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July 31, 2016

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Councilman Paul Koretz and  
Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee  
All Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Adam Lid, Committee Analyst

**CF 16-0585 - "California Department of Fish and Game/Coyote Sightings" (Opposition)**

The report provided to this committee by L.A. Animal Services contains no "plan" to protect residents or their pets from coyotes. It is merely an insulting re-hash of documents that have been collected by various Wildlife Officers over the past several decades. However, during that span, the problems of rapidly increasing urban coyotes with little or no fear of humans and raising pups in highly populated areas, where they have experienced little need to hunt, has naturally developed and escalated. That fact is being denied by GM Brenda Barnette.

'Plans' admit the problem and offer solutions. A "plan" would consist of taking this issue seriously, because the coyotes heightened comfort level and presumed entitlement to subsistence is perpetuated by humans (garbage, trash bins that can be overturned or pulled open, fallen fruit, rodents, pets, and direct feeding) This has not only placed it in conflict but also dependent upon those of whom it should—by nature—be afraid. .

The tired documents presented to you as a Coyote Management Plan are merely the history and guide to how this problem has grown and how city government has enabled it. There is no outline, or even mention, of what neighbors and responders are to do in the event of a serious attack on a human. There is not even basic protocol for LAPD, which would most likely be first on scene.

There is no indication the Municipal Code Section prohibiting feeding of mammalian predators is going to be enforced in an effective manner; such as, immediate imposition of fines (starting at \$100) for anyone feeding any wildlife or leaving food for any animals outside (including for feral cats).

Without serious intent to diminish the source of the problem, it is obvious the PAW committee is merely kicking the can down the road until there is a serious injury. Hopefully, this department will be returned to the Public Safety Committee, which is where this matter should be heard and discussed NOW.

I am attaching recent articles posted on CityWatchLA to provide a broader spectrum of opinions because various voices need to be heard. That way, no member of Council, nor the Mayor, can claim ignorance of this escalating and dangerous situation—to people, pets and the coyotes.

  
Phyllis M. Daugherty

## Coyote Shooting in Silver Lake – Is the Public Losing Patience with City Hall and Animal Services?

PHYLLIS M. DAUGHERTY

07 JULY 2016



LOS ANGELES

**ANIMAL WATCH**—The exploding coyote presence in Los Angeles -- and obvious lack of concern by LA Animal Services GM Brenda Barnette and other City officials -- has apparently caused some individuals to take things into their own hands.

Two recent criminal acts may indicate that public patience is wearing thin and desperation is setting in. Is it possible that mounting anger over inaction regarding marauding coyotes is also symbolic of a seething rebellion against the greater issue of Los Angeles' pompous, detached and inept local government, which *acts without facts and worries more about the political and financial favor of advocacy groups than the safety of the electorate (and their pets)?*

The coyotes' increasing boldness toward humans and the killing of furry or feathered family members has been treated by City Hall as just another irrelevant and ignorable quality-of-life issue until a recent motion by [San Pedro Councilman Joe Buscaino](#) instructed the Department of Animal Services to report with a plan to reduce the number of coyotes in Harbor communities -- a priority for constituents in his densely populated district. It's also critical to uscaino's upcoming re-election campaign -- and a wake-up call to other LA politicians.

On July 1, the [LA Times](#) reported, "*Mystery Shooter Kills Coyote in Silver Lake*," explaining that a Silver Lake resident found the dead coyote lying in front of his parked car in June and a gunshot was later determined as the cause of death. LAPD, the Animal Cruelty Task Force, plus the Department of Animal Services are all looking into the shooting.

The *Times* states, "... some neighbors believed the killing was just the latest example of resident's frustration with coyotes in Silver Lake," which they describe as increasingly bold.

"We've had them on our front lawn, 10 feet from the front of the house," said one Silver Lake resident, lamenting that many cats have been taken and she worries about her toddler and five-week-old infant.

Her husband added, "I love coyotes, but I love my dog more." This expressed the attitude of most Angelenos, who enjoy living peacefully with wildlife, as long as it is reciprocal.

In what appears to be an unrelated incident on May 24, LA Animal Services' GM Brenda Barnette issued a media alert entitled, "*WANTED injured coyote & illegal trapper*," announcing information about a coyote "whose

leg was stuck in an illegal leg hold trap" in the Valley. Animal Control Officers (ACOs) responded immediately, the release stated but, "...unfortunately the coyote had disappeared."

On May 27, there was a second call that the trap was found, "along with one of the legs of the coyote still locked in the trap." Barnette advised that, "ACOs are continuing patrols for both the distressed coyote and the illegal trapper." Although the injured coyote was purported to have subsequently been seen in the North Hills area, no word of its capture followed.

Los Angeles abhors the suffering of any domestic or wild animal. However, caustic comments on news coverage of the trapping compared LA Animal Services' slow -- or nonexistent -- response to dog attacks or to coyotes killing pets and threatening humans, to the concern (and sudden availability of staff) for the trapped coyote.

An obsequious report by Animal Services on Wednesday, June 29, assured coyote advocates and Paul Koretz' Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee that LAAS, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the National Park Service all agree that the coyote population has not grown, but the same coyotes are being reported by multiple people on social media.

Interestingly, the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has posted prominently on its website, [Coyote Attacks: an Increasing Suburban Problem](#) (White Paper from the Hopland Research and Extension Center, University of California.)

And, LA County Department of Public Health reports that coyote attacks on humans increased from two in 2011 to 15 in 2015, according to the *Daily Breeze*. Locally, a child and an adult male were bitten in Elysian Park last year in separate incidents.

Reports from all over Los Angeles indicate alarm not just for the numbers of sightings but also because of the comfort-level evident when predators closely related to wolves are lounging on front lawns.

A San Pedro resident told the [Daily Breeze](#) that, when he left for work before dawn in June, there were five coyotes spread across his yard. He added, "I've never seen anything like that in the past."

In January 2016, the National Park Service announced that a young female coyote, discovered with at least five pups living in the Echo Park area on September 23, 2015, was found drowned in MacArthur Park lake.

"In the short time C-146 was tracked via a GPS collar, her travels displayed unusual behavior for a species that is territorial, the NPS report stated. "Since captured near the LA River in Northeast LA, she traveled as far south as downtown Los Angeles via the LA River, throughout Elysian Park, and into the Westlake neighborhood where she met her fate in MacArthur Park."

"They're not coming from anywhere, they're just here," Niamh Quinn, advisor at the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, told the *Daily Breeze*, "They're now established in urban communities and they're reproducing successfully."

Dr. Quinn also clarified that declining food and water in the hills is NOT the reason for the coyotes' increasingly aggressive behavior. It is the ease of raiding garbage cans in yards rather than exerting the energy to hunt and catch dinner.

A Westlake/Echo Park unofficial coyote-watch networker advised this week that a coyote with a cat in its mouth was reported on Park View St. near Temple. A man walking a Chihuahua on Glendale Blvd. near the 101 Fwy. bridge reported that, "a coyote came out from under a car, grabbed the pup and ran up the hill with it." And, another animal rescuer said she saw two coyotes near Hoover and Sanborn, each with a cat.

In response to Buscaino's motion, LA Animal Services posted a [Report Back on the Coyote Management Program](#) on June 24, recommending that Council "Receive and File." Barnette states that the Department does not plan to trap or otherwise remove any wildlife and that "coyotes cause few problems that can't be resolved with better coexistence training and compliance on the part of the city's residents."

So far, her plan has not produced a noticeably positive result.

Buscaino advised in a prepared statement, "I will continue to gauge the situation and the public comment and respond appropriately." At the end of the one-hour discussion, Koretz stated, "I'm not sure we've completely exhausted this subject. We'll have a further hearing to see if anything can be added to the program." Is either sincere?

It is insulting to residents who have lived peacefully with wildlife for decades for City Hall officials to accept Brenda Barnette's pathetic, condescending explanation that there is no increasing coyote problem -- just a social-media illusion.

There is no problem with coyotes being predators and acting on their natural survival instinct to kill and eat the most available prey. However, that cannot continue to be *pets* -- beloved family members. And Angelenos cannot live under the threat that children (or even adults) may be next.

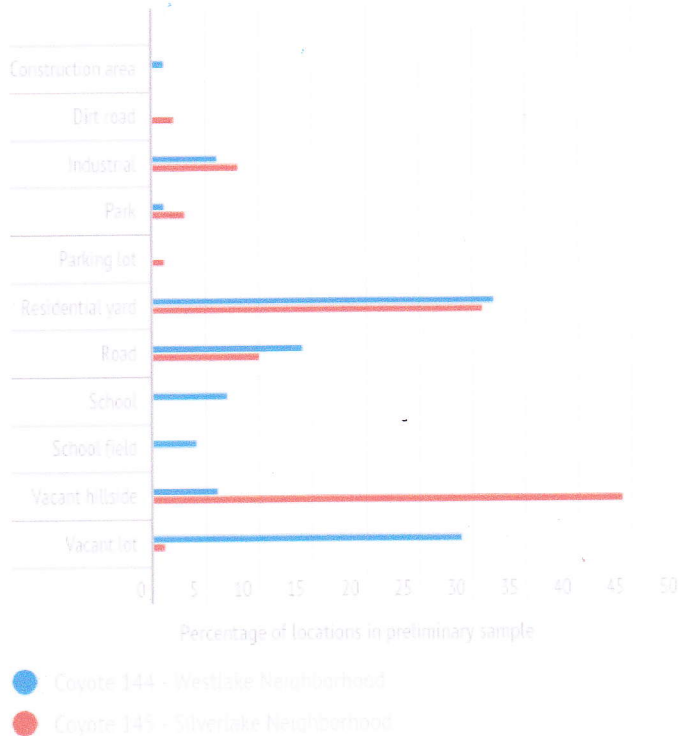
Where is the compassion for the innocent cats and dogs who experience unfathomable terror when snatched from their owner or yard in a coyote's jaws and suffer horrific deaths being crushed or torn apart alive by its teeth? Has even one humane organization publicly mourned them or decried *their* deaths?

While there is still time, and before the coyote population becomes overwhelming, City Hall must consult with experienced experts on the most humane way to drive coyotes away from heavily populate areas and back to a natural habitat, and then implement a plan.

If not, escalating fear and desperation may cause more law-abiding residents to take the law into their own hands to protect those they love -- and voters will not forget.

*(Animal activist Phyllis M. Daugherty writes for CityWatch and is a contributing writer to opposingviews.com. She lives in Los Angeles.) Edited for CityWatch by Linda Abrams.*

### L.A. Coyote Locations by Land Type: A preliminary sample of 100 GPS data points



Credit: National Park Service

## Let's Get Real, Coyotes are the New Urban Terrorist!

JAMES A. SCHMIDT  
14 JULY 2016



LOS ANGELES

CO-EXISTENCE ALERT--I have 56 years' experience with coyotes first hand. I am a college-educated, retired USDA Wildlife Specialist. I have lived among coyotes for a collective 210 days in remote locations in Arizona while collecting biological samples for the Center for Disease Control and Arizona Game and Fish Department. I have studied and pursued them in every way possible over these years. I have kept live coyotes on my property for the USDA for observation and urine collection for several years. And I've dealt with damaging and dangerous coyotes first hand and witnessed the death and the trauma they cause.

I know coyotes. They do not belong in town, in your community, in your neighborhood, or in your back yard. These wild animals are dangerous. They are equivalent to "urban terrorists" as they invade the urban areas of America because they are there to kill – it's their expertise. They are *not* cute little wild dogs, they are not a friendly wild animal, they are not your friend in anyway; they are dangerous. Anyone who tells you that you can co-exist with these dangerous wild animals is irresponsible and putting your life, your family's life, your children, grandchildren, pets, and property in danger!

### Look closely at a few things they tell you to do to protect yourself from dangerous coyotes:

1. Secure your home to prevent unauthorized entry by coyotes – as you would to prevent burglars from entry.
2. Never let your pets out into your *very own* back yard without supervision. You must police them.
3. Watch your children closely at all times when they are outside -- guarding against coyotes as you would against criminals like kidnappers. Imagine seeing your child being eaten by a coyote.
4. Secure all access to your home and buildings both above and below the foundation from unauthorized entry by coyotes. Again, like burglars and other criminals, they are thieves in the night.
5. Never travel the same routes day in and day out -- change your pattern, like you would from a stalker or attacker.

Let's get real here, people! This dangerous wild animal is a trespasser. The coyote has proven to be a threat to humans, pets and property for decades. It is doing what criminals do, what stalkers do, and what terrorists do – and some would want you to learn to co-exist with them? Well then, let's all learn to co-exist with muggers, rapists, stalkers, drunk drivers, and murders as well. After all, they have rights too. But do you really want to learn to live with a rattlesnake in the kitchen?

According to some unrealistic and perhaps deranged people, rattlesnakes, killer bees, alligators, grizzly bears, cockroaches, and others have more rights to live anywhere they want than we do. If these creatures (like snakes) take up residence in your back yard or under your house (like skunks) or in your attic (like bats) – well, that is their right.

Their proponents say, “We have moved in on them” ... but they were there first! Poor misunderstood wild animals ... you must “learn to live with it!”

There is a reason that all across America there are no closed hunting seasons on coyotes. Many states do not even require hunting licenses to pursue coyotes. There are no bag limits on coyotes either. There is a reason that there have been bounties paid on killing coyotes for over 50 years. The state of Utah now pays a \$50 bounty for each coyote killed. There is a reason that one federal agency has had a huge focus on controlling coyotes in America for over 100 years: coyotes are abundant. They cause a huge amount of personal property damage where ever they go. Coyotes are dangerous to humans, pets, and livestock and cause tens of thousands of dollars of damage each year in America.

Everything I have stated here is simple to research and very easy to verify. The USDA has a fulltime well-staffed research center in Utah that studies coyotes every day. These are dangerous wild animals that must be monitored and controlled. Coyotes do not belong in your community, your neighborhood, or your back yard. And the so-called “coyote experts” seldom are that. Most have not even been alive for as long as I’ve been dealing directly with coyotes.

Public officials encourage “co-existence” with coyotes because they don’t have the budget or the experience to deal with them. They just hope the problem goes away. But it won’t and if they were *real experts* they would know that.

Activists like those who run **Project Coyote** have the single agenda of stopping all hunting in America -- and they want to start with the coyote. They want to raise money from *you* by giving you a false message with unrealistic claims about these dangerous animals. Much of what they claim is simply made up!

I encourage all of you to take action like some other communities have. Green Valley, Arizona rose up and fought back against a *single coyote* that bit eight different adults. They killed this bad coyote and the attacks immediately stopped. Long Beach, California is fighting back by forming a citizens group to demand something be done about their increasing coyote problem. They found that the City of Long Beach has *no budget* for this control and the California Fish and Wildlife Department is doing basically nothing because they also have no budget for it. Printing up a few pamphlets will not stop the invasion and danger.

So, what has caused this invasion? This terrorism? It is easy to figure. Across America, coyotes are showing up where they have not been in the past, looking for something to kill and eat on the roof tops of New York City, in the back yards of Pennsylvania, in downtown Chicago, and in many other similar locations. The expansion is due to the loss of rural habitat, reduction in hunters and the increasingly abundant amount of resources available in town. There is more water, more cover, and more trash to rummage through. There are pets to eat, plenty of cool shade, lots of food and most importantly, “no pressure” from other coyotes or people pursuing them.

Urban America is a safe place for these dangerous wild animals. And it’s becoming even safer as misguided people try to “co-exist” with them. Do not fall for it. Fight back against this new urban terrorist!

**O**  
(James A. Schmidt is a retired USDA Wildlife Specialist.) Edited for CityWatch by Linda Abrams.

## Coyote Danger! Will LA Adopt Trap and Kill Plan?

PHYLLIS M. DAUGHERTY  
20 JUNE 2016



LOS ANGELES

ANIMAL WATCH-On June 15, the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee (PAW) of the LA City Council agendized a hearing on the [May 24 motion](#) by San Pedro/Harbor-area Councilman Joe Buscaino, instructing LA Animal Services to report back by July 1 with recommendations "...that will further control the coyote population in the City's residential neighborhoods."

Torrance, a neighboring South Bay city which shares coyotes with San Pedro, scheduled a Council meeting on June 14 on the same subject. Prior community meetings indicated that Torrance residents wanted serious steps taken to deter the city's coyote invasion.

Coincidentally -- or possibly to let Torrance set the benchmark -- PAW Chair Paul Koretz, cancelled the June 15 LA hearing.

Despite emotional pleas and protests from wildlife advocates that trapping and removing urban coyotes is inhumane and will not solve the problem, on June 14 the Torrance City Council adopted an urban coyote management plan emphasizing public education, but also including "**lethal removal of problem animals when the safety of residents is at risk.**"

Residents cited that coexistence without protection has resulted in the City responding to nearly 150 coyote sightings already this year, including 84 in April.

Torrance encompasses almost 21 square miles, with an estimated 2013 population of 147,478. Its consistently low crime rate ranks it among the safest cities in LA County.

Coyotes have killed an estimated 60 mostly domestic animals so far this year, including 37 cats, seven dogs and one tortoise, according to the [Daily Breeze](#).

ABC 7 News reported that wildlife advocate Matthew Duncan advised food and water bowls left outside, free roaming cats, and small unattended dogs are what draw coyotes to neighborhoods and removing these issues "will likely solve the problem."

It is inconvenient for Councilman Koretz, who is seeking support for re-election and has staked much of his political career on being an 'animal-lover,' that the Torrance Council approved lethal action -- the possibility of which is also implied in Buscaino's motion, seconded by Koretz.

Attorney Mark R. Steinberg, resident of the Los Feliz Oaks area for over 40 years, lost two beloved border collies to coyotes inside his fenced yard last year. He has submitted to the [Council File](#) an adaptable, comprehensive plan for coyote management developed for The Town of Parker in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and put a lot of thought and research into this issue.

He also has made some very astute suggestions, including that a requirement for tracking and reporting coyote sightings/incidents and making updated information available to the public on the Animal Services website be incorporated into Councilman Buscaino's motion.

Mr. Steinberg recently told the [Daily Breeze](#) that the relationship of residents with coyotes has changed radically in the past few years. "People are being confronted (by emboldened coyotes) in the streets, there's regular killing and maiming of pets, some of them the size of the coyotes themselves," he said.

A Simi Valley coyote rehabilitator also filed a letter recommending education for the public, "...alleviating any fears they had on wild animals being a danger."

LA Animal Services' GM Brenda Barnette admits to not keeping statistics on sightings or attacks on pets in the city and she has not issued a promised public response to distraught residents after holding community meetings last year. The [Department](#) also does not respond to coyote threats or attacks on pets or humans. (Human attacks are reported to the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.)

The LAAS website has an obscure Wildlife Section which states, "It is not the intention of the Department of Animal Services to remove wildlife from residential areas. Rather, the Department is hoping to rectify most problems through neighborhood education and individual homeowner attention."

It also reassures us that, "*Statistically the chances of wildlife attacks on humans causing fatality are low when compared to 43,000 people killed by auto accidents, 13,000 people killed by falls, and on the obscure side 13 people that are killed by vending machine's [sic] falling on them every year.*"

As if Chief Charlie Beck is not busy enough preparing for potential terrorist attacks in LA, Lt. Kent Smirl of CA F&W told reporters last year that coyotes have recently entered homes chasing dogs or cats through pet doors. In an OC case, a coyote [followed a woman through her front door](#), wrestled her dog away from her in the living room and disappeared into the neighborhood with the dog in its jaws.

Any immediate crisis of this nature in LA would undoubtedly be called into 911, so I asked a Senior Lead Officer what training LAPD has received for such situations **where humans are also endangered** and what action would be taken. He responded that they had not received any training and would probably try to deter the animal with fire extinguishers.

### **Mange in coyotes may result in more contact with humans.**

Many reports of coyote sightings in LA include the comment that the animal is extremely thin and missing hair.

A team of Canadian researchers found that coyotes that **live in urban areas and have mange**, are more likely to have an inadequate diet based on human food. They published their 2015 study, "Poor health in association with the use of anthropogenic resources in an urban carnivore," in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*:

*GPS collars were applied to 19 coyotes and their hair was sampled periodically. Eleven coyotes appeared to be healthy and eight were visibly infested with sarcoptic mange, a mite that causes hair loss. Diseased coyotes used more developed areas, had larger monthly home ranges, were more active during the day, and assimilated less protein than coyotes that appeared to be healthy.*

Sarcoptic mange is caused by a mite that burrows under the skin and can migrate and infect other animals (or humans). Untreated, this condition results in extensive hair loss, decreased body-weight and constant itching and scratching that causes additional self-inflicted skin wounds that become infected. As the disease progresses the skin becomes thickened and takes on a wrinkled appearance and is usually hairless and discolored. (The Canadian researchers also noted that pet owners should be aware that dogs can get mange from [coyotes](#).)

A thesis by Evan C. Wilson, Graduate Program in Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State, in 2012, [The Dynamics of Sarcoptic Mange in an Urban Coyote \(Canis latrans\) Population](#), proposes that, "*Disease, specifically sarcoptic mange, is a potential reason for some individuals [coyotes], to ignore their wariness of humans, and behave in a manner that makes them become a 'nuisance' animal.*"

Could this possibly explain reports that some coyotes seem less leery of noise and are seen wandering in congested areas of LA during daytime?



The Canadian research team speculates that human food provides a low-quality, but easily accessible food source sought by diseased coyotes. In turn, that dependency on food from human resources promotes more encounters with people.

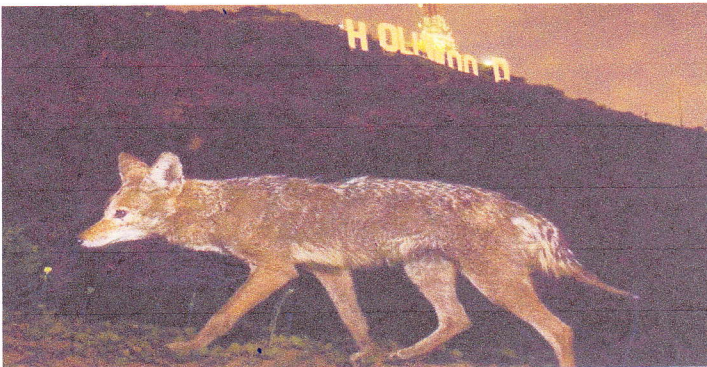
Councilman Buscaino is right -- it is time for Los Angeles' officials to get serious about this exploding public safety/health issue affecting animals and humans. Coyotes in cities have evolved beyond the traditional characteristics of timidity and fear of humans for numerous reasons, and Los Angeles is woefully unenlightened and unprepared.

*(Animal activist Phyllis M. Daugherty writes for CityWatch and is a contributing writer to opposingviews.com. She lives in Los Angeles.) Edited for CityWatch by Linda Abrams.*

# Doublethink Leaves LA Torn Between Coyotes and Feral Cats

PHYLLIS M. DAUGHERTY

06 JUNE 2016



LOS ANGELES

ANIMAL WATCH--Councilman Paul Koretz' naive doublethink now has the City Council ensnared between powerful competing groups—coyote advocates and feral cat feeders--that may soon be fighting mad. And, Koretz and Animal Services GM Brenda Barnette are caught inextricably in the middle.

This is just one more example of why LA Animal Services must be moved from the unilateral decision-making by Koretz, Chair of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee, and restored to oversight by the Public Safety Committee, where there might at least be discussions regarding potential unexpected consequences of animal-related policies.

Koretz lacks personal expertise regarding animals and continually makes decisions based solely upon the advice or propaganda provided by affluent/influential animal-rights groups with political interests, without considering the negative impact on LA residents and--as in this case--their pets.

On May 24, Councilman Joe Buscaino, who represents the San Pedro area, introduced a motion which Koretz seconded, instructing Animal Services to *"...report on or before July 1, 2016, with a detailed plan on the Department's Coyote Management Program...and recommendations for improvements to that Program that will further control the coyote population in the City's residential neighborhoods, including any ordinances or City policies that will support the effort."*

One day later, on May 25, the City Council, which is advised by Koretz on all things animal, approved \$800,000 in the Mayor's 2016-17 Budget for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on cats, with the goal of authorizing official Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) of feral cats (re-abandoning altered cats into the streets)—under the guise it is the only way the city will reach "No Kill."

It is important to understand that "No Kill" pertains ONLY to shelter populations and does not count the animals that die in the streets, which provides the impetus to NOT impound strays nor address problems that might cause more animals to be brought to the shelter.

Neither Koretz nor Barnette was transparent with the Council prior to the vote on the \$800,000 cat report. Koretz did not advise his colleagues that TNR is already legal in L.A., with sterilizations of abandoned and/or unsocialized animals well funded by private grants, large pet-supply corporations; such as PetSmart, and major humane organizations, including Best Friends.

Barnette did not disclose that “feeders” throughout LA trap street cats, have them altered and release them constantly, providing food outdoors to large groups of feral cats in “colonies” daily with no interference by L.A. Animal Services.

The \$800,000 EIR is intended to overturn a court injunction which **prohibits using City funds to perform or promote TNR, without including mitigating measures to reduce the sources of the problem.** The goal of the injunction was to reduce the decimation of birds and small wildlife necessary to maintain the environmental balance, and to reduce public health risks posed by millions of outdoor cats.

The City could simply negotiate humane safeguards such as, a “non-roaming” ordinance to require owners to keep their cats inside or in their own yards; mandatory licensing/microchipping of cats, and the right of property owners to remove nuisance feral cats by taking them to the shelter.

Both Koretz and Barnette have absolutely rejected any measures placing accountability for cats on owners (as we do with dogs)—opting instead to spend \$800,000 of taxpayer’s money for consultants to justify the fiction that millions of outdoor, ‘wild’ cats have no negative impact on the environment.

But Councilman Buscaino’s coyote-report motion—to which Koretz added his name—is aimed at “...**prioritizing resident’s [sic] safety through deterrence of these wild animals in our neighborhoods**, in addition to the Department’s efforts to educate residents about coyote behavior.”

**This is in direct conflict with the anticipated outcome of the \$800,000 EIR.**

LAAS estimates there are 3.5 million feral cats in Los Angeles. Creating feral cat ‘colonies’ all over the city, maintained by “feeders” who dump cat food in accessible areas and provide containers with fresh water, also attracts rodents and other wildlife to the location—including coyotes.

Experts in coyote control unanimously agree that NOT feeding pets outside and NOT leaving pet food and water bowl outdoors is fundamental to any coyote-control program.

In fact, on June 1, L.A. Animal Services Wildlife Officer Hoang Dinh told **Fox 11**, "Most importantly, it's important to keep pets inside and doors closed when there are coyotes roaming neighborhoods. Dog and cat food is a big clue to the coyotes that there is food nearby in the form of someone's pets." (He either inadvertently or intentionally omitted feral-cat feeding.)

There is another important aspect of humans providing food to feral cats, which in turn become food for coyotes. When a feral-cat feeding station appears in a vacant lot or urban alley, appreciative coyotes quickly realize a human has set up a smorgasbord.

This teaches them two things: (1) humans are not the coyotes’ enemy; and (2) the intended benefactors—the feral cats themselves—also become a food source that does not require hunting.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** provides an informative section on avoiding coyote conflict, including:

- *Coyotes eat wild species, but they are known to eat pet food, garbage, garden crops, livestock, poultry, and pets (mostly cats).*
- **Don't feed feral cats** (domestic cats gone wild). Coyotes prey on these cats as well as any feed you leave out for the feral cats.
- *Humans increase the likelihood of conflicts with coyotes by deliberately or inadvertently feeding the animals, whether by handouts or by providing access to food sources such as garbage, pet food or livestock*

*carcasses. When people provide food, coyotes quickly lose their natural fear of humans and become increasingly aggressive. They also become dependent on the easy food source people provide. Once a coyote stops hunting on its own and loses its fear of people, it becomes dangerous and may attack without warning.*

Buscaino's motion claims, "While coyotes typically pose no threat to humans, these interactions create safety concerns for parents and owners of small pets who are unsure of the coyote's aggressiveness."

That's not exactly accurate according to residents who say they have observed the aggressive nature of the "urban" coyotes in L.A. who are born and raised in or near highly populated communities and have lost their fear of humans.

We also can't ignore the four children attacked in Orange County within three months last year, including a three-year-old inside a garage with her father present. Plus, **KTLA** reported two attacks in Elysian Park in 2015—one a 3-year-old girl and the other an adult male.

**UC Davis** published an important GUIDE to identifying progressive problem coyote behavior, which is well worth reading in its entirety. Here are several excerpts:

- ***Recognizing Problem Coyote Behavior***

*As coyote numbers increase in cities, they become accustomed to the presence of people, especially if the people do not harass them. Studies of coyote attacks on pets and on humans have revealed a predictable pattern of change in coyote behavior in these environments. This progression is accelerated when coyotes are provided abundant food, either unintentionally or intentionally, in residential areas.*

*When it reaches the point where pets are being attacked or coyotes are seen in neighborhoods in early morning or late afternoon, area-wide corrective actions are recommended to prevent an escalation to attacks on humans . . . (See Responding to Coyote Aggression and Attack.)*

- ***Sequence of increasingly aggressive coyote behaviors***

1. **Increase in coyotes on streets and in yards at night**
2. **Increase in coyotes approaching adults and/or taking pets at night**
3. **Coyotes on streets, and in parks and yards, in early morning/late afternoon**
4. **Coyotes chasing or taking pets in daytime**
5. **Coyotes attacking and taking pets on leash or near owners; chasing joggers, bicyclists, other adults**
6. **Coyotes seen in and around children's play areas, school grounds, and parks in midday**
7. **Coyotes acting aggressively toward adults in midday**

- ***Hazing and Behavior Modification.***

*Using sound or visual stimuli to keep coyotes away from livestock or other resources will provide only temporary effectiveness, if any. . . In the absence of any real threat, coyotes quickly adapt or habituate to sounds, flashing lights, propane cannons, scarecrows, and so on.*

Will Paul Koretz and Brenda Barnette ignore the warnings of scientists and other experts?

How will Koretz (who had 19 cats as a child and has made TNR a priority) resolve the looming undeniable conflict between the vocal advocates for coyotes and TNR/feral-cat feeders without negatively impacting his current fundraising efforts or re-election?

Is seconding Councilman Buscaino's motion a sincere attempt by Koretz to determine and implement coyote deterrence for public safety or merely lip service and a ploy to assure the status quo is not changed in regard to coyote management?