



City of Arlington Coyote and Bobcat Management Plan

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for responses to conflicts with coyotes and bobcats, particularly to resolve and reduce human-coyote/bobcat conflicts in a consistent and expedient manner. Public safety is the number one concern of the City, and coyotes/bobcats will be managed with human safety as a priority. While the City employs educational outreach tools as the primary tool in managing human-coyote/bobcat conflicts, the City recognizes that there are situations where other management techniques may have to be used in accordance with City of Arlington Animals Chapter Section 2.03.

In addition, this protocol provides general guidelines for City personnel who receive calls about all other wildlife concerns and for law enforcement personnel who may be dispatched to respond to these situations.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Arlington Animal Services will be the repository for coyote/bobcat reports in the territorial limits of Arlington and will record and map reports of coyote/bobcat activity and conflicts. Animal Services will distribute this information on line at arlingtontx.gov/animals.
- B. The Arlington Animal Services will provide guidance and education to citizens and groups with managing nuisance coyotes/bobcats. Arlington Animal Services officers will respond either by phone or in person to reports of dangerous coyotes/bobcats and make a management decision based on the interest of public safety.
- C. Arlington Parks Department will monitor coyote/bobcat activity in city parks and will report encounters, human – coyote/bobcat incidents, and pet attacks to animal services so that the information can be captured in the database.
- D. Arlington Animal Services Bite Investigator will follow up on coyote/bobcat exposure that requires a quarantine procedure.

III. DEFINITIONS OF INTERACTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE

- A. **Observation** - The act of noticing or taking note of tracks, scat or vocalizations.

City Response to an Observation

1. Arlington Action Center will record the information to AMANDA and the information will be transferred to the mapping program within 24 hours.
2. Arlington Action Center will provide the reporting party with general coyote/bobcat information and refer them to the animal services web page.

- B. **Sighting** - A visual observation of a coyote(s)/bobcat(s).

City Response to a Sighting

1. Arlington Action Center will record the information to AMANDA and the information will be transferred to the mapping program within 24 hours.
2. Arlington Action Center will provide the reporting party with general coyote/bobcat information and refer them to the animal services web page.

- C. **Encounter**- An unexpected direct meeting between a human and a coyote or bobcat without incident.

City Response to an Encounter

1. Arlington Action Center will place a call into AMANDA for an officer to respond. Animal Services will record the encounter on the animal services database / website.
2. The Animal Services Officer will evaluate the situation and provide education information (including suggestions for low-level hazing) and email information to the reporting party.

- D. **Pet Attack** – Is a situation where a coyote/bobcat or coyote(s)/bobcat(s) attacks, injures or kills a pet animal.

1. If the owner of the pet animal is in the immediate area of the attack and the coyote/bobcat is undeterred by the presence of the human – thereby creating an unsafe situation for the person, the situation will be categorized as an *incident*.

City Response to a Pet Attack

1. Arlington Action Center will place a call into AMANDA for an officer to respond. Animal Services will record the encounter on the animal services database / website.
2. The Animal Services Officer will evaluate the situation and provide education

information (including suggestions for low-level hazing) and email information to the reporting party.

2. If the animal services officer (or Animal Services Management) believes that the pet attack poses a risk to public safety or if the particular geographic area is an area of increasing encounters or incidents that pose a growing concern for public safety appropriate intervention may be made to mitigate the coyote/bobcat behavior, the following actions may be taken:

- Initiate a hazing program.
- Contact the area neighborhood via email alert, flyers or other communication to advise them of the situation and provide them information on legal hazing methods to utilize.
- Determine if other management techniques may have to be used in accordance with City of Arlington Animals Chapter Section 2.03.

E. **Incident** - A conflict between a human and a coyote/bobcat where a coyote/bobcat exhibited behavior creating an unsafe situation for the human. This category will only include pet attacks when the pet owner is in the immediate area of the attack and the coyote/bobcat is undeterred by the presence of the human – thereby creating an unsafe situation for the person.

City Response to an Incident

1. Arlington Action Center will place a call into AMANDA for an officer to respond. Animal Services will record the encounter on the animal services database / website.
2. The Animal Services Officer will evaluate the situation and provide education information (including suggestions for low-level hazing) and email information to the reporting party.
3. If the animal services officer (or Animal Services Management) believes that the incident poses a risk to public safety or if the particular geographic area is an area of increasing encounters or incidents that pose a growing concern for public safety appropriate intervention may be made to mitigate the coyote/bobcat behavior, the following actions may be taken:
 - Initiate a hazing program.
 - Contact the area neighborhood via email alert, flyers or other communication to advise them of the situation and provide them information on legal hazing methods to utilize.
 - Determine if other management techniques may have to be used in

accordance with City of Arlington Animals Chapter Section 2.03.

- F. **Attack** - When a human is bodily injured or killed by a coyote.

City Response to an Attack

1. 911 or Arlington Action Center will notify the Arlington Animal Services department immediately so that they have an opportunity to respond and determine if immediate management techniques may have to be used in accordance with City of Arlington Animals Chapter Section 2.03.
2. Dispatch an Arlington Police Officer and an animal services officer immediately. The animal services officer will take a written report. This information will be added to the animal services database. Animal services will notify the Animal Services Bite Investigator for human bites or pets that were bitten by coyotes/bobcats.
 - Determine if other management techniques may have to be used in accordance with City of Arlington Animals Chapter Section 2.03.
 - Initiate a hazing program if appropriate.
 - Initiate a public information campaign in the area.

IV. DEFINITIONS OF COYOTE/BOBCAT BEHAVIOR AND GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE

A. **Nuisance Coyote/Bobcat**

Habituated - A coyote/bobcat that appears to frequently associate with humans or human related food sources, and exhibits little wariness of the presence of people.

Depredating - A coyote/bobcat that is preying on pets or livestock.

Menacing - A coyote/bobcat that exhibits aggravated territorial or predatory behavior toward people, but that does not qualify it as a dangerous coyote/bobcat. This may include coyote/bobcat incidents and/or encounters that were serious in nature or a coyote/bobcat or group of coyotes/bobcats that could potentially endanger human safety.

City Response to a Nuisance Coyote/Bobcat

1. Follow the procedures above for observations, sightings, encounters, pet attacks, and incidents.
2. In situations where public safety is determined to be compromised by coyote/bobcat behavior, consult with Arlington Animal Services Field

Operations Administrator to see if a public education campaign, hazing, trapping or lethal control is appropriate for the situation.

B. Dangerous Coyote/Bobcat

A coyote/bobcat may be defined as dangerous using the following guidelines:

1. A coyote/bobcat that has attacked a person.
2. A coyote/bobcat that exhibits aggressive behavior towards a human(s) and/or poses a significant threat to human safety.
3. A coyote/bobcat or group of coyotes/bobcats that Arlington Animal Services believes may be dangerous based on a totality of behaviors and/or locations.

City Response to a Dangerous Coyote/Bobcat

1. Follow the procedures outlined above for an incident or an attack
2. Notify the Arlington Animal Services immediately and dispatch an Animal Services Officer and Arlington Police Officer immediately.
3. An Animal Services Officer dispatched to the scene will take a written report. This report will be added to the animal services database.
4. Determine if other management techniques may have to be used in accordance with City of Arlington Animals Chapter Section 2.03.
5. Initiate a hazing program if appropriate.
6. Initiate a public information campaign in the area

V. AUTHORITY

A. Ordinances Governing **ANIMALS** in the CITY OF ARLINGTON TEXAS **Section 4.13 Wild Animals** It shall be the duty of the Animal Services Manager, in the absence of action by State or Federal agencies, to take up any and all wild animals that are diseased or which endanger the health of a person or other animal. The Animal Services Manager may at his discretion release a wild animal to a State agency, animal rehabilitation center, or an animal refuge.

VI. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- A. If high-level hazing (paintball/pepper spray hazing, bean bag rounds, bear spray, etc.)

is a recommended mitigation tool for a particular area, this activity will be coordinated with Arlington Animal Services Field Operations Administrator.

- B. Low-level hazing techniques that will be recommended to citizens include throwing small rocks and sticks, noisemakers, air horns, yelling, clapping, garden hoses, water guns, banging pots and pans, and deterrent sprays.
- C. In certain circumstances, Animal Services may offer to loan a live trap (with a damage deposit) to a resident when a coyote(s) is causing damage to crops, real or personal property, pets or livestock. In the event that the landowner successfully traps a coyote, Animal Services will transport the animal and will euthanize the animal with chemical euthanasia.

