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Web Site Provides Help for Suburban Coyote Conflicts

A new Web site created by UC Cooperative Extension specialists provides recommendations that homeowners, neighborhoods and municipalities will find useful in preventing conflicts with coyotes. "CoyoteBytes" was created in response to a growing problem of coyotes in suburban Southern California becoming so bold that they attack pets and occasionally bite people.

The Web site's initial target audience includes the most urbanized areas of Southern California. Its development is coordinated by Robert Timm, Extension Wildlife Specialist, who has studied the incidence of coyote attacks on people in California over the past decade. Timm and his colleagues document more than 100 such incidents, but they note that little is known about coyote attacks on pets, other than that the problem is widespread and increasing.

Because no single agency collects information on coyote attack incidents, the Web site includes a voluntary reporting feature that allows people who have had coyote encounters to voluntarily describe the incident. Currently, coyote incident reports are sought from Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. Persons wishing to report coyote incidents can provide details on attacks on pets, injuries or fatalities sustained, and the cost of veterinary treatment to pets or hobby animals. In the case of attacks on people, they can specify whether an injury occurred, and if the victim had to undergo rabies inoculations. The CoyoteBytes Web site uses GIS technologies to place coyote incidents on an interactive map, enabling users to see where and when coyote encounters are occurring. Through time, the information collected will allow management recommendations to be refined and improved.

The Web site can be found at <http://www.CoyoteBytes.org>. The Web site includes a request form for people in the three target counties to obtain business cards and posters promoting awareness of the site. For more information about the site, Timm, who is based at Hopland Research and Extension Center, can be reached via email at <rmtimm@ucdavis.edu>.

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