

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Coyotes and Feeding Wildlife Update - CK 151-14

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 10:08 AM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Coyotes and Feeding Wildlife Update - CK 151-14

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED]

Submitted on Monday, March 24, 2025 - 10:08

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, March 24, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Candace

Last Name: Savage

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Albert Ave

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Wild about Saskatoon

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: City Council, March 26

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 8.3.2 Coyotes and Feeding Wildlife Update

Comments:

Coyotes live in cities all over North America and generally co-exist with humans without incident. It follows that seeing a coyote in an urban setting is normal and, in itself, nothing to worry about. In fact, the chance to catch a glimpse of these wild dogs living their lives makes some of us very happy.

An increase in the number of reported sightings, though interesting, is also not an immediate cause for concern. In fact, it might come as welcome news to anyone who hopes that someone will make a lunch of our thriving population of jackrabbits.

Co-existence with coyotes breaks down when human-habituated animals become bold or desperate enough to become aggressive. Fortunately, “best practices” for responding to these incidents are well established, as summarized in a report released by the City of Toronto Animal Services’ Expert Panel on Coyotes just last week (March 18, 2025 – link below).

In the words of the Expert Panel, “The priority [in managing aggressive coyotes] should be to continue adaptive aversion conditioning of local coyotes and educating the community, in tandem with identification and removal of food attractants...” Aversive conditioning refers to simple, proven, cost-effective methods such as hazing with noise, flags, etc.

The Expert Panel recommends targeted killing of known “problem” coyotes as a last resort if aversion conditioning fails. They stress that “culling of the coyote population is not supported by evidence and is unlikely to produce desired results (there are always more coyotes who can repopulate the area quickly), and cannot be ethically justified. Culling coyote populations indiscriminately has led to counterproductive results elsewhere in North America, including increased conflict with humans...; these effects are the basis for coexistence-driven solutions.”

The way forward proposed by City of Saskatoon staff is clearly in sync with the best practices described by the Expert Panel and is backed up by experience in cities across Canada and the United States.

Several other points stand out in the Expert Panel’s report:

*The report cautions against the effects of “social amplification of risk” –fostering an exaggerated sense of danger – which leads to a loss of community trust and collaboration in responding to aggressive coyote incidents.

*Many cities, including Vancouver, Portland, Seattle and Los Angeles, draw on local expertise for guidance in managing conflict with coyotes and other wildlife. The City of Saskatoon should follow this wise example.

*Effective intervention depends on access to high quality information. Together with our community partners, Wild about Saskatoon is working to renew and sustain Saskatoon’s Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN), a research initiative that deploys trail cameras to generate credible information about wildlife relationships and trends. This initiative promises to fill a gap in the City’s coyote management strategy, by identifying pieces of the puzzle that are not clearly understood. We are currently seeking funding to maintain this valuable initiative. More information here: <https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/uwin/>

Submitted on behalf of Wild about Saskatoon

Candace Savage

Joanne Blythe

Chad Hammond

The Expert Panel on Coyotes report can be found here:

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/8fb1-Consolidated-Summary-Report-Expert-Panel-on-Coyotes-in-Fort-York-Liberty-Village-FINAL.pdf>

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No