

Ghamari, Goldie

Subject: FW: Latest Coyote points

Sent: June 2, 2020 6:15 PM

To: Meehan, Carol Anne <CarolAnne.Meehan1@ottawa.ca>

Cc: Derpanis, Irimi (MNRF) <Irimi.Derpanis4@ontario.ca>; Coates, Candice <candice.coates@pc.ola.org>

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Hello Councillor Meehan,

Hope all is well and thank you for bringing forward the issues you have been seeing with urban coyotes. I understand the level of concern that some of your constituents may have over this issue, and more information will be coming forward shortly. In the meantime I wanted to provide you with some information that we have on urban coyotes and some approaches that have been taken elsewhere in the province.

1. What is the MNRF policy on urban coyotes and what can be done to address issues with them?

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), municipalities and other ministries work together regularly to discuss issues and find solutions to address human-wildlife conflicts, including those with coyotes. This work is guided by the *Strategy for Preventing and Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Ontario*. It was created in collaboration with stakeholders and partners, with the intent of working together on increasing understanding and awareness about human-wildlife conflicts and promoting collaborative community and partner-based actions and solutions.
- While prevention of conflicts with coyotes is the preferred approach, legislation provides numerous options for individuals and municipalities (and others acting on their behalf) to respond to conflict situations (further details noted below).
- Where any animal becomes a concern for public safety, local police are a first point of contact. Police are responsible for ensuring public safety, and local police are the first point of contact where any animal exhibits threatening or aggressive behaviour. MNRF provides assistance to police at their request in responding to emergency situations.

2. How coyotes are currently dealt with and what the MNRF is capable of.

The Role of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provides advice to landowners and municipalities on preventing and managing human-wildlife conflicts with coyotes. MNRF helps landowners deal with human-wildlife conflict by:

- providing information on recommended best practices, including prevention, aversion/conditioning options to deter wildlife (see Ontario's [website](#) on preventing conflict)
- informing landowners of their legal options under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, including the use of licensed trappers and animal control agents (Ontario has a [website](#) on protecting property from wildlife damage)
- providing appropriate agency referrals where applicable (Ontario has a [website](#) on hiring a wildlife control agent).
- MNRF also establishes rules and regulations associated with hunting and trapping including seasons, bag limits, and other rules for wildlife.
- MNRF has conducted considerable research on the behaviour of suburban/urban coyotes. In the majority of cases, conflicts with coyotes can be directly related to either deliberate or unintentional human feeding of coyotes.
- MNRF provides assistance to police at their request in responding to emergency (public safety) situations.

Tools for Property Owners and Municipalities to Address Human-Wildlife Concerns

- The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* (FWCA) provides legislative tools for both property owners and municipalities to help to address human-wildlife conflicts in Ontario:
 - Under Section 31 of the province's FWCA, a property owner may harass, capture or kill coyotes that are damaging or about to damage their property. No ministry authorization is required in these cases. Property owners may also use/hire an agent to assist them. An agent includes licensed hunters, trappers, a family member of the person experiencing the wildlife damage, OSPCA employees, or a municipal employee or agent of a municipality (e.g. wildlife removal company) whose responsibilities relate to wildlife control.
 - Also under the FWCA, municipalities have the ability to respond to local concerns about wildlife without MNRF approval. Municipal staff can harass, capture, or kill wildlife that is damaging or about to damage municipal property. If a private landowner requests assistance, municipal staff may also harass, capture or kill problem wildlife on private property within their municipality. When acting in protection of property, individuals (including municipal staff) can harass, capture, or kill problem animals at any time of the day.
- Municipalities have additional abilities to prevent and manage human-wildlife conflict. The *Municipal Act* grants powers for the creation of by-laws, including the ability to address causes of human-wildlife conflict (property standards, no feeding of wildlife, waste management, bylaws that relate to hunting or trapping – e.g. discharge of firearms bylaws, and municipal licensing/certification of wildlife removal companies).

