



Wildlife Use of Trails: West Creek Case Study

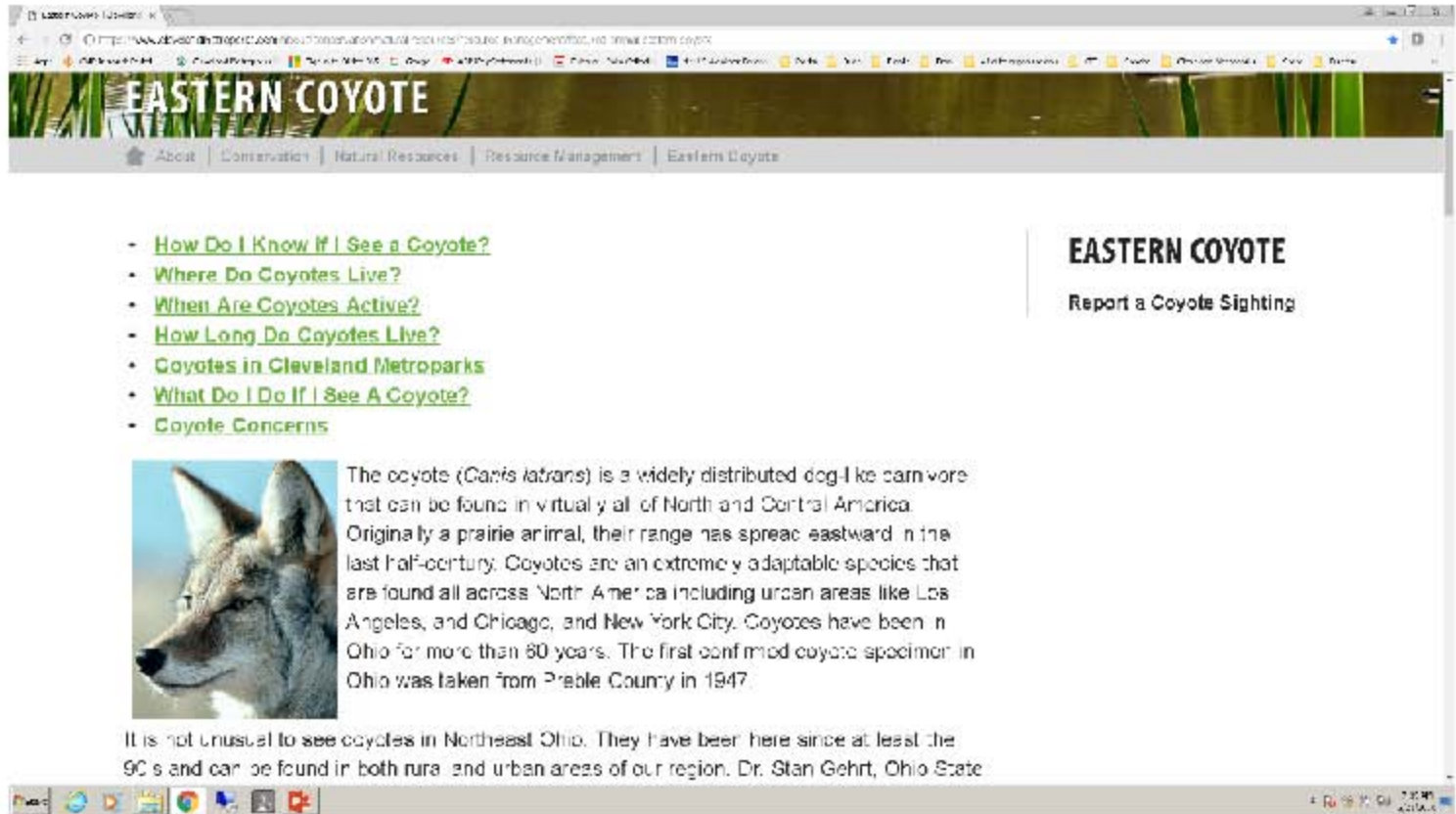
Jon Cepek
Wildlife Ecologist
Cleveland Metroparks



Background: What led to this study



Cleveland Metroparks Eastern Coyote




EASTERN COYOTE

[About](#) | [Conservation](#) | [Natural Resources](#) | [Resource Management](#) | [Eastern Coyotes](#)

- [How Do I Know If I See a Coyote?](#)
- [Where Do Coyotes Live?](#)
- [When Are Coyotes Active?](#)
- [How Long Do Coyotes Live?](#)
- [Coyotes in Cleveland Metroparks](#)
- [What Do I Do If I See A Coyote?](#)
- [Coyote Concerns](#)

EASTERN COYOTE
[Report a Coyote Sighting](#)

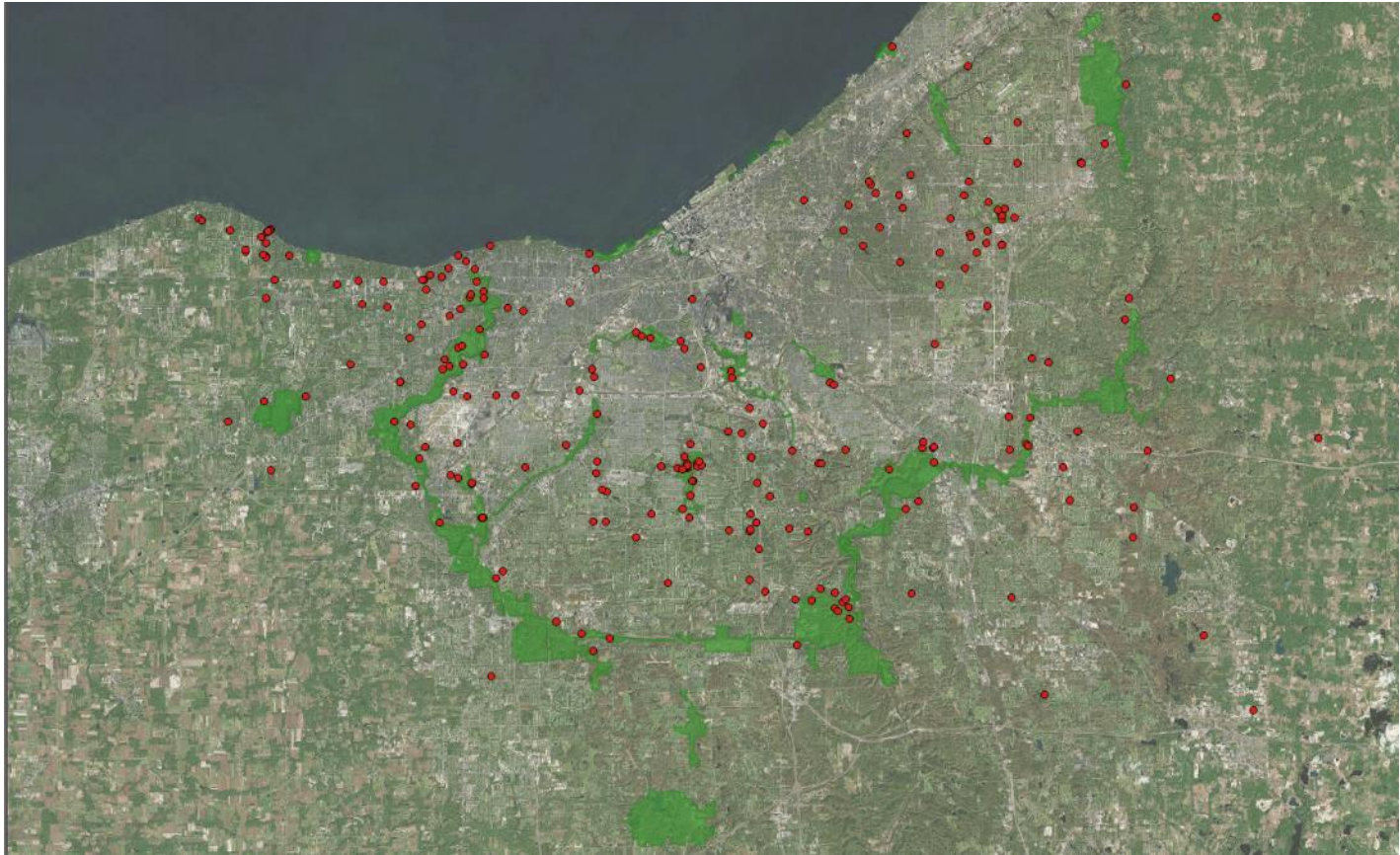


The coyote (*Canis latrans*) is a widely distributed dog-like carnivore that can be found in virtually all of North and Central America. Originally a prairie animal, their range has spread eastward in the last half-century. Coyotes are an extremely adaptable species that are found all across North America including urban areas like Los Angeles, and Chicago, and New York City. Coyotes have been in Ohio for more than 80 years. The first confirmed coyote specimen in Ohio was taken from Preble County in 1947.

It is not unusual to see coyotes in Northeast Ohio. They have been here since at least the 90's and can be found in both rural and urban areas of our region. Dr. Stan Gehrt, Ohio State



Analysis of 261 public coyote reports: October 2013-September 2016



West Creek Reservation



Initial camera monitoring in areas of reports



Active coyote dens in area of concern



Coyote response to staff off trail



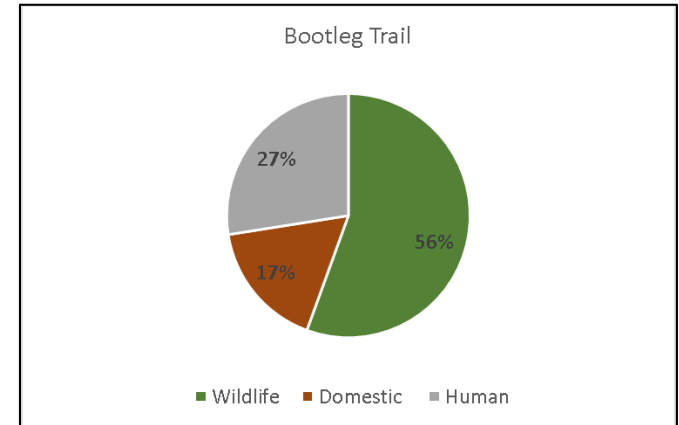
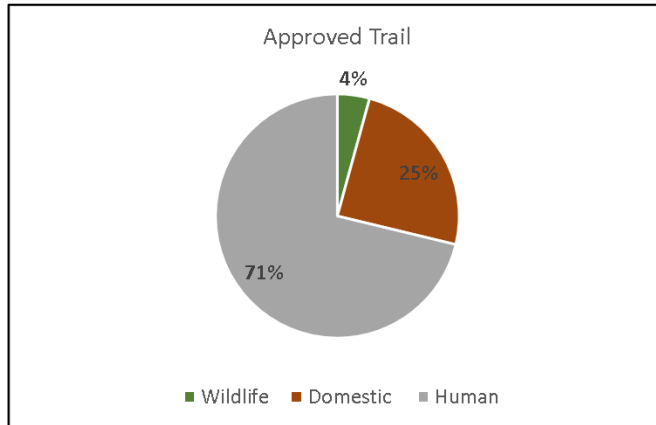
Coyote response to staff off trail



2017 initial trail monitoring project

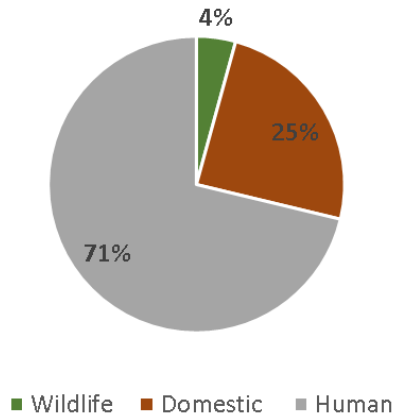


Trail use

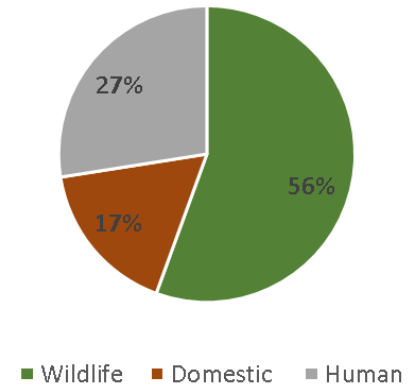


Trail use and dogs off leash

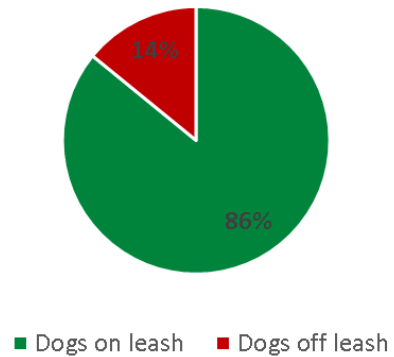
Approved Trail



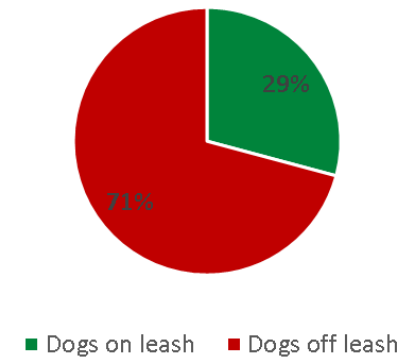
Bootleg Trail



Approved Trail



Bootleg Trail





WCBL1

60°F16°C

06-06-2017 17:01:51



WCBL1

75°F23°C

06-02-2017 16:54:02





WCBL1

57°F 13°C

06-03-2017 06:29:14



WCBL1

75°F 23°C

05-16-2017 20:45:30



Collared female home range





M WC1388

60°F 15°C

05-11-2016 11:36:47





**Cleveland
Metroparks**



**FOCUS
ON WILDLIFE**

Discover wildlife in Cleveland Metroparks.



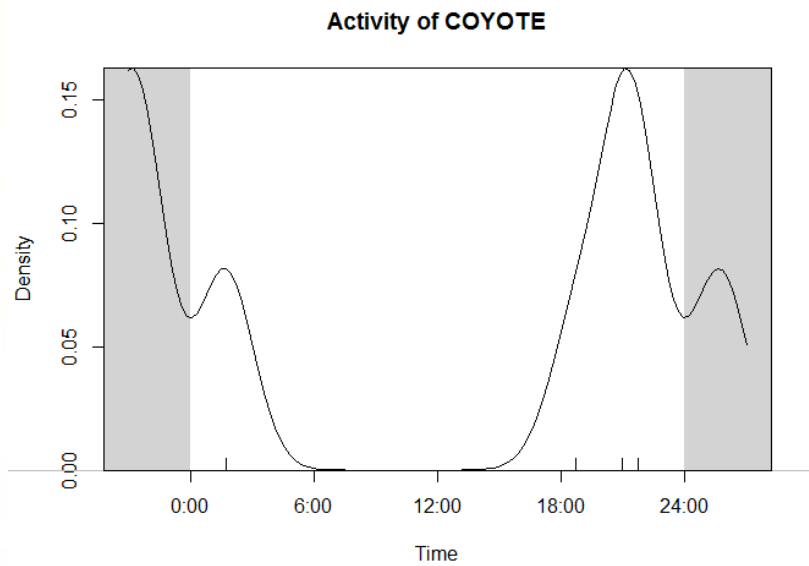
RECaP LABORATORY

RESEARCH ON THE ECOLOGY OF CARNIVORES AND THEIR PREY

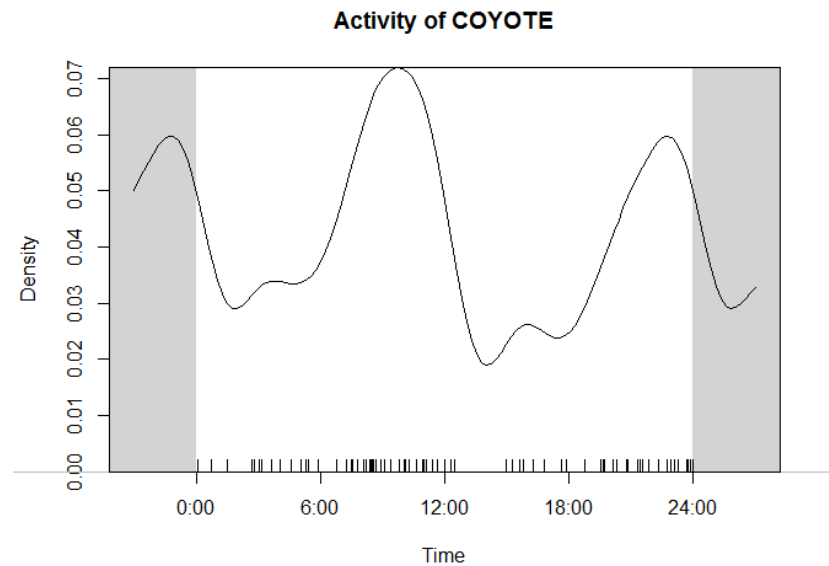
Cleveland Metroparks: Jonathon Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist; Dr. Terry Robison, Director of Natural Resources; Dr. Pam Dennis, Zoo Epidemiologist; Dr. Patrick Lorch, Manager of Field Research; Elizabeth Clingman, volunteer coordinator. MSU RECaP lab: Dr. Robert Montgomery, RECaP lab director; Remington Moll, PhD. student; Waldo Ortiz, undergraduate intern; Clara Leopard, undergraduate technician.

Coyote behavior

High human activity



Low human activity

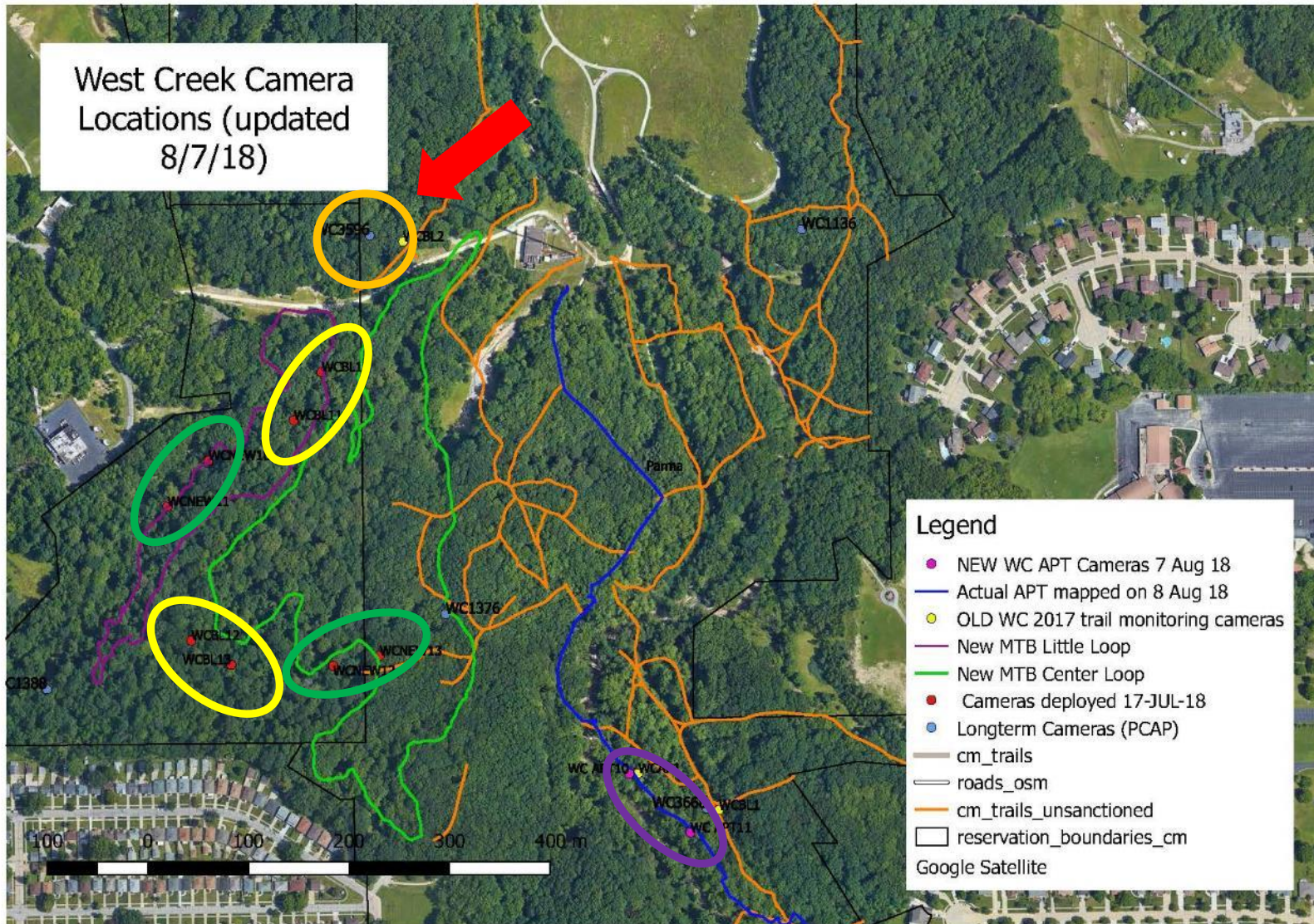


West Creek Case Study

Opportunity to further study trail use from August 2018 as new mountain bike trails are established through bootleg trail closure in 2020



West Creek Camera Locations (updated 8/7/18)





West Creek Reservation
Gorge Loop Trail
Camera WC3596

September 19-27, 2019



Cleveland
Metroparks



Understand when wildlife uses trails (season, time of day)



Bushnell



WCBL10

30°F - 1°C

01-14-2019 15:51:26



Bushnell



WCBL1

75°F 23°C

05-16-2017 20:45:30



Understand how wildlife responds to pets



Use results for outreach and education



Coyote Update: Facts & Fiction

Public Welcome!

Come listen to Jon relate 19 years of professional and personal experiences as well as research from local and national studies regarding the ecology of coyotes in Cleveland Metroparks

Jonathon Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist
Cleveland Metroparks



Use results for policies and regulations



Use results for preventative measures



Wildlife Resources Division
2077 and Ridgeway Drive
Plymouth, Ohio 44130
(419) 253-2295
TDD (419) 243-6854

David G. Park
Conservation Officer
100 E. Moore
P.O. Box 1199
Cleveland, OH 44119

Executive
Director
100 E. Moore

Coyote encounters with humans are likely to increase from February through May, as coyotes enter their breeding and pup rearing seasons. Both from park users and neighbors may increase during this time. It is important to identify if there is currently a conflict or to create a level of understanding by the public. This memo is intended to help you address concerns from the public about coyotes and their behavior. Education about the potential of the potential or recent problem. Encourage park visitors to learn more by visiting our website: <http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Ohio/Featured-Articles/Eastern-Coyote.aspx>.

Coyotes mate in February and early March. Pups will be born from mid-April through May. During this period, coyotes can be aggressive toward perceived threats to the pregnant female and/or newborn pups. Coyotes are good parents, and they protect their young just as humans do. Domestic dogs may trigger coyote defense behaviors even if they are with their owner and showing no signs of aggression towards an encountered coyote. These owners of an open coyote "following" behavior but usually coincides with pup rearing through June.

Ferocious encounters by coyotes rarely trigger an aggressive response that results in contact. According to Ohio Department of Health records, one human has been bitten by a coyote in Ohio, and that was a lead child. In comparison, there are at least 1,000 bites from other animals each year in Cuyahoga County alone. Over 90% of those are from dogs.

If an aggressive coyote is encountered, be sure you do not make contact, do not feed the coyote, avoid eye contact, avoid yourself, look away if possible, and do not run. Coyotes can carry rabies, distemper, and canine distemper, and infected animals in the later stages of the disease will act aggressively towards humans perceived as threats. If someone is bitten or scratched by a coyote, wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water and seek immediate medical attention. If a dog is bitten, the owner will need to ensure a rabies booster is administered immediately. In either of these cases, report the incident to local authorities (Cleveland Metroparks Rangers or local police).

All coyote incidents within the Park District should be reported to Joe Carls (216-527-9095 or Park Surveillance (216-780-9099) of the Natural Resources Division.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Caprio
Wildlife Biologist
Natural Resources Division
216-719-6647



Prevent conflict with the times trails are used



Prevent conflict from off trail use



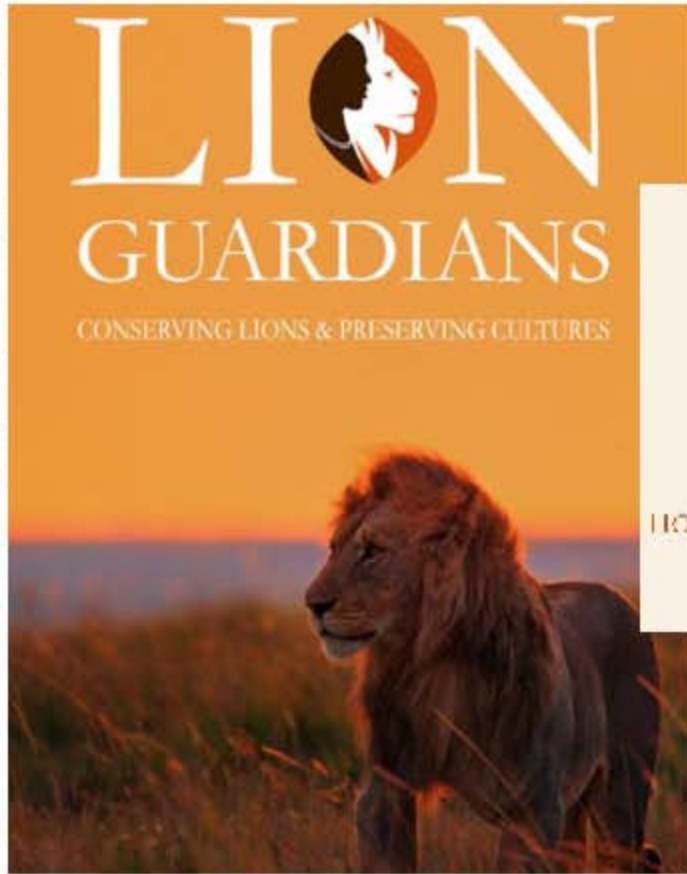
Bustnell WCBL1 50 F 15 °C 08-06-2017 17:01:51



Prevent conflict with free roaming pets



Coexisting with wildlife



Consider the reality of the situation



Questions?



Ⓜ WC3596

55 °F 12 °C

07-26-2019 05:31:36



Extra slides

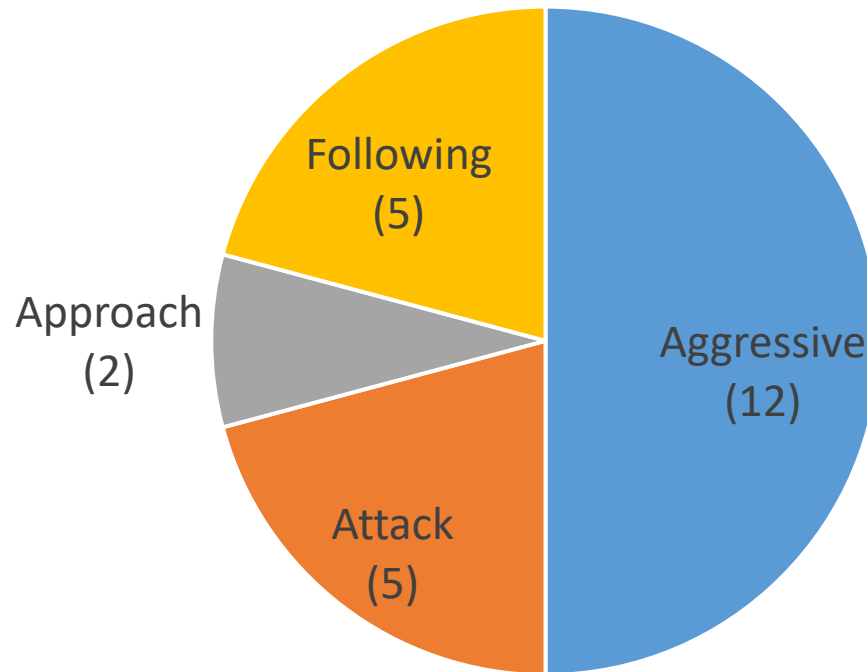


Understand what uses trails

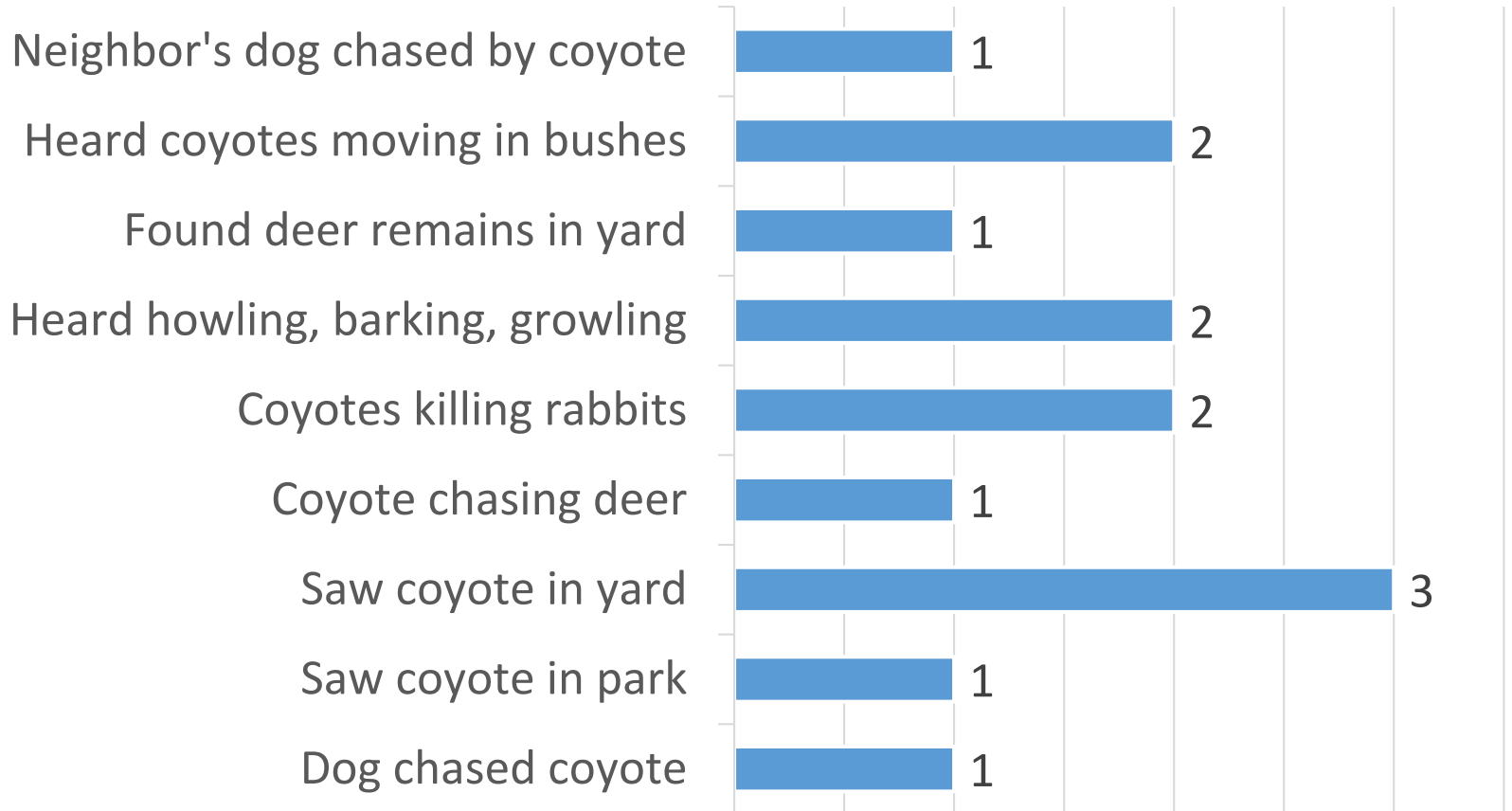
Species	Percent trail use (5min)	Percent trail use (10min)
TRLCREW	61.88%	57.50%
HUMAN	56.82%	54.90%
DOGDOM	52.69%	51.49%
RABBIT	50.00%	25.00%
CATDOM	29.55%	28.03%
DEER	28.90%	22.72%
COYOTE	27.68%	27.12%
OPOSSM	20.69%	20.69%
RDFOX	17.65%	17.65%
RCOON	4.78%	2.39%



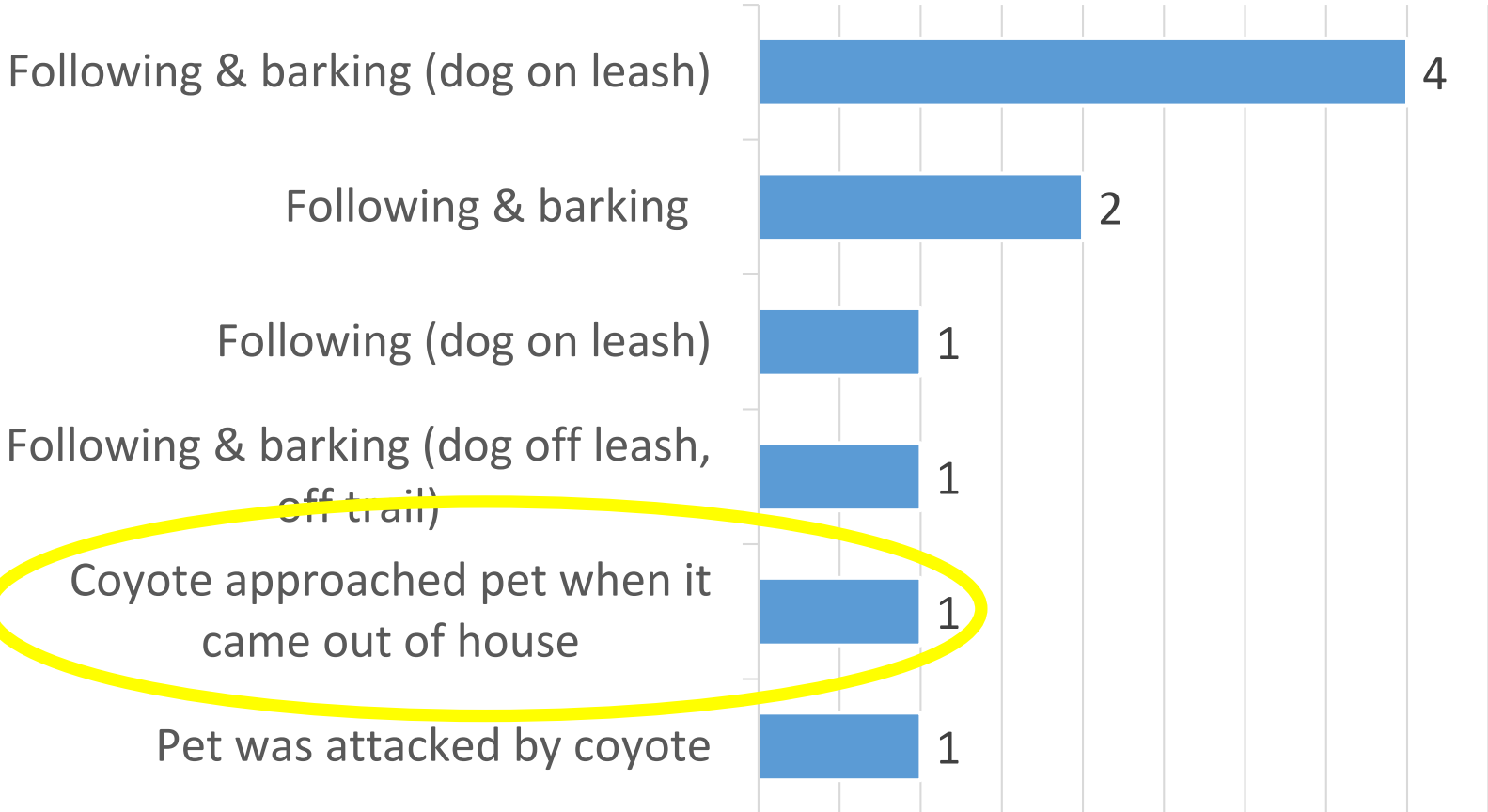
Reported events of concern



Situations for 14 reports with concerns



Coyote interaction



Coyote interaction

