

From: Elva [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024
To: Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor) <michaelangelo.torres@sfdph.org>
Subject: Statement for May 9 Commission of Animal Control & Welfare

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It's my belief that because SF ACC AND SPCA continue abdicating their responsibilities for taking in kittens and cats as they used to do, and not work with the dedicated trapping volunteers the way they used to; coyotes and raccoons are essentially being fed cats and kittens - which assists those populations to increase. Rather than heed more current studies showing that the primary food source of urban coyotes is cats and garbage, they choose to endlessly cite out of date UC Davis studies that didn't even sample what was going on in San Francisco, to back up their increasing hands off policies. The other favorite excuses entail UC Davis Kate Hurley's "Capacity for Care," claiming animals should be rushed out of shelters as opposed to making shelters more comfortable and effective to get animals adopted quickly. The latest excuse is shortage of veterinarians, which was not the case when all these terrible policies started being put into effect, leading us to where we are now. It used to be that SF SPCA's goal was no homeless domestic animals by the year 2030. Instead of showing determination to come up with creative solutions, ACC's & SPCA's creative excuses seem to be taking our city further away from humane and effective ways to help the domestic and wild animals of San Francisco. For more history:

<https://www.sfanimalsvoice.org>

Thank you very much, Elva

From: Gloria [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 7:49 AM
To: Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor) <michaelangelo.torres@sfdph.org>
Subject: COYOTES IN SAN FRANCISCO

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My name is gloria [REDACTED] and I have lived in San Francisco for 55 years. When I moved here there were no coyotes living in the city. Now I see quite a few coyotes and I never report the sightings. I think that most people do not report coyote sightings. Everything I have read says that there is a steady population of 100 coyotes in the city, but there is no rigorous tracking program throughout the city. Common sense tells me that this number is not accurate. April through June is the pup rearing season and with new coyote pups being born every spring the number is bound to increase.

Coyotes are wild animals that can become threatening and aggressive when there are pups in the den. They are dangerous for small children and small dogs. Many small pets in the city have been snatched and eaten, and there are documented episodes of aggression against infants and toddlers in the Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park. I was told that coyotes were recently removed from The Children's Playground on JFK Drive, however, I have not seen that documented anywhere. It is only a matter of time before an infant is taken off into the bushes by a coyote. SFGate printed a story a few years ago about a coyote charging toward an infant sitting on a blanket in the Botanical Garden. The mother is described as doing a football dive to save her child. Coyote aggression is often attributed to people feeding them and it is seldom taken into account that they are wild animals living in a densely populated urban environment for which they are not suited.

In 2022 Scientist from the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute visited San Francisco and reported "coyote conflict reports have been significantly increasing over the past 5 years." They further stated "there is coyote occupation in one of the most densely human populated cities in America."

San Francisco Animal Care and Control receives many requests about removing and relocating coyotes, but it is illegal under California State Law, although I read that this can be done with a special request. Perhaps it is time for Animal Care and Control to revisit this law with California Fish and Wildlife. I do know that several times each year on Pier 70 on the San Francisco waterfront all of the raccoons are trapped and killed by Pestec Pest Control. For some reason it is legal to trap and kill raccoons, but illegal to trap and relocate coyotes. Coyotes are the pending threat to the people of San Francisco, not raccoons.

It is said that the people of San Francisco need to learn how to "coexist" with coyotes, and that people need to overcome their fear of coyotes. In my mind it is an unintelligent approach to not fear a coyote. They are wild animals that at certain times of the year can be very aggressive.

I worked my entire life in the [REDACTED] at the University of California Medical Center on Parnassus Street. When I retired in 2008 I was doing photography on Pier 70 in the San Francisco shipyard. I became acquainted with the feral cat population on the pier. I learned that they were being cared for by a small group of dedicated people. I became an active member of that group, The San Francisco Waterfront Cats.

All of the Pier 70 cats are spayed and neutered. Many of the cats were domestic cats that were dumped there by their owners. Some have been adopted and are doing well. Tragedy struck several years ago when four of the cats had their legs cut off, one cat had two legs amputated. One raccoon also had a leg amputated. This was reported on the local news channels. The traps were never found but this colony was located near the PG&E lot on Pier 70. The cats were resilient and survived, and we found homes for all of them.

Tragedy struck again about a year ago when a coyote appeared on the pier. Our cat population went from 60 down to about 30. In the past week we have found three beloved cats and one raccoon eaten alive and their intestines spread across the parking lot at Building 12. There were footprints indicating the presence of 2 coyotes now. There seems to be an attitude toward feral cats that they are disposable garbage and that their death is of no consequence, but many people care about the feral cats on Pier 70. The workmen there have built a shelter for their favorite cat and Community Cats has donated many small houses to provide shelter for the cats on the waterfront where the weather can be brutal. The two development companies on Pier 70 have provided our group with all of the security codes so that we can get access to all six cat colonies.

Many people are unhappy about the two coyotes now hunting on the pier. The manager of Building 12 called San Francisco Animal Care and Control last week to complain. Building 12 is the location of all of the large social events on the pier, most of them tech events. On the calendar for this summer are many music concerts, some of them starting in the late evening 7-10pm. That means that kids who have been drinking and taking drugs will be wandering around the pier at night, at the same time that there are two coyotes hunting for food. The coyotes are also seen all day roaming the pier.

Crane Cove Park is part of the Pier 70 Historic District on the waterfront. There have been coyote sightings in this park during the past few months. It is the only park in the area where all of the new waterfront development is happening and this small park is heavily used by families with small children.

I am appearing here today because I believe that there is a coyote problem that exists in San Francisco and it is only going to get worse. Coexisting with Coyotes in a dense, highly populated urban environment is a pipe dream that puts the residents of the city at risk. I support trapping, tranquilizing, and relocating coyotes out of the city. San Francisco Animal Care and Control working with California Fish and Wildlife need to work together to formulate a more realistic approach to addressing the issue of urban coyotes in San Francisco.

Thank you,
gloria [REDACTED]