

Community-Based Aversive Conditioning of Urban Coyotes in Edmonton

Website: edmontonurbancoyotestraining.weebly.com

Email: coyotes@ualberta.ca

By the present, I acknowledge that I have completed the training as described in the Aversive Conditioning Project Training Website. I will adhere to the methods described on the website and to safety precautions. I have signed and submitted a volunteer waiver, and will be carrying this document with me while in the field.

Signature:

Remember to wear your armbands when patrolling for, monitoring or treating coyotes.

List of FAP and COVID-19 precautions

1. Dress for the weather and wear supportive footwear.
2. Inform other team members of allergens and carry an EpiPen if necessary.
3. Work in pairs when possible and watch for approaching animals. If an aggressive encounter with a coyote occurs, report it to the project leadership (coyotes@ualberta.ca) and to 311.
4. Try to stay at least 2 m away from other team members. Wear a mask when that's not possible. Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your mouth, eyes and nose.
5. If you meet an aggressive person, calmly inform them about the purpose of the project. Withdraw from the situation if the conflict is not resolved. Report such events to the project leadership (coyotes@ualberta.ca).
6. Carry a cellphone with you while patrolling and make sure you let others know where you intend to go.

Control communities will participate in patrols, coyote observations, and attractant monitoring. Treatment communities will participate in these activities as well as aversive conditioning.

Patrols

- Use the online form to record the time at the beginning and end of your patrol.
- Target areas where coyotes have been observed in the past or were reported recently.
- Watch for attractants and record information about them on the online form.

Coyote Observations

- Record in the online form when coyotes are observed as part of a patrol, encountered opportunistically, or detected in response to new reports from community members. The form may be filled out after observations, in which case a notebook or voice recorder should be used to support memory.
- Record the location, context and coyote behaviour as described on the form.
- Approach the coyote at a slow walk and use the printed distance evaluation tool to estimate distances for
 - overt reaction distance (ORD) and
 - flight initiation distance (FID)
- Look for attractants within 50 m of the observation locations and record them on the online form.

Attractant Monitoring

- Record attractants of food or shelter on the online form.
- Report to 311 attractants that are substantial and recurrent.

Aversive Conditioning

- Conduct aversive conditioning in treatment neighbourhoods only when it is safe to do so and coyotes permit approaches to within 40 m.
- Conduct aversive conditioning by running towards the coyote while shouting, shaking a can full of coins, and throwing weighted tennis balls at the coyote or in front of its direction of travel.
- Continue hazing until the coyote has left the area or has taken cover in a natural area.
- Record the event on the online form and attractants within 50 m of the starting location.
- Do not condition coyotes that are visibly sick or injured, with pups, or lack an escape route. Avoid conducting conditioning with children and small dogs. Leash large dogs.
- Maintain the safety of people and coyotes at all times.