

# VILLAGE OF RYE BROOK COYOTE HAZING PROGRAM

**JULY 23, 2010**

**REVISED AUGUST 6, 2010**

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## Statement of Purpose:

The Village of Rye Brook is implementing a comprehensive coyote hazing program. The purpose of this program is to make every attempt to keep in place the coyote's natural fear of people and to periodically reduce the coyote population.

## Goal:

It is understood that it is not possible to eradicate all coyotes from Rye Brook or the surrounding areas. Instead, the Village must learn to adapt to having coyotes in this area and make every effort to maintain a safe environment for its residents to the extent possible.

## Method:

This program will combine public education, track sightings and interactions, and include trapping in limited durations. It will also include working with the NYSDEC, US Department of Agriculture, and neighboring municipalities on a long term regional plan.

It is noted that as of the date of this Hazing program, the NYSDEC is drafting a Coyote Conditioning Program (i.e. "hazing program") which may alter some of the goals, methods and/or procedures of the Rye Brook program.

## Village Procedures:

- All sightings and interactions directed to police desk.
- Police Chief and Administrator to review, on at least a weekly basis, coyote sighting locations and interactions to look for any changes in behavior that warrant a more aggressive response. Any sightings on school grounds will result in notification to the school administration.
- Police Officers will respond to all non-aggressive sighting calls made to the desk to the extent they are available. On site, the police officer will look for coyote to scare them away, and educate residents on recommended behaviors for such interaction.
- Any aggressive coyote behaviors that could affect public safety may result in the immediate removal of the coyote by the police or licensed trapper.
- All employees working outdoors shall be educated on how to handle any coyote interactions. This is especially important for any employees coordinating outdoor children's programs, and certain employees shall also be provided with sound devices to scare any coyotes away (i.e. air horn).

### Public Education:

- The Village will share educational coyote information on its web site on how to prevent and handle coyote interactions. Although coyotes have a fear of people, certain coyotes can be unpredictable and steps should be taken to maintain their natural fear of people.
- The Village will share information on coyote sighting and interaction reports on its web site.
- The Village will meet with school district administrators prior to the start of the school year so that they are aware of this program.
- The Village will send periodic e-mail blasts to registered users.
- The Village will outreach to the news media and area residents to inform them about any trapping locations and park closures. This outreach may include some combination of the web site, e-mail blasts, signage, mail, and/or Reverse 911.
- Notification will include the recommendation that residents not go through locations with traps and that all household pets remain away from trapping locations.
- Reverse 911 will be implemented in any area where there is an immediate concern for public safety as a result of a non-typical aggressive coyote behavior.

### Trapping:

- The Village will share sighting locations and interactions with a licensed trapper.
- The Village will engage a trapper to begin trapping for a limited duration beginning the first week in August and continue for a four (4) week period.
- All trapping would be on village properties only.
- The area residents will be informed about trapping locations and any park closures.
- Options including but not limited to collarum traps, decoys, and luring sounds may be considered by the trapper and the village.
- Coyotes may be relocated or destroyed by the trapper as appropriate based on the circumstances. Relocation of non-aggressive coyotes is preferred to the extent possible.
- Trapping locations on public properties shall be selected by the licensed trapper based on the information available.
- It should be understood that trapping during the Summer months is very difficult, and residents should not expect that trapping will remain for an infinite duration. The goal is to see if periodic trapping of limited durations will result in a reduced population or changes in coyote behavior.
- Following the trapping period, the village will review the success of the trapping program and any changes in the volume of calls or changes in behavior during and after the trapping period.
- The village may also consider limited trapping during the normal furbearer trapping season when trappings are more likely to result in capture. In Westchester, coyote hunting season is October 1 to March 28, and coyote trapping season is October 25 to February 15.

### Public Information:

- The village will inform the public that while public safety is the highest priority, it is not possible or realistic to eradicate all coyotes in Rye Brook. There are an estimated +/- 50,000 coyotes in NYS, and they are now established in Westchester County.

- The village has developed this multi-faceted hazing program to address living with coyotes in suburban Westchester County. This will involve behavioral changes for the Rye Brook residents.
- The village will make every reasonable effort to provide the public with educational information, sighting locations, and limited trapping.
- Although coyotes are typically fearful of people, certain coyotes can be unpredictable and steps should be taken to maintain their natural fear of people.
- Coyotes are opportunistic and will try to catch small animals and other food sources left on properties such as dog food, bird seed, etc.
- Residents will be asked to remove any open food sources for coyotes such as dog food on a deck or yard, bird seed, or garbage bags not in containers.
- Should an interaction occur, adults should stand up (if sitting down), take some aggressive steps toward the coyote, wave arms, and/or make loud noises (voice, air horn, etc.). If objects such as rocks or sticks are nearby, throw these objects at the coyote to scare them off. If an adult is inside a home, they should go to the doorway and take steps to scare the coyote off the property. Coyotes are not to be tolerated on resident's properties and the goal should be to scare them off the property whenever possible.
- It is strongly recommended that adults be in close proximity to children and keep pets on leashes. Children should be advised to seek adult assistance if they see a coyote nearby.
- All sightings and non-emergency interactions should be reported to the Rye Brook police desk at 914-937-1020.
- All emergency calls due to interactions involving public safety should result in a 911 call to the Police Department.

Interaction with Other Governments:

- Rye Brook shall maintain communication and work with the City of Rye, Town of Rye, NYSDEC and US Department of Agriculture, and other involved agencies, regarding coyote interactions, hazing programs, and the development of a more comprehensive regional program for living with coyotes in suburban areas.

*07/23/10*

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