

Coyotes in Urban Places

LaJuan Tucker

Wildlife Austin Program Coordinator

City of Austin Parks and Recreation

Natural Resources Division—Park Rangers

Objectives

- Introduce Wildlife Austin Program
- List 4 critical elements of wildlife habitat
- List 3 threats to wildlife habitat
- Coyote Basics
- Coyote Adverse Conditioning

History of Wildlife Austin

- Created by Austin City Council in 2007 in response to citizen advocacy for a more wildlife-friendly city
- 2007 City Council Resolution emphasized the importance of native plants in landscaping and charged the City of Austin with following National Wildlife Federation (NWF) guidelines
- Austin became Certified as an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat in 2009
- Wildlife Austin is charged with maintaining the Community Wildlife Habitat Certification through outreach, training, and demonstration habitats (ongoing)
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge 2015 and [Council Resolution 20150514-004](#)
- Incorporate pollinator and wildlife conservation into City of Austin Strategic plan and land management planning



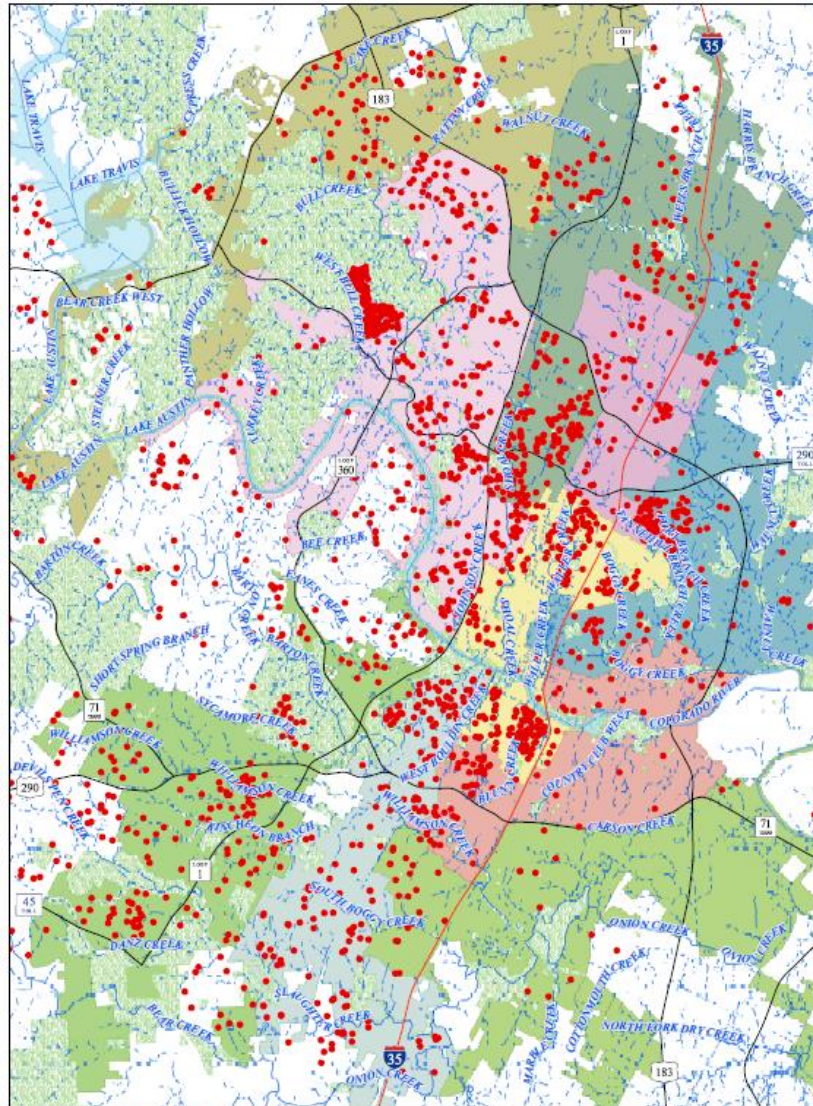
Certified Wildlife Habitats



- Austin is a Community Wildlife Habitat with National Wildlife Federation



- Over 2154 Certified Wildlife Habitats in Austin total
- Wildlife Austin can help you get your yard certified for free!
 - LaJuan.Tucker@austintexas.gov for a pre-paid application form worth \$20



Certified Wildlife Habitats



This project was funded by the City of Austin. The map is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or financial purposes. The City of Austin is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The City of Austin is not responsible for any damages or injuries resulting from the use of this map. The City of Austin is not responsible for any claims or liabilities resulting from the use of this map.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®
Certified WILDLIFE Habitat

This property provides the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover, and places to raise young.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
 nwf.org

Threats to Wildlife Habitat

Why is wildlife habitat at risk?

- **Habitat Fragmentation**

- The loss of habitat due to parceling and piecing off of habitat

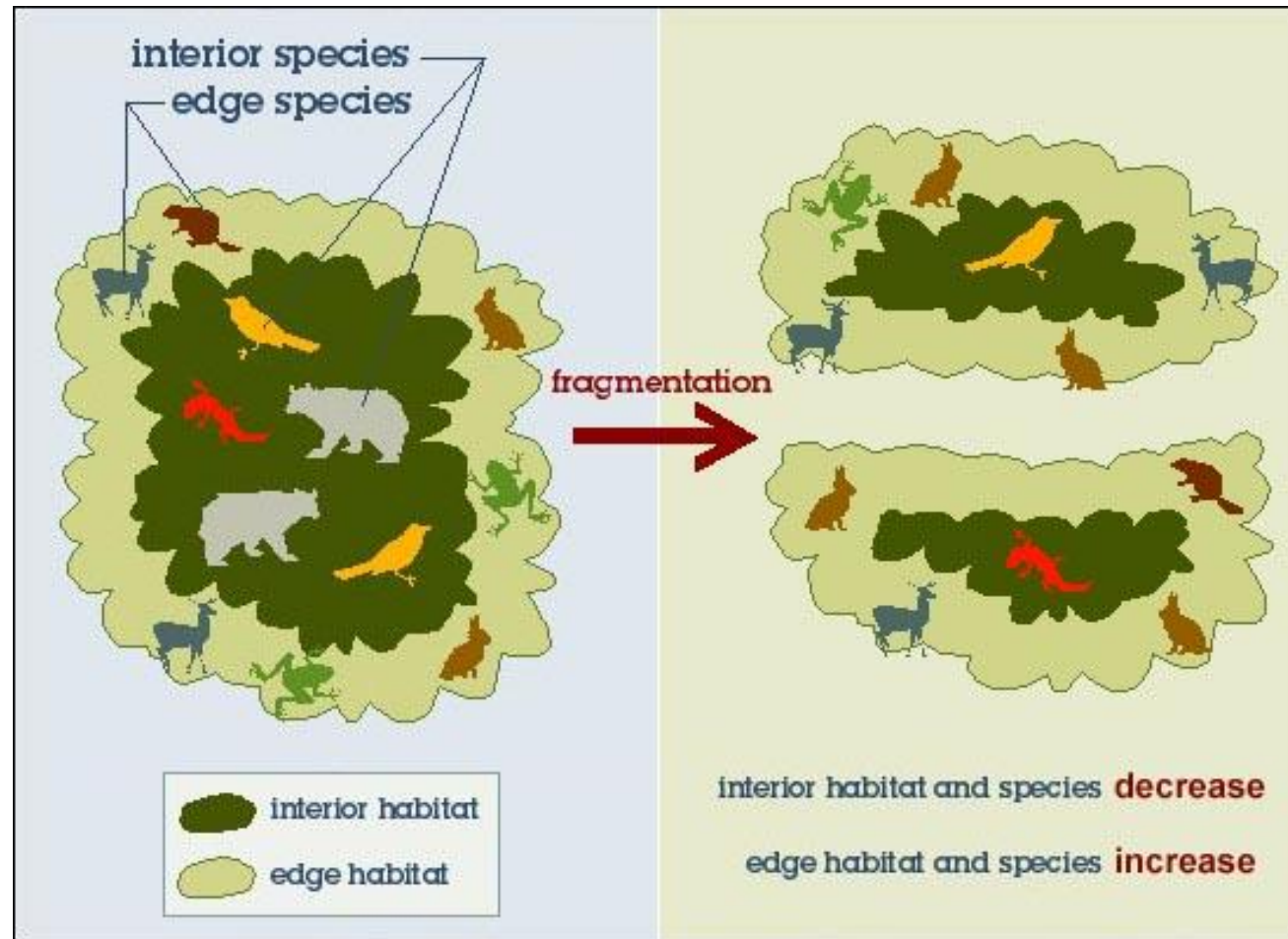
- **Habitat Destruction**

- Habitat is completely removed and unable to support wildlife

- **Habitat Degradation**

- The decreased ability of a habitat to provide the basics to wildlife

Habitat Fragmentation





Coyote Basics

- Coyotes (***Canis latrans***) are located in every state except for one
- Weight between 25-40lbs
- Ultimate urban adaptors
- Habitat varies widely
- Humans aren't typically on the menu



Coyote Behavior

- Coyotes breed between Jan-March
- Coyotes are usually monogamous gestation 63-35 days
- Litter 4-6 pups
- Coyotes can live between 10-year depending on habitat
- Approximately 11 distinct vocalization
- Coyote [Vocalizations](#)

Important Resolutions and Actions

- Resolution No. [20141120-088](#)
- City Code Section 3-2-4 bans trapping by leg holds, neck holds, steel jaw spring traps
- Adopt hazing and public education as the primary method control
- Adopt Coyote Response Guide and Coyote Management Policy

Coyote Behavior, Classification and Response

Classification

- Coyote Observation
- Coyote Sighting
- Coyote Encounter
- Incident

Possible response

- Distribute information on coyote behavior
- Gather information, educate public and monitor patterns
- Educate, Monitor, Perform Yard/Neighborhood Audits gather information on specific animal involved
- Evaluate if threat to the public, take actions if threat identified

Control Methods

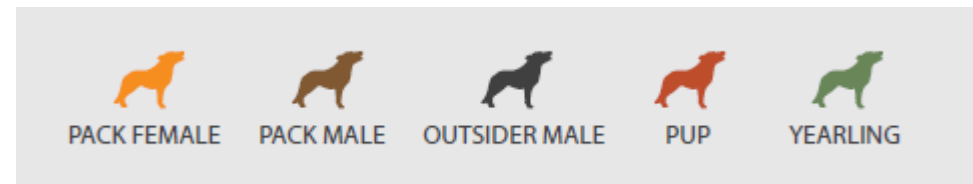
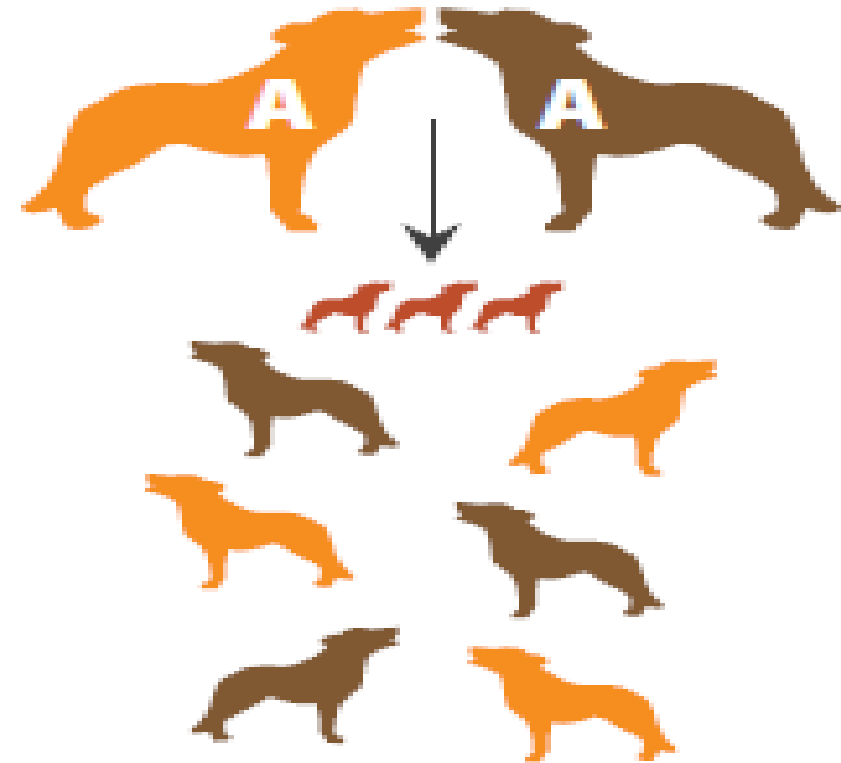
Lethal control (Killing or relocating)

vs

Adverse Conditioning (Hazing)

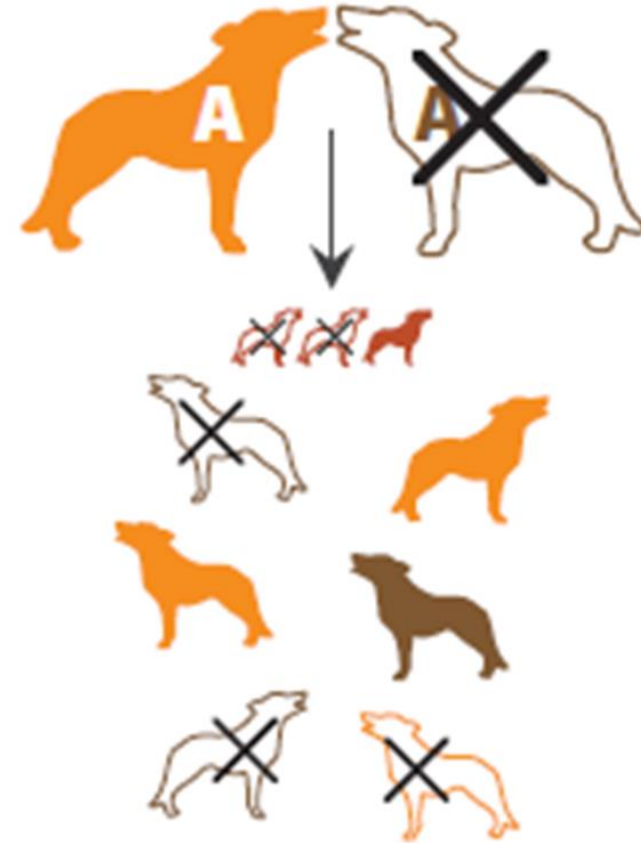
Killing does not work

- In a stable pack only Alpha male and females reproduce
- Small litter sizes in stable packs



Killing does not work

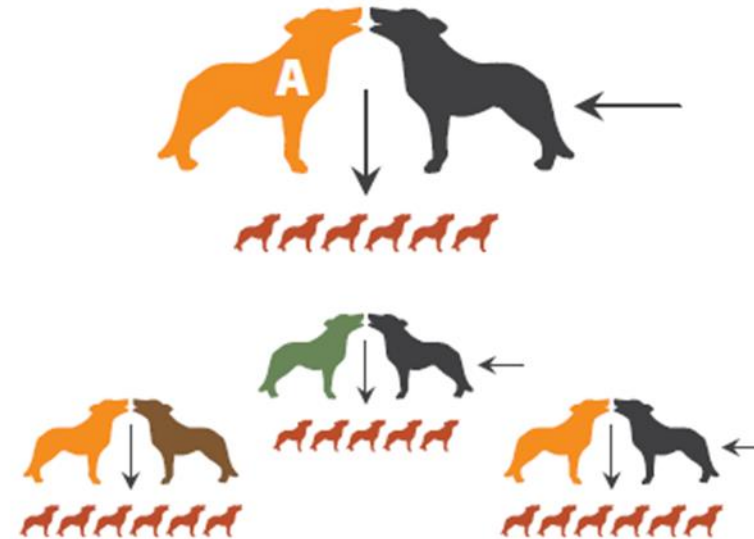
- One alpha mate removed creating an unstable pack
- Killing cuts numbers, but only temporarily



PACK FEMALE PACK MALE OUTSIDER MALE PUP YEARLING

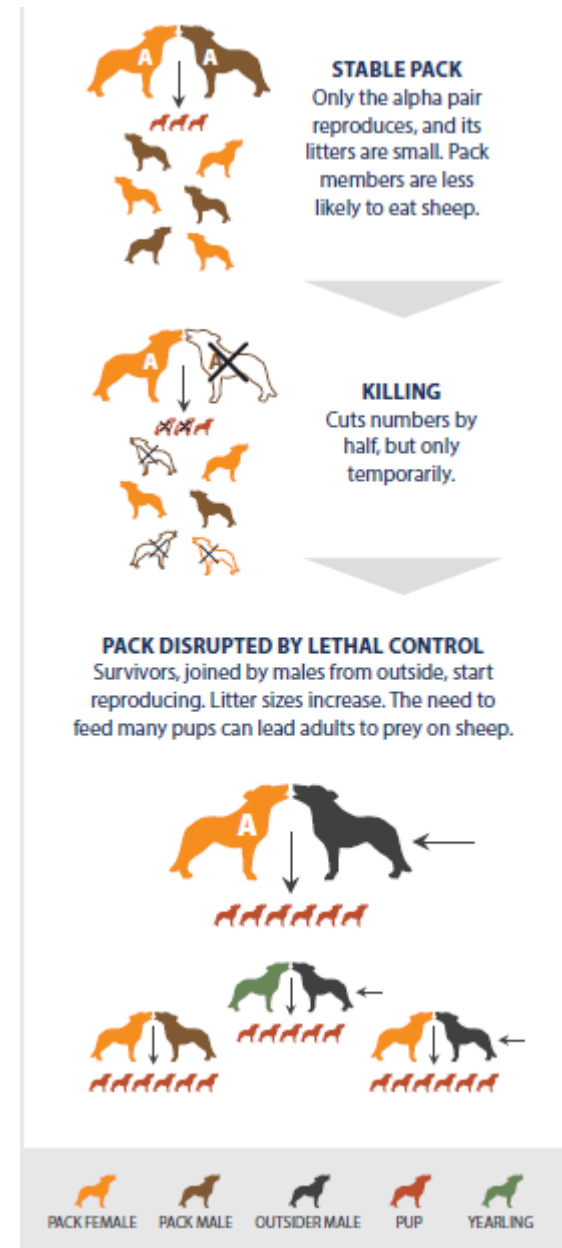
Killing does not work

- Pack disrupted by lethal control
- Increased litter size, increases habitat demands



Summary

- Ineffective
- Does not reduce the population
 - In fact it increases coyote population and encounters
- Removal is costly
- Trapping can be inhumane



Tips for Avoidance

- Eliminate Attractants
- Secure Compost Piles
- Leash Pets
- Avoid ground feeding
- Keep fruit trees fenced or frequently pick up dropped fruit.
- Coyote fencing



Coyote Adverse Conditioning (Hazing)

- A method of deterrent to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity.
- Conditioning that can be passed on from generation to generation if applied effectively
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MOnDlx71Q0&feature=youtu.be>

Adverse Conditioning (Hazing)

- Be LOUD and LARGE
- Haze consistently
- Haze is effective with diversity (use different people and different methods)
- Do not run approach if injured, cornered or with pups
- Report to 3-1-1

Questions?

- Links for more information
 - Wildlife Austin—<https://austintexas.gov/wildlifeatx>
 - Coyote Information--<http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/coyote/>
- Coyote Management City of Austin
 - <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas>
 - http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Signed_Coyote_Resolution.pdf

Contact Wildlife Austin Staff

- LaJuan.Tucker@austintexas.gov