

Coyote Chronicles



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG | FALL 2024

**New Legal Defense
Fund to Protect Wild
Carnivores**

**Nationwide Survey
Shows Strong
Support for Wildlife
Policy Reform**

**Coyote Friendly
Children's Book**

© Photo by Franz Camenzind
#CaptureCoexistence Contributor

Note from the Director

Our mission to protect North America's wild carnivores has been met with incredible momentum and promise over the last few months.

Project Coyote collaborated with the Animal-Human Policy Center at Colorado State University to [conduct a national public survey](#) that revealed broad public support among U.S. citizens for addressing animal protection issues, including for stronger policies aimed at protecting wildlife. The [study results](#), published in September, show that public attitudes towards wild carnivores are beginning to change, and wildlife policy needs to reflect this shift.

Our campaigns this season have pushed forward essential work to educate the public and influence policy to safeguard wolves and other wild carnivores. This October, we celebrated Wolf Awareness Week—a time to shine a light on the beauty, intelligence and ecological importance of wolves, as well as to confront the persecution they continue to face. We are thrilled to announce the addition of Kiely Smith as our new State Advocacy Manager. Kiely's leadership will be pivotal in expanding our state-based advocacy efforts, amplifying our combined voices, and ensuring that local policies reflect our commitment to coexistence and science-based, ethical wildlife policy.

In addition, our team recently engaged in a series of deeply engaging conversations to identify our core values (listed on the following page). These values are truly the foundation of who and what Project Coyote is, what we believe in, and how we approach the work we do. It has been inspiring to witness the passion and intention our team has poured into the creation of these value statements and our revised logo. We hope you are equally inspired.

Together, with your ongoing support and our growing capacity, we are empowered to create real change. Thank you for standing with us and with North America's wild carnivores.

With gratitude and determination,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Camilla H. Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Camilla Fox
Founder & Executive Director

Statement in Response to the 2024 Election Results

Dear Friend of Wildlife,

The election results will undoubtedly impact so many critical issues. As our team considers the uncertainty in the days ahead, we want to reiterate our commitment to you, our supporters, and to the wild lives we work tirelessly to protect. We vow to stand up, show up, and speak up stronger and louder than ever before in defense of North America's wild carnivores and the natural world.

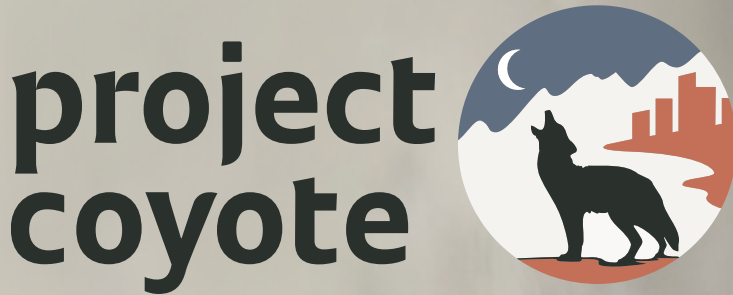
When threats to wildlife and the natural world loom particularly large, we reflect upon our core organizational values—compassion, advocacy, community, respect and wonder. These guide us every day, but especially provide comfort and renewed conviction during uncertain times such as these.

We also draw inspiration and wisdom from our flagship species, the coyote, and the lessons they offer us. In the face of adversity, a changing environment, and relentless persecution, coyotes adapt, persist, and foster thriving ecosystems. They remind us that resilience is key.

Today, we process and reflect on these lessons and values. Tomorrow, we will use them to continue strengthening the movement to protect North America's wild carnivores and our natural world. Thank you for standing with us.



Project Coyote's Values & Brand



PROTECTING WILD CARNIVORES
FOSTERING THRIVING ECOSYSTEMS

After refreshing our [mission and vision statements](#) at the end of last year, Project Coyote felt it was an opportune time to revisit other components of our brand—including our recently updated core values and logo.

The logo design pays homage to our mission, featuring a coyote silhouette outside a cityscape and outlined by mountains. Coyotes represent the most persecuted species among North America's wild carnivores and remain the flagship species of our organization, and therefore central to our logo. This updated design puts increased focus on the coyote's silhouette, and includes a complimentary color palette with earth tones representing the diversity of habitats coyotes and other wild carnivores inhabit.

Project Coyote Core Values

Compassion

We lead with empathy and care for the most vulnerable, persecuted and dismissed. We cultivate society's understanding of the intrinsic value of individual lives and inspire action to mitigate human-caused suffering.

Advocacy

We work to protect wild carnivores as unique individuals and as valued members of our multi-species communities. As community members and fellow animals ourselves, we recognize our responsibility to shield them from human-caused harm.

Community

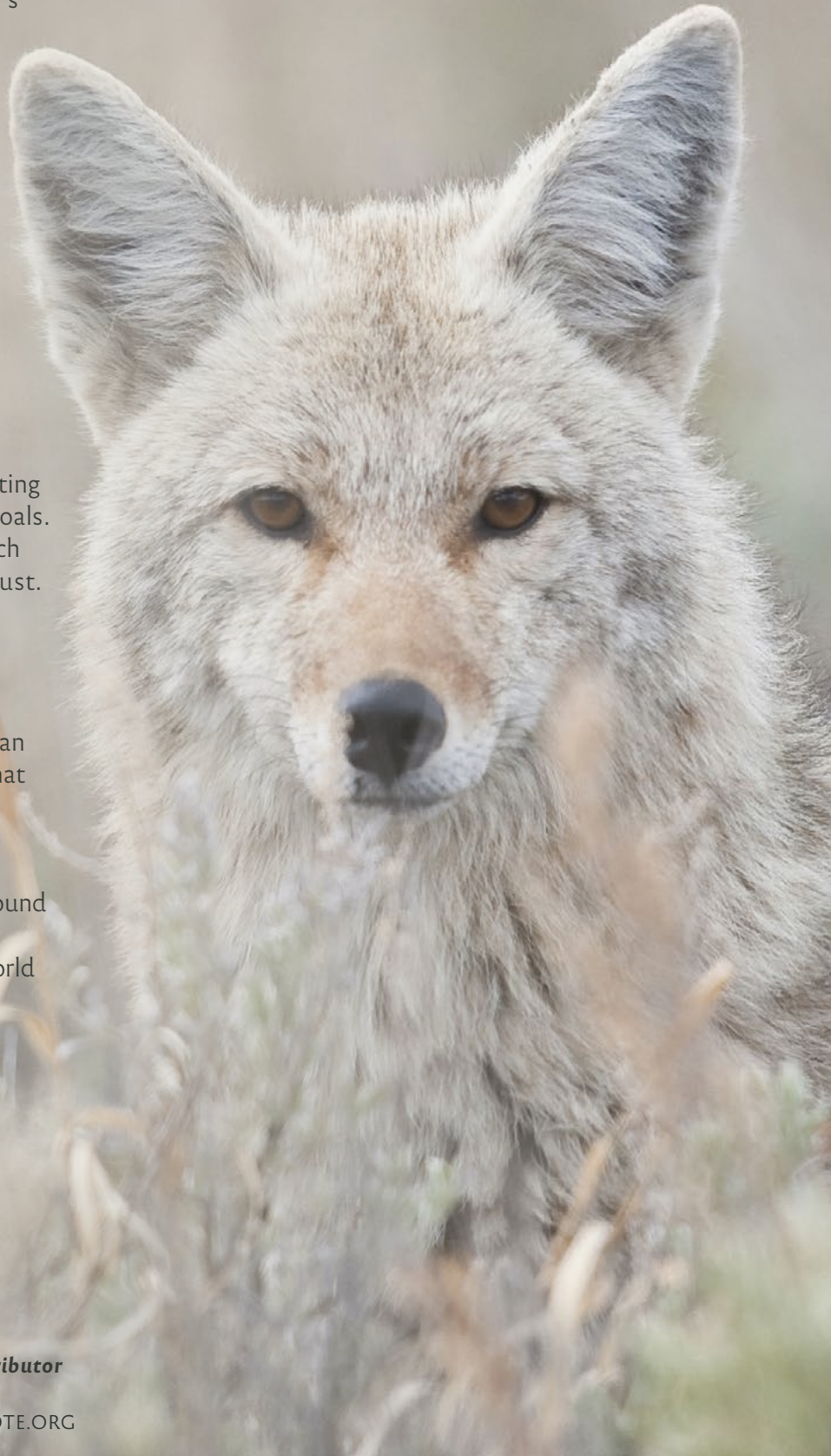
We are committed to building a more compassionate world and recognize that cultivating a strong community is crucial for reaching our goals. We respect diverse worldviews and values which fosters mutual understanding, empathy, and trust.

Respect

We respect all life, promoting fairness and reciprocity in our relationships towards human and nonhuman animals. We stand against human exceptionalism and human-centered policies that dismiss wild carnivores.

Wonder

We marvel at the inherent beauty, joy, and awe found in wild nature. We believe cultivating emotional connections with wild animals and the natural world is vital for fostering compassionate worldviews.



Protect

Project Coyote uniquely advocates for a compassionate, ethical and science-based approach to wild carnivore protection. We shift federal and state-based wild carnivore policy away from current lethal management policies to a framework centered on human-wildlife coexistence. In partnership with renowned experts from diverse academic fields, we seek to integrate ethics and science to ensure both humans and wild carnivores can flourish in our multispecies communities.

Protecting America's Wolves

Wolves continue to face significant threats across North America. In September, [the Biden Administration asked an appeals court](#) to revive a Trump-era rule that previously lifted Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the U.S. If successful, the move would put wolves under state management nationwide and would open the door for hunting to resume in the Great Lakes region after it was halted two years ago by court order. The last time wolves were delisted, [Wisconsin killed an estimated 20% of their state's wolf population](#) in just 3 days.

In Colorado, the first and only breeding pack of wolves to have lived in the state since the 1940s was removed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). This family, known as the Copper Creek pack, was implicated in some farm animal losses, and the rancher responsible for these animals failed to implement science-based nonlethal coexistence tools as recommended and [even refused to bury carcasses of dead animals on their property](#), likely attracting wolves to the area. In response, CPW trapped the family — the father subsequently died of a leg infection and the mother and her four pups are now in captivity. CPW later [discovered they failed to catch a fifth pup](#), who was left behind without their family for several weeks. CPW tried, for 19 nights, to capture this pup but decided to halt the operation in mid October due to declining temperatures and the pup's safety, according to [their official news release](#).

PROTECT

Following public outrage over the [horrific torture and killing of a young wolf](#) in Daniel, Wyoming, this past February, the Wyoming legislature formed the Treatment of Predators Working Group to address the deficiencies in Wyoming's animal cruelty laws. Unfortunately, this group has refused to outlaw the practice of running over wild carnivores with motorized vehicles and put forth a proposed bill that would still permit the pursuit of animals with vehicles as long as they are killed quickly.

In positive news, members of Congress have taken action by [introducing a new bipartisan bill called the Snowmobiles Aren't Weapons \(SAW\) Act](#). This legislation, sponsored by Representative Nancy Mace (R-S.C.), aims to implement a national ban on using snowmobiles to chase down wolves and other wild carnivores on federal lands—a practice known as “predator whacking.” Republicans and Democrats alike support banning this abhorrent practice. A new nationwide survey conducted by the Animal-Human Policy Center at Colorado State University, in collaboration with Project Coyote, shows over 80% of the broad public supports banning the practice of intentionally running over carnivores with motorized vehicles.

In a historic step toward permanently protecting wildlife and supporting Indigenous land stewardship, [the Tribal Heritage and American Bison, Grizzly Bear, and Wolf Restoration and Coexistence Act](#) was introduced into both chambers of Congress! This groundbreaking legislation, introduced by Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), seeks to establish permanent federal protections for American bison, grizzly bears, and gray wolves, while strengthening recovery and coexistence initiatives for these ecologically and culturally vital species. The bill also enhances recovery efforts, fosters human-wildlife coexistence, and expands tribal management authority. By forming oversight committees in collaboration with Indigenous tribes, the legislation empowers tribal-led reintroduction initiatives on tribal lands. We stand in solidarity with tribal leaders as they champion this vital initiative to protect wolves, grizzlies, and bison.



© Photo by Ben&Bluhm #CaptureCoexistence Contributor



© Photo by Josh Shandera #CaptureCoexistence Contributor



PROTECT

Americans Support Stronger Wildlife Protection

The Animal-Human Policy Center at Colorado State University, in collaboration with Project Coyote, conducted a [national public survey that revealed broad public support among U.S. citizens for addressing animal protection issues](#), including for policy solutions aimed at protecting wildlife.

The survey examined public perceptions of key animal welfare policies that are currently being discussed by policy-makers and stakeholders nationwide, including multiple issues related to wildlife and wild carnivore killing. Results show the following levels of support for proposed federal and state policies related to wildlife:

- 85.8% would support a federal law specifying cruelty towards wildlife is a criminal violation
- 80.2% would support banning purposefully running carnivores over with vehicles
- 78.2% would support a federal law banning wildlife killing contests
- 81.7% would support a state law banning wildlife killing contests
- 81.7% would support a state law restricting hunting season length for wild carnivores
- 77.5% would support a federal law requiring states to limit the number of carnivores that can be killed by a hunter in a year

“These results show overwhelming support among the public for protecting wildlife from numerous cruel and inhumane practices such as wildlife killing contests, running over coyotes and wolves with motorized vehicles and extending cruelty laws to wildlife,” shares Renee Seacor, Carnivore Conservation Director. “With such broad public support, immediate action by policymakers is needed to address ongoing abuse and mismanagement of our nation’s wildlife.”

[Read the full report here.](#)



PROTECT

Governor Gavin Newsom Continues to Set Precedents for Green Legislation

Project Coyote is pleased to share that California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law [SB 1091](#), legislation that will support schoolyard ground greening across the state.

The bill, endorsed by Project Coyote, was authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar, cosponsored by Green Schoolyards America and Trust for Public Land, and supported by a wide coalition of health, environmental, and public education advocates. School-ground greening is one approach to reducing the impacts of extreme heat and addressing the climate crisis with an intersectional approach. Providing more green spaces at schools is also a critical strategy to closing the equity gap in access to nature, improving health and wellness, providing opportunities for hands-on learning, climate literacy, and workforce development.

California has continued to act as a leader in policies supporting climate action, habitat restoration, and wildlife conservation. This year, Newsom also signed [Assembly Bill 2196](#) into law, which codifies a new Beaver Restoration Program aimed at implementing coexistence and other beaver-assisted restoration projects to promote habitat restoration and climate change resiliency. California has led the way on [banning recreational and commercial fur trapping](#), [Wildlife Killing Contests](#), and [lethal rodenticides](#).

Project Coyote is encouraged by the environmental protection precedents set by California. Through our numerous state-based campaigns, we are advocating for similar legislation across the country that protects wild lives, natural spaces, and human communities.



State Campaign Updates

Michigan

Every year, wild lives are unethically slaughtered across the U.S. and legally traded in for cash and prizes. These Wildlife Killing Contests continue to occur despite national polling that shows 78% of Americans would support a federal law banning wildlife killing contests and over 80% would support a state law banning them. Project Coyote co-founded the [National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests](#) composed of more than 60 national and state wildlife conservation organizations working together to bring an end to cruel and senseless killing contests nationwide.

We launched our newest campaign in Michigan to raise awareness of wildlife killing contests, with the goal of adding Michigan to this list of ten compassionate states that have banned these cruel contests to date (Arizona, California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington). If you live in Michigan or know someone who does, be sure to check out our campaign page to learn more. If you are a Michigander looking to take action for wild carnivores in your state, email us at info@projectcoyote.org to learn more on how to take action for Michigan wildlife.



© Photo by Scott Brovsky, Big Sky Wildlife #CaptureCoexistence Contributor

State Campaign Updates

Colorado

Our Colorado State Representative, [Mark Surls](#), has been busy campaigning in support of [Proposition 127](#). This campaign garnered 188,000 individual signatures, more than enough to add this proposition to the ballot. This law would have protected mountain lions, bobcats, and Canada lynx from cruel and inhumane trophy hunting and fur trapping statewide. In Colorado, more than 500 mountain lions are killed and up to 2,000 bobcats are inhumanely trapped and killed every year. Mountain lions are a crucial part of Colorado's ecosystems, increasing biodiversity and helping to keep ecosystems and prey populations such as deer and elk healthy. The cruel and unnecessary killing of Colorado's cats for "sport" degrades the lives of these ecologically and intrinsically valuable species. Unfortunately, Proposition 127 did not pass on election day. But Project Coyote and our partners will continue working relentlessly in Colorado to protect wild carnivores from senseless abuse, promote coexistence, and inspire appreciation for wild nature.



State Campaign Updates

Texas

With our new Texas State Coordinator [Karin Saucedo](#) at the helm, Project Coyote is building capacity for wild carnivore advocacy in Texas through a number of education and outreach events. Karin is also helping recruit new volunteers, develop relationships with local organizations for future coalitions, and spread awareness about key issues related to wildlife protection. Broadening our volunteer base across the state will help strengthen our future campaigns to reform regressive wild carnivore regulations in Texas and advocate for more ethical and scientific carnivore policy frameworks. Karin and her husband, Roberto (also a Project Coyote volunteer), currently provide coyote coexistence guidance for city officials and animal control officers in the Cities of Austin, Grapevine, Cedar Hill, McKinney, Plano and Dallas. If you live in Texas or know a Texan who would be interested in getting involved with our campaigns, please contact Karin at ksaucedo@projectcoyote.org.



© Photo by Karin Saucedo #CaptureCoexistence Contributor

Coexist

Project Coyote advocates for coexistence with North America's wild carnivores by promoting proactive public education to reduce negative interactions, as well as replacing shortsighted and ineffective lethal control with non-lethal strategies to address human-wildlife conflicts. We work across both urban and rural communities, partnering with diverse stakeholders to disseminate science backed coexistence strategies, fostering effective coexistence with our wild carnivore neighbors.



© Photo by Stephanie Becker #CaptureCoexistence Contributor



Stephanie Becker Encourages 'Harmony Among Neighbors' with New Book

Stephanie Becker is a talented wildlife photographer and passionate advocate for wildlife. She is a contributor to Project Coyote's #CaptureCoexistence Campaign and has also produced a number of [outreach materials](#) designed to educate children and adults about coexisting wild carnivores.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Stephanie's new children's book, [Harmony Among Neighbors](#), which creatively demystifies coyote behavior and promotes coexistence. Stephanie has generously offered to donate a portion of proceeds from book sales to Project Coyote. To celebrate the book launch, we spoke with Stephanie about her art and advocacy efforts in this recent [Notes From the Field Blog](#), excerpted below.

Project Coyote: What led you to wildlife photography and conservation?

Stephanie: As a sixth-generation native Californian, I grew up exploring the Bay Area ridgelines, where my family's love and respect for nature were deeply-held values. Living in a rural area allowed me to connect with local wildlife. As a teen, I became interested in the impact of development on our open spaces and how it affected natural wildlife corridors. In response, I collaborated with my hometown to install deer-crossing signs along a busy highway to address a rise in vehicular accidents. My aim was to ensure the safety of both the community and the wildlife. This experience sparked a desire to raise awareness about our shared land, inspiring me to explore how I could use my passion for photography and writing to promote coexistence.

PC: We are excited about your new book, *Harmony Among Neighbors*! What was the inspiration for writing this book? What do you hope children (and their parents) will take away from reading it?

Stephanie: The inspiration for *Harmony Among Neighbors* came from an [educational video](#) I created for Project Coyote while working towards my Naturalist Certification. I realized that much of the existing literature on coexistence was geared towards adults, leaving a gap for engaging youth. Through this whimsical story, I aim to introduce young readers to themes of empathy, friendship, and environmental stewardship, fostering a new generation of environmentally conscious individuals. I'm immensely grateful to my publisher, 12 Willows Press, for their support, and to Rosa Maria Garza, whose stunning illustrations truly bring the story to life. The book was released on September 21 and is [now available](#) on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

PC: Why do you feel it's important to educate young people about coexisting with wildlife?

Stephanie: Young people represent the next generation of environmental stewards. Their natural empathy for wildlife often leads them to want to feed or approach animals, but they may not realize that these well-meaning actions can actually cause harm. Additionally, children can serve as effective teachers, sharing their insights about coexistence with their families and helping to spread awareness about the importance of protecting their communities and wildlife.

[Read the full blog here.](#)

Seasonal Coexistence Tip:

It's autumn, and that means dispersal season for coyotes, wolves, and foxes! As wild canid pups begin to mature, many strike out on their own in search of their own territories or mates. It's a perilous time for young coyotes in particular; while some will form new packs, others may struggle to find undefended territory. Young coyotes are vulnerable to disease, injury (especially car strikes), and conflicts with humans.

Coyote and fox sightings typically increase this time of year. You may hear sharp barks, growls, and yips as foxes establish new territories and defend their boundaries, or you may notice a curious coyote youngster following you during a walk, or roaming your neighborhood looking for food or companions. If you know foxes coyotes are present in your area, remember to keep pets on a leash, don't leave small pets unsupervised outside, and secure trash, compost, and all other outdoor food attractants.

You can help your community be coyote-aware by sharing our newly updated [coexistence brochure](#), which includes information about coyote behavior, physical characteristics, and ecology, as well as tips on reducing conflicts and keeping pets safe. Access all of our [resources](#) on our website.

COYOTES IN COMPARISON TO COMPANION ANIMALS & FOXES

- Coyotes have distinctive, black-tipped bushy tails.
- Labrador Retrievers are twice the weight of a coyote.
- The average fox is much smaller than a coyote.
- Domestic cats can appear as prey.

project coyote

COYOTES IN COMPARISON TO COMPANION ANIMALS & FOXES

- Coyotes have distinctive, black-tipped bushy tails.
- Labrador Retrievers are twice the weight of a coyote.
- The average fox is much smaller than a coyote.
- Domestic cats can appear as prey.

COYOTE ECOLOGY

Two hundred years of costly persecution has not eliminated the resident coyote from our landscape. In fact, coyotes have expanded their range two to threefold since the 1850s, largely in response to human changes to the environment and the eradication of wolves. Coyotes live in a range of habitats in North and Central America, from California to Newfoundland and Alaska to Patagonia. Coyotes have adapted to living close to people and now inhabit even the most densely populated metropolitan cities, including Boston, San Francisco, Austin, and Seattle. An estimated 2,000 coyotes are on self-appointed "pat patrol" in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Coyotes play an important ecological role helping to maintain healthy ecosystems and species diversity. As the top carnivore in some ecosystems, coyotes help regulate the number of mesocarnivores such as skunks, raccoons, and foxes, which boosts bird diversity and abundance. Western coyotes typically weigh 18-30 pounds and look similar to a small shepherd or collie type dog, but with pointed, erect ears. Coyotes have a long, bushy, black-tipped tail that is usually carried pointed down. Their eastern counterparts may be larger, averaging 30-40 pounds, with some individuals weighing up to 50 pounds reflecting historical interbreeding with wolves and sometimes domestic dogs. Coyotes are usually grayish-brown with reddish tinges behind the ears and around the face, but coloration can vary from silver-gray to black.

Coyotes often mate for life.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION & LIFE HISTORY

Coyotes exhibit complex social structures, and may live as solitary individuals, in pairs, or in small family groups. Coyotes are generally monogamous; pairs often stay together for many years, and some for life. This behavior is evidence of their rich internal lives: they form strong bonds with their partners and raise their pups together through cooperation. Urban coyotes are especially known for high rates of monogamy, showing 100% dedication (pair-bonding) to their partners in some areas. Both male and female coyotes actively maintain territories that can vary in size from 2 to 30 square miles.

Female coyotes come into heat once a year and breeding is generally limited to one pair in a family group. Breeding season peaks in mid February, followed by a roughly 63 day gestation period. Coyote mothers typically have 3-7 offspring. Pup mortality is high—an average of 50-75% die within their first year. Some juveniles disperse in late fall to seek new territory and mates, while others remain in their parents' social group.

COYOTE LIFE CYCLE

- Dec–Feb: Mating/Breeding Activity
- Feb–Apr: Den Site Selection and Gestation
- Apr–May: Birthing and Weaning
- May–Aug: Raising Pups
- Sep–Nov: Pup Dispersal

DISEASE CONCERNS

Rabies is extremely rare in coyotes, and do not commonly transmit the disease to humans or domestic animals.

COYOTES provide natural rodent control.

FOOD

Coyotes eat a wide variety of food, and like most animals, prefer food that is easiest to obtain. They are true omnivores, and their diet may consist of rodents, rabbits, insects, lizards, birds, vegetables, and fruits. They will also take advantage of unsecured garbage and pet food left outdoors. As scavengers, they provide an ecological service by helping keep our communities clean of carrion (i.e. roadkill). In suburbia, coyotes have been known to occasionally take smaller companion animals if left unprotected. Animal guardians are advised to keep cats indoors, and dogs on leash or under reliable voice control during the day and indoors at night.

HABITS & BEHAVIOR

In rural habitats, coyotes hunt by day and night. In urban areas, coyotes appear to be more nocturnal but can often be seen during daylight hours, especially at dawn and dusk. They communicate vocally, scent marking and through a variety of body displays. It is common to hear them howl and yipping at night, or even during the day in response to sirens and other loud noises.

The coyote's scientific name, *Canis latrans* (meaning "barking dog"), reflects their use of around a dozen vocalizations. It's common to mistake a few communicating coyotes for a single group due to their variety of sounds.

Coyotes are fast and agile, some reaching speeds of coyotes jumping over 6-foot fences. They are highly intelligent and social animals that quickly and are devoted parents. Their sociality are integral to their well-being and flexibility, and—through those traits—to their ecological role.

Don't let domestic animals...

Coexisting with Coyotes

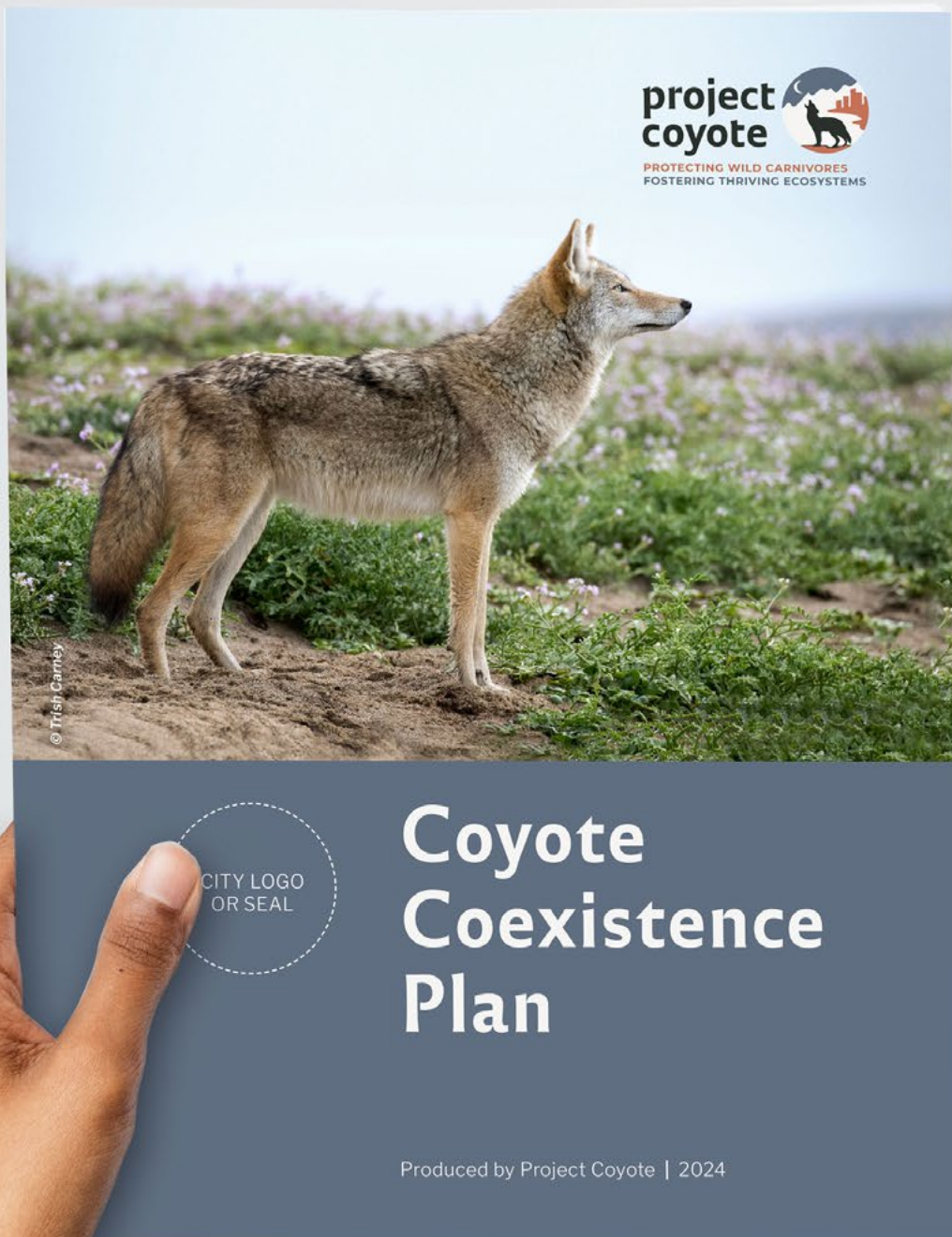
project coyote

PROTECTING WILD CARNIVORES
FOSTERING THRIVING COEXISTERS

New Coyote Coexistence Plan Launching Soon

We are thrilled to announce that we will be launching our newly-developed Model Coyote Coexistence Plan in the coming weeks. The plan went through an intensive staff and outside peer-review process to ensure the integration of the latest science-vetted conflict prevention measures and best practices for guiding municipalities on wildlife coexistence. This model coexistence plan

will hopefully become the premier coexistence plan across the country, fostering urban coyote coexistence. Be on the lookout for an announcement when this comprehensive plan is released! We also plan to host a webinar in Spring 2025 to walk through the plan, additional resource offerings that are currently in development, and how to help foster coyote coexistence in your own community.



Inspire

Project Coyote collaborates with artists, creatives, and educators to inspire diverse new audiences to appreciate their wild neighbors, raise awareness about the importance of wild carnivores to thriving ecosystems, and inspire communities to choose coexistence with wildlife.





Wolf Awareness Week

Wolf Awareness Week is an impactful opportunity to join wolf advocates across the globe in raising awareness about the intrinsic value of individual wolves, the importance of wolves in the ecosystem, and the immense threats they face. We shared wolf content on social media each day, reaching just shy of a quarter million people (244,258) throughout the week across Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn! We also hosted an “Act for Wolves: Status Updates & Advocacy Actions” webinar to provide an overview of the history of wolf extermination in the United States, their subsequent recovery, and their current persecution. Attendees were also walked through the process of encouraging their representatives to support the [Snowmobiles Aren't Weapons \(SAW\) Act](#), generating over 70 personalized advocacy letters. Our Action Alert for the SAW Act further generated over 400 signatures in support of this life-saving legislation. Our development team launched our annual FLOAT fundraiser with wolf-themed apparel and a wildly successful matching gift campaign to create a Wild Carnivore Legal Defense Fund (see *Funding Wildlife Protection* on page 25). We are proud to work alongside our supporters to push for common-sense bans on wildlife cruelty. Together, we're creating a better future for wolves and all wild carnivores.



Writing for the Wild: New Voices and New Funds for Wild Lives

Project Coyote's newest Artist for Wild Nature Ambassador, [Vanessa Chakour](#), developed and launched her first [Writing for the Wild](#) seminar and lecture series. These programs not only helped over 20 writers develop their creative voice in order to better advocate for their wild kin, but also benefited Project Coyote with 50% of proceeds donated to our work for wild carnivores, totalling nearly \$2,500 to protect our most persecuted wild carnivore kin. Vanessa's teachings empowered participants to advocate for the wild through their writing and equipped them with the tools, prompts, energy, momentum, and motivation, to hone their craft. The immense excitement and interest in Writing for the Wild was inspiring, leading Vanessa to offer this opportunity again in 2025! The seminar is set for every other Thursday starting January 9th for 4 sessions, and the lecture series is set for every Sunday starting January 5th for 4 sessions. Returning students receive a discounted rate and each session is recorded for those who can't attend in real time. If you regretted not signing up the first time, now is your chance! Or purchase a registration for a holiday gift for the writer in your family.

#CaptureCoexistence Contributor Spotlight: Josh Shandera

Project Coyote is continually inspired by the dedication of our #CaptureCoexistence Contributors to showcasing the beauty of wild lives and sharing impactful stories and observations from the field. We spoke to Josh Shandera recently, a Contributor since the inception of our #CaptureCoexistence campaign, about his experiences documenting wildlife.

Like our team members at Project Coyote, Josh is passionate about ending the unjust and unscientific persecution of wild carnivores by inspiring new audiences to care about these animals as individuals. Below is an excerpt from a recent [Notes From The Field Blog](#) in which Josh describes his connection to photography and conservation.

By Josh Shandera

Growing up, I was always drawn to the outdoors and the wildlife that can be found there. Whether it was camping in the local state parks as a child, or exploring our national parks in my adult life, there has always been an undeniable pull towards these places. However, it wasn't until I found the work of certain wildlife photographers that I realized the real power behind this type of visual storytelling. The images captured by these talented photographers inspired me to pick up a camera and begin my own photography journey. Their photographs represent not only a frozen moment in time, but stand as a testament to their patience, skill, and unwavering dedication to the craft.

As I found myself more immersed in the world of wildlife photography, I became increasingly fascinated by the stories behind some of these shots — the hours spent waiting for the perfect light, the animal to appear from the trees, or patiently waiting for the subject to be comfortable enough to come within a good photography distance. I aspired to immerse myself into this world of wildlife photography, learn from their experiences, and share in their passion for preserving our natural world.

Wildlife photography plays a crucial role in conservation by connecting people to our natural world in visually appealing and captivating ways. I feel strongly that photographers have a unique opportunity to evoke emotions, raise awareness about the importance of preserving wild spaces, and inspire action through their images. Our photographs can highlight not only the beauty to be found, but the delicate balance of the ecosystems and the threats facing the wildlife dependent upon them. By capturing images of endangered species in their natural habitats, wildlife photographers can shed light on the conservation status of these animals and the urgent need to protect them and their habitats.

[Read the full blog.](#)



© Photos by Josh Shandera #CaptureCoexistence Contributor



Coyote Calendar Fundraiser

Wildlife photographer and #CaptureCoexistence Contributor Nicole Wilde has released a beautiful [2025 calendar](#) featuring many of her inspiring coyote images. We are honored that Nicole has pledged to donate 20% of profits from the calendar to Project Coyote!

The calendar would make a beautiful gift for the coyote-loving person in your life (or maybe for yourself!), and each purchase supports critical wildlife protection and advocacy work.

[See a preview of the calendar and purchase.](#)



Our Pack Is Growing!



New State Advocacy Manager: Kiely Smith

We are excited to welcome Kiely Smith as Project Coyote's new State Advocacy Manager! Kiely oversees Project Coyote's state policy and advocacy campaigns. She is an expert in empowering people to take action for animals and the environment by inspiring advocates and executing effective campaigns. At New Roots Institute, she drove the growth of the New Roots Leadership Development program, where she mentored hundreds of fellows to lead animal advocacy campaigns and lobby their local and state governments, universities, schools, and corporations.

Kiely is from California and currently lives in New York, NY. She earned her bachelor's degree in Cognitive Science from UC Berkeley, and her MA in Animal Studies at New York University, where she led significant lobbying efforts to move NYU toward animal- and climate-friendly food policies. She also currently supports work to advance insect protection for the Society for the Protection of Insects. In her free time, you will catch Kiely dogspotting in Central Park with her dog/best friend, Nova.

[Read more about Kiely](#)

Funding Wildlife Protection



New Wild Carnivore Legal Defense Fund

Project Coyote's annual [FLOAT](#) fundraiser coincided this year with Wolf Awareness Week to result in limited edition wolf themed apparel. The design was created by Voyageurs Wolf Project Research Technician [Maeve Rogers](#), whose other wildly inspiring designs can be found at [TheBrushWolfProject](#). Thanks to our friends at FLOAT, \$8 from each item purchased goes directly to Project Coyote. And an even bigger thanks goes to the wolf advocates across the country who made this fundraiser so successful! Over 364 t-shirts and hoodies were purchased, raising over \$3,318. Though incalculable, we're thrilled by the impact these shirts will have across the country by raising awareness and appreciation for wolves. Due to the critical legal needs of wolves, all donations and FLOAT proceeds during Wolf Awareness Week were dedicated to our Wild Carnivore Legal Defense Fund. And thanks to the generosity of a wolf advocate and long term Project Coyote supporter, all donations this week were matched up to \$5,000! Our community instantly responded to this challenge, unlocking the entire \$5k matching fund within the first two days of Wolf Awareness Week. In total, \$36,955 is now set aside for our Wild Carnivore Legal Defense Fund to support our current wolf lawsuits as they work their way through the courts system, and to support emergency lawsuits as new threats to wolves arise in the coming months and years.

Advocates in Action



On September 20, Project Coyote's Michigan State Representative, Carol Misseldine (right), and volunteer Emily Scroggie spoke with visitors at the Foodie Fair in Detroit, MI about the campaign to end Wildlife Killing Contests.



Project Coyote Advisory Board member, Sarah Killingsworth (right), helped spread awareness about coyote coexistence alongside a Peninsula Humane Society volunteer at the annual Brisbane, California 'Day in the Park' event on October 5. Project Coyote volunteer and educator Dan DeVries and his wife, Chris, also represented our organization at the event.

In September, several Project Coyote team members, volunteers, and donors were able to meet in person and celebrate nature with an inspiring hike through Point Reyes National Seashore, just north of San Francisco, California. The group spotted more than 20 species of mammals and birds, including tundra swans, tule elk, coyotes, river otters, herons, owls, northern harrier hawks, a rare red-necked phalarope, and even a humpback whale! The excursion was a great reminder about why Project Coyote exists: to ensure that diverse natural spaces like Point Reyes, and the wildlife that call it home, are protected and appreciated for generations to come. Pictured left to right: Christopher Lile, Fauna Tomlinson, Keli Hendricks, Philip Steir, Camilla Fox, Sarah Killingsworth and Daniel Dietrich.

Publications, Presentations, Press, & Webinars:

The Complex Emotional Lives of Animals

[Marc Bekoff](#), Project Coyote Science Advisory Member and professor emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, has written extensively about animal behavior, animal emotions (cognitive ethology), compassionate conservation, and animal protection. In recent contributions to Psychology Today, Marc discusses the science that unveils the [rich emotional experiences of domestic and wild animals](#), and advocates for more ethical interactions with animals. He also describes how we can [achieve compassionate conservation](#) through a “rewilding mindset.” Marc’s thoughtful insights and deep knowledge of animal behavior are helping broaden the narrative around human and non-human animal relationships, and how we can nurture these relationships through empathy, humility, and awe.

Project Coyote In the News

- [New Survey Shows Most Americans Want Stronger Laws Protecting Animals](#) | Lady Freethinker
- [End slaughter of state’s wildlife](#) | Letter to the Editor, published in Las Vegas Sun
- [Taxpayers Fund Wildlife Slaughter by Government Agency](#) | UE Express
- [Wildlife killing contests abandon fair chase and science in favor of spectacle and cruelty](#) | Hatch
- [Woman speaks out following coyote sighting in Redwood City](#) | NBC Bay Area
- [The iconic sound of coyotes yipping in L.A. reminds us they’re here to stay](#) | Los Angeles Daily News

Recent Webinars

- [Amplifying Wild Voices & Embracing Animal Nature](#) featuring author & Project Coyote Ambassador Vanessa Chakour; August 20, 2024
- [Act for Wolves: Status Updates & Advocacy Actions](#), featuring Project Coyote Carnivore Conservation Director Renee Seacor and Operations & Communications Director Christopher Lile; October 21, 2024

Additional Publications, Presentations, & Press:

[Sarah Killingsworth](#)

- Urban Coyote Workshop: Panel discussion on coyote coexistence with Peninsula Humane Society, September 3, 2024

[Karin Saucedo](#)

- Mammals of North Texas. Presentation for the Elm Fork Texas Master Naturalist Class, September 10, 2024
- Living in Harmony with America’s Song Dog. Presentation for the North Texas Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting, Dallas, TX, October 2, 2024; City of Lewisville Deep Dive Public Training on Coyotes, October 10, 2024; and Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting, San Maros, TX, October 25, 2024

[Chris Schadler](#)

- [Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote](#). Presentations across New Hampshire and New England, including for the cities of Concord, Jefferson, Whitefield, and Kensington.

[Renee Seacor](#)

- [The Complicated Subject of Predator Killing Contests](#). Article published in National Wildlife Federation Magazine, September 26, 2024

Recent Notes from the Field blogs:

- [From Advocate to Activist: Cheryl Alexander and the outsized influence of Takaya the Lone Sea Wolf](#)
- [Interview with Author, Wildlife Advocate, & Photographer Stephanie Becker](#)
- [Bridging the Gap Between Science and Action](#)
- [Interview with Wildlife Advocate & Photographer Josh Shandera](#)



Protecting Wild Carnivores, Fostering Thriving Ecosystems

PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG



Scan to grow
our impact for
wild carnivores.

