deter coyotes from entering residents' properties.	PROTECTION	<p>Further Review Required - Providing blanket exemptions for fences along specific locations or "hot spots" could result in entire backyards appearing to be fortified. A review from the Community Planning Department – Zoning Section would need to be conducted to confirm if a 1m (3.3ft) increase would be a) permitted and b) appropriate in this circumstance as a deterrent. The Executive Director of CPRM will review further with the Community Planning Department and report back with options and recommendations to Council in Q1 2023.</p> <p>Note: Currently the Province recommends 2m height fences with a 20cm extension below grade (in some form i.e. wire mesh) as deterrent for Coyotes.</p>	
6. Permit residents' whose properties back onto wooded areas to place an awning structure at the	PROTECTION	Further Review Required - Same comment as above. Consult with Community Planning Department – Zoning Section. The Executive Director of CPRM will review further with the Community Planning Department and report	

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top of their fence to prevent coyote jumps.		back with options and recommendations to Council in Q1 2023. Note: The Province recommends a “roller system” at the top of the fence to deter coyotes from jumping over.	
7. Request more frequent and nightly bylaw officer visits to wooded areas known to have coyote dens.	PROTECTION	Agree - Requests for increased service and patrols are determined by current volume of calls, service levels and staffing capacities. Any specific project or special area of concern can always be addressed with proper planning, implementation and contemplating any impact on operational demands. The addition of a Coyote Action and Awareness pilot program is an opportunity to address these prevalent community issues. Overall, the need exists for additional resources to provide extended Animal Control Officer service coverage given current staff complement of only four (4) officers provide direct customer facing services. Coverage is very limited in evenings and on weekends. As part of the creation of the new standalone By-Law Compliance Department, an enhanced service model will be considered with options and recommendation presented to Council in conjunction with the 2023 Proposed Budget.	To be completed related to recommended future service delivery model for Animal Service in 2023

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8. Scientifically measure the size of the coyote population in West Oakville, Bronte and Burlington	ANALYSIS	Further Review Required - Specific direction and understanding of the scope of this recommendation is required. Is the intent to tag and identify all coyotes within the noted areas?	
9. Institute a program of coyote contraception to limit the size of the coyote population.	PROTECTION	Further Review Required – Consideration of this item would require further discussion with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as wildlife is protected under Provincial legislation.	
10. Initiate a program of aggressive hazing to instill fear in coyotes.	EDUCATION	Agree - Similar to response to recommendation 4. An amplified and safe hazing awareness program could be an advantageous opportunity for the City of Burlington and the proposed Coyote Action and Awareness pilot Program to engage the community and provide educational sessions. These sessions would provide citizens with the tools and proper techniques to properly haze coyotes and officers would be present to engage in Q&A with the community.	<p>Recommend the Director of Building and By-law proceed immediately with the establishment of a Coyote Action and Awareness pilot program specifically directed at coyote management.</p> <p>The Coyote Action and Awareness pilot project would be facilitated by the additional of 2 contract staff for a period of 2 years to ensure the program has the ability to capture two full cycles of coyote denning. Proposed costs to be confirmed for inclusion in 2023 Budget with program to commence in Q4 2022.</p>

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11. Institute a program of regular pesticide spraying of rats and other vermin consumed by Coyotes in our trail areas and known den areas.	PREVENTION	Further Review Required - Use of pesticides are regulated through Provincial legislation and discussion related to use of pesticides for controlling Coyote food source will require further discussion with Province.	Ensuring all available food sources are removed, or properly stored is another effective measure. City employees (Coyote Action and Awareness pilot Program, Building Inspectors, By-law Officers, Roads/Parks Staff) would engage local problem “hot spots” to assess current issues (garbage left unattended, poorly maintained properties, construction sites, bird feeders, feeding of wildlife, local parking lots where garbage cans are not properly maintained, etc.) and provide an education campaign to bring better awareness to the issues and/or enforcement to address the matters if not rectified.