

City Councillor - Ward 38, Scarborough Centre



Monday, March 18, 2013

Dear Chair and Members of Committee:

Please accept this letter as a request to support my motion for a staff report as outlined below:

That staff report back to the September Licensing Committee with a report that will update the City's existing policies with regards to coyotes, create a formal "no kill" protocol for animal services staff and a clear response protocol for emergency responders, ban feeding of coyotes within City limits, and launch a comprehensive outreach and education campaign regarding living in harmony with coyotes.

Recent requests to trap or shoot coyotes within the city have been ill-advised for several reasons. First, killing coyotes doesn't work. Removing one coyote just makes more room for the next coyote. Second, trapping, shooting and/or poisoning coyotes is actually more dangerous to the public than to the coyote. Finally, in additionally to being ineffective, trapping is also prohibitively expensive.

As you may know, coyotes are rarely a threat to people. In the last two years our Animal Services division has recorded a total of over 1,000 occurrences of dogs biting people. In the last two years there have been zero occurrences of coyotes biting people. The last report of a coyote biting people in Toronto was over one decade ago and involved a three-legged coyote (his other leg was dangling from his body) that had been feed a boiled chicken daily by a local resident.

I believe it is time to update our City policy on coyotes in order to ensure that we protect both the public and coyotes within the boundaries of the city and that we ban practices such as feeding coyotes that put both people and coyotes at risk.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 416-392-0204.

Cheers,

Henr I Brennader

Glenn De Baeremaeker Toronto Councillor, Scarborough Centre