

MISSION HILLS COYOTE UPDATE



Summary of Activities to Date

Jesse Kirk

CONTRACT

- On May 27th, 2022, the City entered into an agreement for trapping services with Catch-It Wildlife Control at a private residence in Mission Hills Homes Company.

- City would be responsible for notifying nearby residents (500ft)
- City would put out signage indicating trapping was in progress seven days prior to traps being set.
- City would use remote cellular trail cameras to monitor the traps and let the trapper know when an animal was caught.

CONTRACT COSTS

- Initial Inspection and Trap Setup- \$1000
 - Removal of Targeted Animal- \$600
 - Removal of Non-targeted Animal or Trap Reset- \$400
 - Total Spent as of 12/31/22: \$6,400. This includes costs for removing two coyotes, one fox, and two initial trap setups as well as numerous trap resets after they were triggered but failed to capture an animal.
- Additional Costs Not Included:
- Staff time for the City Arborist, City Attorney, Assistant City Administrator, and City Administrator.
 - Cameras and monthly subscriptions.
 - Trapping signage.

TRAP TYPES

- Initially, the trapping involved a mechanized snare (Collarum) as it is safer for domesticated pets. Coyotes quickly figured out the trap and were triggering it almost every night.

- Trapping then pivoted to using foothold traps when the homeowner was out of town.



COYOTE #1

6/16/22



- Female coyote caught using the Collarum trap.

COYOTE #2

10/17/22



- Juvenile male caught using a foothold trap.

RED FOX

10/12/22



- This fox was caught in a leg hold trap and released relatively unharmed.
- Two coyotes watched it throughout the night, it's really surprising they didn't kill it while it was in the trap.

MANGY COYOTE



- Sightings of one diseased coyote consistently until it suddenly quit appearing. Consensus is that this coyote likely succumbed to disease.

TRAPPERS

- After initial research, staff found Catch-It Wildlife control who was willing to attempt to trap the coyotes. The state guidelines require them to check the traps every 24 hours. Staff knew almost immediately when the first coyote was captured and alerted the homeowner and trapper promptly. Although the first coyote was removed within the 24-hour state guideline, the responsiveness of the trapping company was disappointing. Some periods went multiple days without the traps being reset.
- Staff contacted several other licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators without any interest.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS AND TRAPPING LOCATIONS

- Finding suitable locations for trapping within the City is difficult.
- In Peetwood Park, there are consistent coyote sightings but numerous dog walkers.
- In the stormwater channel between 69th and 67th St., staff captured multiple coyote encounters but also equal numbers of cats, raccoons and foxes with no suitable/safe trapping option.

RECENT COYOTE SIGHTINGS



MISSION HILLS PREDATORS



HONORABLE MENTIONS

