## PROJECT COYOTE



## Talking Points on Galveston Island Canids

FOSTERING COEXISTENCE

## Please personalize

- The development of some of the island's last green space will displace a group of unique canids known as the East Beach pack currently inhabiting that area. Despite living in a relatively urban, or generally human-inhabited landscape, the East Beach pack depends on the existing green space for resources. Construction will force them to relocate to neighboring areas, which will be challenging for them on an island that is home to three other packs.
  - We request that the development project not move forward but if it must, we hope for a community-based project involving fewer homes, more community control, and protection of the East Beach landscape and wildlife.
- <u>Recent research</u> on Galveston Island reported that these Gulf Coast canids including the East Beach Pack that will be impacted by this development carry ghost alleles lost to the red wolf. They represent a unique canid population that serves as a reservoir for historical red wolf genetics. This red wolf ancestry unique to the area gives the canids their unique look and behavior.
  - The ecology and community interactions of these Gulf Coast canids are unknown and there is an urgent need to protect them until we can assess and implement appropriate conservation and conflict prevention strategies.
- Currently, there are only 4 known family groups on Galveston Island. **The proposed hotel and condos will impact the most isolated pack harboring the greatest amount red wolf ancestry on the island.** The development will not only displace this pack into neighboring residential areas, but it will destroy vital habitat that has maintained high red wolf ancestry on Galveston Island.
- Development and habitat destruction harm all species who rely on green spaces for survival and enjoyment – canids, humans, birds, and more. As concerned residents and individuals who enjoy the wild beauty Galveston Island has to offer, we implore you to reconsider the proposed plan and instead involve the community and consider their needs.