

# PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G   C O E X I S T E N C E



## COYOTE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

### *The Case for Coexistence*

Coyotes have expanded their range throughout much of North America, in large part because of the extermination of wolves; the alteration and transformation of habitat; and urban and suburban sprawl. Humanized landscapes provide abundant food, water, and shelter for coyotes and other wildlife. Unfortunately, intentional and unintentional feeding of coyotes has also resulted in increased encounters and conflicts. Determining the means by which communities can best address such conflicts sometimes generates fierce debate. Many state wildlife agencies and local municipalities lack the resources to implement effective proactive strategies that would help keep human-coyote encounters from escalating into conflicts. Moreover, lack of agency coordination, combined with limited educational outreach by public officials to their communities, hinders effective conflict resolution.

Too often, the response to coyote conflicts is lethal and indiscriminate—making victims of non-offending coyotes, non-target wildlife and even pets. Such an approach fails to address the root causes of most conflicts, i.e., available food, water, shelter and other attractants related to human habitation. It also fails to recognize the ecological value that coyotes provide to both urban and rural ecosystems, such as keeping rodent populations in check and helping control disease transmission. Finally, lethal policies go against the public's overwhelming support for the protection and humane treatment of wildlife.

Inconsistent and exaggerated reports of aggressive coyote behavior serve to increase incidences of mistreatment of coyotes at the community-level. Such inaccurate reports can heighten public uneasiness, which may limit opportunities for establishing successful coexistence strategies. Fortunately, Project Coyotes is helping communities throughout North America realize ways that they can institute long-term, organized approaches to prevent human-coyote conflict, and keep residents, pets and wildlife safe.

### *The Project Coyote Solution*

Project Coyote works with communities throughout the United States to educate and equip residents, public servants, and agency officials with the information, and tools needed to

coexist peacefully with coyotes. We emphasize preventive measures, proactive public outreach, and non-lethal controls based on rigorous research on coyote biology and ecology. We have shared our Coyote Friendly Communities program with more than 100 cities, towns, counties, agencies, humane societies, animal shelters and wildlife rehabilitation centers across North America. These include the National Park Service; the U.S. Forest Service; state wildlife agencies; several California towns and counties; Portland, OR; Superior, CO; Belmont, MA; Vancouver, BC; and Saskatoon, SK. .

### **Project Coyote Offers a Variety of Services to Help Communities Coexist with Wildlife**

Through its Coyote Friendly Communities program, Project Coyote engages agencies, schools, community groups and the wider public as partners in creating peaceful coexistence among residents and wildlife. By discussing the ecology and habits of local wildlife, offering science-based remedies, and demonstrating hands-on techniques for reducing human-wildlife conflict, Project Coyote teaches communities about human and pet safety, the roles of wildlife attractants and deterrents, and coyotes' behavior and contributions to healthy ecosystems. Participating community members gain valuable skills in exclusion techniques and hazing methods. They also benefit from tips on "what-to-do" when they encounter wildlife.

#### Included in the Coyote Friendly Communities program are the following:

- ◆ Public agency training in coyote behavior/ecology and hazing
- ◆ Response protocols for managing coyotes
- ◆ Educational outreach materials (brochures, tips cards, etc.- see below)
- ◆ Signage (posters for kiosks, sandwich boards, metal permanent signs, etc.- see below)
- ◆ Multi-media resources (PSAs, educational videos, etc.)
- ◆ Public presentations and hands-on workshops

Project Coyote educational materials are available to schools, agencies, community groups and individuals. Materials can be co-branded with city and partnering agency logos. Select materials are available in Spanish.

#### Materials include:

- ❖ [Coexisting with Coyotes brochure](#)
- ❖ [Field Guide to Coyote Hazing](#)
- ❖ [Coexisting with Coyotes Tools & Tips Card](#)
- ❖ [Be Coyote Aware sign](#)
- ❖ [Don't Feed Wildlife sign](#)
- ❖ [Coyote News Fact Sheet](#)
- ❖ [Coyote Coexistence Plan](#) (tailored to city/community)

Members of Project Coyote’s Science Advisory Board vet the tools and resources offered by the Coyote Friendly Communities program. Our board includes some of the most renowned wildlife ecologists and conservation biologists in the world.

Coyote Friendly Communities Public Presentations and Hands-On Workshops offer:

**– a Facilitated Collaborative Approach to Assess and Address a Community’s Needs**

By employing a collaborative process, Project Coyote builds cooperation among stakeholders—residents and those who are the “first responders” to coyote issues in the community, such as animal control units, parks and open space departments, wildlife agencies and municipal offices. We collect, analyze and discuss site-specific data to generate a coexistence plan that reflects shared ownership, and works from experience and a comprehensive knowledge of facts.

**– the Development of a Unique Coyote Friendly Communities Plan**

The collaborative process culminates in the development of a Coyote Friendly Communities plan that meets the needs of a particular a community. The plan consists of practical, community-derived solutions and includes: consistent messaging; recommendations for reducing coyote conflicts; recommended behavior based response protocols.. The plan is intended to evolve over time as a living, adaptive management document, reflecting emendations by the community to ensure that elements of the plan stay relevant. By creating an organized plan of action, the community empowers itself with the tools, information, and resources it needs to coexist with coyotes and other neighborhood wildlife.



**We are Project Coyote**

Project Coyote is a North American coalition of leading scientists (see list below) and national educators promoting coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science and advocacy. For more information about coyote ecology, biology and behavior, and suggestions for living safely among coyotes, please visit Project Coyote’s Resources page at [ProjectCoyote.org](http://ProjectCoyote.org)

**PROJECT COYOTE SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD & COYOTE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES TEAM**



Shelley M. Alexander, PhD

Dr. Alexander is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Calgary, Canada. She has conducted field carnivore research in the Canadian Rockies since 1990. She has worked with captive wolves and coyotes at Dalhousie University’s Animal Research Station in Nova Scotia and has collaborated with

Acadia University researchers studying non-lethal deterrents to coyote depredation on sheep. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/shelley-alexander/>



Marc Bekoff, PhD

Dr. Bekoff is a former Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and co-founder with Jane Goodall of Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. He has won many awards for his scientific research including the Exemplar Award from the Animal Behavior Society and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Marc has published more than 1000 essays (popular, scientific, and book chapters) and 30 books, including *Minding Animals: The Ten Trusts*, written with Jane Goodall. Read full bio here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/marc-bekoff/>



Kim Murray Berger, PhD

Dr. Berger joined the Snow Leopard Trust in 2008 as Assistant Director of Science. Formerly a research biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society, she specializes in population monitoring, predator-prey interactions, carnivore-livestock conflicts and coexistence, and conservation of wide-ranging species. Read full bio here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/kim-murray-berger/>



Bradley J. Bergstrom, PhD

Dr. Bergstrom is Professor of Biology at Valdosta State University in Georgia, where he has taught Ecology, Mammalogy, Ornithology and other biology courses for 27 years. Dr. Bergstrom has performed ecological fieldwork in the Colorado Rockies, southeastern swamps, savannas of East Africa and Neotropical forests. He has published his field-based research on mammals and birds in over a dozen peer-reviewed scientific journals. Read full bio here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/bradley-bergstrom/>



Jeremy Bruskotter, PhD

Dr. Bruskotter is an Associate Professor at the School of Environment & Natural Resources, Ohio State University. His research centers on the social and political dimensions of wildlife conservation and management. Dr. Bruskotter is passionate about wildlife and has been hunter, angler, and wildlife photographer. His interest in natural resources conservation and management stems largely from his experience growing up in rural northwestern Michigan. Read full bio here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/jeremy-bruskotter/>



Franz J. Camenzind, PhD

Dr. Camenzind holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, an MS in Zoology from Brigham Young University, and a PhD in Zoology from the University of Wyoming. Franz's Doctorate research involved six years of field research on the ecology and behavior of free-ranging coyotes in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. His research was the first to document hierarchical and territorial behavioral patterns in relatively unmolested coyote populations. He has testified before numerous federal committees against the indiscriminant coyote killing programs conducted by state and federal agencies. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/franz-camenzind/>



Robert (Bob) L. Crabtree, PhD

Dr. Crabtree is Chief Scientist at the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center (YERC) in Bozeman, Montana and Research Associate Professor in the Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences at the University of Montana, Missoula. He is currently a Visiting Scholar on sabbatical at the University of Victoria. He received his PhD at the University of Idaho where he focused his dissertation on coyote population demography and social structure. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/bob-crabtree/>



Camilla H. Fox, MA

Camilla H. Fox is the founder and executive director of Project Coyote. With 20+ years of experience working on behalf of wildlife and wildlands and a Masters degree in wildlife ecology, policy, and conservation, Camilla works with communities across the country in helping to foster coexistence between people and wildlife. She is the co-author of two books: *Coyotes in Our Midst* and *Cull of the Wild*, as well as

multiple articles and book chapters and speaks nationally and internationally about wildlife conservation. Read full bio here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/about/camilla-fox/>



Rick A. Hopkins, PhD

Dr. Hopkins is co-owner and Senior Conservation Biologist at Live Oak Associates, Inc. (LOA), an ecological consulting firm based in California. LOA provides public and private clients with science-based solutions to complex natural resource questions. Rick holds a Ph.D. in Wildlands Resource Ecology from University of California, Berkeley and an M.A. in Biology from San Jose State University. His graduate research involved a 12-year study on the spatial ecology of the cougar in the Diablo Range. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/rick-hopkins/>





Michael Paul Nelson, PhD

Dr. Nelson, is an environmental scholar, writer, teacher, speaker, consultant, and professor of environmental ethics and philosophy at Oregon State University. At OSU he also serves as the Lead-Principle Investigator for the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest Long-Term Ecological Research program, and is a Senior Fellow with the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word. Read full bio

here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/michael-paul-nelson/>



Paul Paquet, PhD

Dr. Paquet is an internationally recognized authority on mammalian carnivores, especially wolves and other wild canids, with research experience in several regions of the world. He has worked as a biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service for many years. Currently he is Senior Ecologist and Carnivore Specialist with the Conservation Biology Institute and Raincoast Conservation Foundation, and an international consultant and lecturer. Paul is a long-time fellow of World Wildlife Fund Canada. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/paul-paquet/>



David R. Parsons, MS

David Parsons received his Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University and his Master of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology from Oregon State University. Dave is retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where from 1990-1999 he led the USFWS effort to reintroduce the endangered Mexican gray wolf to portions of its former range in Arizona and New Mexico. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/david-parsons/>



Brad V. Purcell, PhD

Dr. Purcell completed his PhD at the University of Western Sydney on the ecology of dingoes in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in 2010. His study included population genetics, interactions with competitors and prey and movement behaviour. In 2011 Brad studied proactive and sustainable carnivore management around the globe while traveling on a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust travel fellowship. Dingoes are regularly culled for perceived threats to livestock, similar to conflicts between coyotes and livestock in the U.S., and Brad is working on mitigating dingo-livestock conflicts for holistic management of Australian ecosystems.. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/brad-purcell/>



Michael Soulé, PhD

Dr. Soulé is Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz. He was born, raised, and educated in

California. After spending much of his youth in the canyons, deserts, and intertidal zones of San Diego and Baja California, and after graduating from San Diego State, he went to Stanford to study population biology and evolution under Paul Ehrlich. Upon receiving his Ph.D. at Stanford, Michael went to Africa to help found the first university in Malawi. His field study includes insects, lizards, birds, and mammals in Africa, Mexico, the Adriatic, the West Indies, California and Colorado. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/michael-soule/>



Chris Schadler, MS, MA

Chris Schadler is a wild canid ecologist. Her interest in wild canids began in 1980 as a volunteer at the Wolf Park in Battleground, Indiana under Dr. Erich Klinghammer. This opportunity and others inspired a Masters in Conservation Biology at Antioch University Graduate School. Her thesis focused on the biological and social perspectives of natural recovery for the Eastern Timber Wolf in Michigan. Read full bio here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/chris-schadler/>



Adrian Treves, PhD

Adrian Treves earned his B.A. in 1990 in Biology and Anthropology from Rice University and his PhD in 1997 in Behavioral Ecology and Biological Anthropology from Harvard University. He spent six years working for international wildlife conservation organizations and in 2007, he founded the Carnivore Coexistence Lab at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Adrian's research focuses on how to balance human needs with wildlife conservation and human-predator conflicts, particularly livestock predation in the U.S. and abroad. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/adrian-treves/>



John Vucetich, PhD

John Vucetich is an associate professor of animal ecology at Michigan Technological University, where he teaches courses in Population Ecology and Environmental Ethics. He is co-director of the Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Project, the longest continuous study of any predator-prey system in the world. He is also co-director of the Conservation Ethics Group. He has authored more than 75 scholarly publications on a range of topics, including wolf-prey ecology, extinction risk, population genetics, and environmental philosophy. He also writes for general audiences in venues that include the *New York Times* and *The Ecologist*. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/about/john-vucetich/>



Jennifer Wolch, PhD

Dr. Wolch is Dean of the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley and the William W. Wurster Chair of City and Regional Planning. She was the founding director of the University of Southern California's Center for Sustainable Cities, where she also served as Professor of Geography. Her research focuses on metropolitan sprawl, physical activity and urban design, urban environmental justice and political ecology, and society-animals relations. Read full bio here: <http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/jennifer-wolch/>



George Wuerthner

George Wuerthner is a wildlife ecologist who has been studying predators for four decades. He has been involved in wolf restoration efforts in Montana, and for years lived near Yellowstone National Park. He is a licensed guide in Yellowstone National Park and is the author of 38 books including *Welfare Ranching*, *Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*, *Energy: The Delusion of Endless Growth and Overdevelopment*, *Thrillcraft*, *Keeping the Wild*, and his more recent, *Protecting the Wild*. Read full bio here:

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wordpress/about/george-wuerthner/>