

Appendix A – Original City Response to Feb 2022 BOCM Report Recommendations (Report CM-26-22) and Status Update

1. Conduct an impact analysis by neighbourhoods to identify various controls that should be implemented to safeguard residents, children and pets from coyote attacks.

An impact analysis might be beneficial. But are there agencies that could provide this service? Does Coyote Watch Canada have any data to assist with this? Animal Service staff will reach out to Coyote Watch to determine next steps.

***Status:** Remains under consideration however discussions with MNRF in particular with City staff have resulted in an enhanced understanding of local Coyote management and response management in particular the importance of strict control and imposition of fines and escalating penalties over feeding of all wildlife including coyotes.*

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.

Based on the digital images provided, signage appears to be inconsistent throughout the City. The inclusion of Coyote deterrence information should be reviewed for all future signage (or replacement of current signage). Future financial support will have to be assessed.

***Status:** Fully supported and enhanced signage design and implementation are ongoing between Animal Services and RPF staff.*

3. Current municipal by-laws should be amended to permit the laying of charges and assessment of fines for persons who feed coyotes.

Amendments to by-laws in regard to specific fines are not always successful in deterrence methods. Increasing fines for offences which are not often penalized would not be a successful way to mitigate the behaviour. The application of the by-law and the intent must be defined to understand what issue is trying to be resolved. A full review of the AS by-law as well as other enforcement strategies such as administrative penalty system (APS) are critical and must be considered. (Smaller, more easily payable and collectable fines are often more successful in specific deterrence than large, unattainable Provincial Offences). As noted above the current AS by-law should be reviewed to determine effectiveness.

Status: *Fully supported with increased wildlife feeding fines implemented in reports CM-26-22 and BB-14-22.*

4. Provide appropriate coyote management education in schools and parks that border creeks.

Agreed, this would be a great opportunity for the Animal Services Ambassador Pilot Program give presentations at schools or provide educational pamphlets to bring awareness to the issue (ideally utilizing the AS officers for this 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.

Status: *Fully supported and being implemented as part of the CAAP pilot program.*

5. Change municipal by-laws to permit residents to increase fence heights in order to deter coyotes from entering residents' properties.

Providing blanket exemptions for fences along “hot spots” could result in entire backyards appearing to be fortified. A review from the Planning Department – Zoning Section would need to be conducted to see if a 1m (3.3ft) increase would be a) permitted and b) appropriate in this circumstance as a deterrent.

Status: *Fence regulations will be reviewed by the Community Planning Department through the Comprehensive Zoning By-law review project.*

6. Permit residents' whose properties back onto wooded areas to place an awning structure at the top of their fence to prevent coyote jumps.

Status: *Fence regulations will be reviewed by the Community Planning Department through the Comprehensive Zoning By-law review project.*

7. Request more frequent and nightly bylaw officer visits to wooded areas known to have coyote dens.

Requests for service and operational needs are something that can always be assessed. 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 an Ambassador pilot program with

assistance from Coyote Watch Canada is an opportunity to address these specific needs.

Status: *Fully supported and in progress of implementation with additional Animal Services staff resources and CAAP program to address the frequency of proactive patrols for known coyote hotspots.*

8. Scientifically measure the size of the coyote population in West Oakville, Bronte and Burlington.

Does Coyote Watch Canada have any data to assist with this? Or does Coyote Watch Canada have any ability/capacity to facilitate this sort of request?

Status: *Not supported given the transient nature and mobility of the coyote population. MNRF continue to provide the City with information on coyote behaviour with urban environment within the GTHA and City of Burlington staff are in direct contact with Provincial subject matter experts and animal services staff at the Town of Oakville.*

9. Institute a program of coyote contraception to limit the size of the coyote population.

This would be a discussion to be had with the Ministry, as wildlife is protected. Coyote cull programs may exist in other locations or municipalities. The municipality on its own would probably not be permitted to initiate a program such as this.

Status: *Not supported based on City not having authority of implementing such a program based on the MNRF feedback.*

10. Initiate a program of aggressive hazing to instill fear in coyotes.

Agreed. Similar to question 4. This could be a good opportunity for the City of Burlington to engage the local schoolboards and provide education seminars or hold open public sessions where officers can be present to engage in Q&A with the community.

Status: *Hazing is fully supported and is/will be reinforced in our coyote management communications as well as our direct public engagement through the CAAP program.*

11. Institute a program of regular pesticide spraying of rats and other vermin consumed by Coyotes in our trail areas and known den areas.

Pesticides and spray control is just one method of deterrence. Ensuring all available food sources are removed, or properly stored is another more effective measure. City employees (Ambassadors) could engage local problem “hot spots” to assess current issues.

(Garbage left out unattended. Bird Feeders or feeding of wildlife. local parking spots where garbage cans are not properly maintained, etc..) and provide an education campaign to bring better awareness to the issues.

Status: *Not supported for number of reasons including unintended impacts to wildlife and the overall environment and ecological balance.*