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Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); Aug 30, 1981; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times

pg. GB1

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By JAN KLUNDER, *Times Staff Writer*

The death of 3-year-old Kelly Lynn Keen, mauled last week by a coyote at her Glendale home, confirmed official fears that tragedy would strike unless Glendale did something about its coyote problem.

Bob Howell, the county's deputy agricultural commissioner, said in April that one or two "killer coyotes" in a community can cause a tremendous problem. His own pets and many of his neighbors' animals had been attacked by coyotes, Howell said. Howell lives in Glendale.

"The problem won't go away," he said. "It will get worse before it gets better."

The attack Wednesday was the third time in four years that one of Robert Keen's children had been approached by a coyote, said Keen, who lives in Chevy Chase Canyon. Keen shot the other two animals, he said, because he was dissatisfied with the city's program to curb the problem.

In response to the incident, Mayor John F. (Jack) Day issued a statement expressing "deep sympathy" for the Keen family.

"What happened . . . was indeed a tragedy and, on behalf of the city, I want the Keen family to know how

sincerely sorry we are for their loss."

Day said he could not speculate on what steps the City Council might take to curb the problem until it meets Tuesday, but he re-emphasized the city's "do's and don't's" in coexisting with coyotes.

The list advises residents: Never allow pets to roam free, never feed wild animals, never leave pet food in yards and never treat coyotes as domestic pets.

The same list, which was mailed to all Glendale residents earlier this year, tells them to keep pets in fenced-in yards, to place trash cans in enclosed areas, to keep residential areas clear of ground-cover vegetation and to frighten coyotes away from homes by keeping yards well lighted.

The city has installed watering holes for the coyotes in the San Rafael Hills to discourage the animals from coming into residential neighborhoods, Day said.

In April, the City Council, at the urging of the Police Department considered splitting the cost with residents to have the county trap and kill coyotes when they wander into residential areas. The cost, estimated at \$200 to \$300 for each coyote trapped, was more than residents were willing to pay, a police official said.

However, several preservationists testified that the county's program was "inhumane" and convinced the council not to subsidize the cost, leaving residents to bear the full burden to have traps set on their property.

Glendale resident Lila Brooks, who has been dubbed "the coyote lady" because of her efforts to prevent trapping, blamed the problem on residents who give food and water to the animals, thereby encouraging them to come into residential areas.

Further, William O. Wirtz, an associate biology professor at Pomona College, sent the council a letter saying the coyote plays a useful role in maintaining the ecosystem.

"Without this predator, residents of urban areas would suffer serious vegetable and ornamental plant losses to rodents and rabbits," Wirtz said.

Howell, however, warned that the problem would not disappear but would instead worsen in the summer heat when watering holes in the hills dried up.

The trapping program, he said, has been effective in both Pasadena, where the city pays the full cost, and in La Canada Flintridge, where the city shares the expense with residents.

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