



# City of Markham Coyote Response

**Presentation to General Committee**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

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## Presentation Overview

- Legislative Framework in Ontario
- City of Markham Responsibilities
- Current Situation
- City's Response To-date
- Future Action Proposal Plan
- Coyote Watch Canada Introduction





## Legislative Framework in Ontario

- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
- Removal/relocation of wildlife further than 1 kilometer is illegal
- Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF)
- Delegated Authority from the MNRF
- Lethal interjection is permitted where menacing coyotes are found - no municipality in the GTHA has done this



Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



## City of Markham Responsibilities

- Delegated authority from the MNRF to monitor coyotes.
- Provide education/public outreach.
- Monitor coyote behavior.
- Intervene **ONLY** where necessary due to immediate threat--aligns with Greenprint Plan to achieve an environmentally, economically, socially and culturally vibrant and sustainable community.





## Current Situation

- City is aware of following 4 active locations in Markham:
  - 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Alfred Patterson
  - Markham District High School
  - Swan Lake
  - John Street (Yonge Street to 404)
- City has received approximately 21 calls on the above locations.
- Markham Animal Care Officers (ACOs) are currently patrolling each area to promote responsible pet ownership & monitor coyote behavior.
- ACOs have noted off leash dog concerns as well as feeding of wildlife in the above locations & have issued approximately 45 Notice of Violations to people for these violations.



## City's Response To-Date

- Website updated to include dedicated wildlife section.
- Social Media Campaign launched in Feb. 2021.
- Radio Interview (by Christy Lehman) in Feb. 2021
- Newspaper Interview (by Christy Lehman) Feb. 2021.
- Councillor Newsletter information provided for circulation
- Signage in the areas of concern.
- ACOs conduct regular patrols of the area - educating residents on the existence of coyotes in the area as well as responsible pet ownership.





## Future Action Proposal

- Continue to enforce Animal Service By-law—zero tolerance approach
  - Feeding of wildlife prohibited
  - Off leash dogs prohibited
  - Leash length (2 metre maximum)
- Continue social media efforts.
- Increase newspaper awareness.
- Continue to provide information for inclusion in all Councillor Newsletters.





## Coyote Watch Canada

- Coyote Watch Canada is an all-volunteer Not-For-Profit community-based, wildlife organization that advocates positive human-wildlife experiences with a focus on canids. Effective community outreach is achieved through education, research, mediation, intervention, & conflict resolution.

