



BY EMAIL

To: Chair and Committee Members, Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Liz White and Lia Laskaris, Animal Alliance of Canada Fund

Re: EC18.8 - Developing an Urgent Downtown Coyote Action Plan

Date: February 25, 2025

Dear Chair and Members, Economic and Community Development Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the Chair and Committee members some advice as to how the address and resolve the human/wildlife conflict between the residents of Liberty Village, their dogs and coyotes.

It appears that the coyotes were displaced into Liberty Village after the Ontario Place environment was severely altered with the removal of eight hundred trees. People from Liberty Village who jogged there reported they would occasionally see coyotes. The other area of significant disturbance is the construction along the Ontario Line, which may also have displaced these coyotes.

Aside from shrinking greenspace, the root problem is largely dogs running off-leash and dogs who are on extended leashes. These animals, particularly small dogs, are at risk from coyotes because they are too far away for their owners to protect them.

The question for the Committee to consider is, how can we minimize these kinds of interactions?

There are, of course, a number of options available with varying outcomes.

Many people have expressed a desire for the coyotes to be relocated. This is not possible since the Ministry prohibits any relocation beyond one kilometer, which is not

a sufficient enough distance to prevent the coyotes from returning to the neighbourhood.

Some residents want the coyotes to be trapped and euthanized. This is a divisive option. Additionally, it will not resolve the problem. If coyotes from Liberty Village were killed, coyotes from other areas would simply move in. The extensive construction and the accompanying disturbance from the Ontario Line and Ontario Place will continue to drive wildlife, including coyotes, to other areas.

We, therefore, make the following recommendations:

1. To adopt the recommendations put forward by Councillor Malik, but we urge the Committee to ensure that the assessment of best practices fully examines the approaches taken;
2. To recognize that the root problem is dogs who are on extended leashes or allowed to be off leash;
3. To continue enforcing existing leash bylaws through ticketing to keep neighbourhoods safe;
4. To consider restricting park access to dogs during hours when coyotes are most active;
5. To adopt best aversion practices because it has been shown to be effective in other communities with similar issues and is being more widely adopted in communities across the country;
6. To recognize that these are “normal” coyotes who behave like all other coyotes in Toronto. Like other coyotes, they respond to aversion techniques when these techniques are applied properly.
7. To form a Neighbourhood Watch Team with the purpose of monitoring coyote presence in the area and keeping residents informed as to their numbers and location; and identifying and attractants and removing them; and

8. To form a Wildlife Co-existence Team to offer aversion training sessions to members of the community in conjunction with Toronto Animal Services and other knowledgeable organizations.

For many, many years, the City of Toronto has been a first-class example of how a large municipality can create a healthy and vibrant environment for residents and wildlife alike, from our tree canopy to our clean beaches to our extensive walkable trails and ravines. It comes as no surprise that it is sometimes difficult to manage the interests of people and wild animals who are sharing the same spaces. It is our hope that Toronto continues to stand as a prime example of a modern City Within A Park.

We look forward to working with Toronto Animal Services and the community to humanely resolve human/wildlife conflicts in the City.

Sincerely,

Liz White

Board Member

liz@animalalliancefund.ca

Lia Laskaris

Chief Executive Officer

lia@animalalliancefund.ca