

# Glendale Moves to Control Coyotes: Appropriates \$5,000 to Pay County to Trap, Shoot Pests

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## Glendale Moves to Control Coyotes

### Appropriates \$5,000 to Pay County to Trap, Shoot Pests

By JAN KLUNDER, *Times Staff Writer*

Responding to what some have called a "coyote hysteria" in Glendale, the City Council has appropriated \$5,000 to pay county agricultural officials to trap and kill coyotes in residential areas.

City Manager Hugh McKinley said the money would last six months, at which time the city will review the effectiveness of the program.

On McKinley's recommendation, the council also authorized county agricultural personnel, the city animal control officer and designated police personnel to shoot wayward coyotes using high-velocity .17-caliber rifles equipped with sophisticated sighting devices.

#### Amendments Proposed

The shooting program will be supervised by the Glendale Police Department. Police Chief Duane Baker stressed that it is not a "hunting" exercise, but rather a program of "selective control of predatory animals."

City officials also stressed that they will not tolerate unauthorized hunting as has been reported by hillside residents in the wake of the death of 3-year-old Kelly Keen who was mauled by a coyote Aug. 26.

Baker said it is against the law to carry a loaded weapon in Glendale and to discharge a firearm.

In addition to approving the trapping and shooting programs, the council instructed the city attorney to draft amendments to the city code which would control outdoor feeding of domestic pets and would require residents to place edible garbage in metal containers with

lids.

McKinley said every effort should be made to cut off food sources in residential neighborhoods, thereby encouraging wild animals to return to the wilderness.

The council also asked city staff to review garbage storage and collection policies at city recreation areas such as Verdugo Park where, McKinley said, picnic litter is stored in trash bins overnight.

Further, the council asked McKinley to develop and implement an educational program to instruct residents on the do's and don'ts of coexisting with wild animals. Tips will be mailed in utility bills in the next two months.

Although Robert Keen, father of the girl killed by the coyote, applauded the council's actions, some hillside residents objected to the shooting program.

#### 'Terrifying Situation'

Patricia Ladner who lives in the Chevy Chase Canyon area, said the coyote problem has been blown out of proportion. She urged the council to crack down on "all the wackos" carrying weapons in the hills.

"A bullet can travel and indiscriminately take a human life," Ladner said.

Councilwoman V. W. (Ginger) Bremberg, a Chevy Chase Canyon resident, also expressed concern about unauthorized coyote hunting, saying it is a "terrifying situation if you live where I live and you hear the guns going off.

"I don't know what they hit, who they hit or if they were taking target practice on trees," she said.

Bremberg said she received several calls last weekend about "drunk or drugged hunters roaming the hills." When she drove into the wilderness areas, she said, she met a "scruffy misfit" who declared that it was open season on coyotes in Glendale.

The hunters' attitude, she said, seems to be, "Shoot 'em up and watch 'em die."

Bremberg said she opposes any hunting in the hills, authorized or not, because hillside residents often don't know who is doing the shooting and whether they should call police.

Chief Baker told the council there has been no great increase in reports of shooting in the hills since the Keen child's death.

Councilman Carroll Parcher supported the trapping and shooting programs, saying, the "hysteria of a coyote problem in Glendale . . . is well founded. I've never seen so many coyotes as there have been recently.

"We can't let the citizens of Glendale become overrun by wild animals. That's what's happening."

Lila Brooks, director of California Wildlife Defenders, said the city should include dogs in any abatement programs it administers because coyotes take the blame for many violent acts that half-breeds and other dogs are responsible for.

Brooks distributed newspaper clippings describing incidents of dogs attacking small children this year. She urged that the city's leash laws be "amended, strengthened and enforced" to keep big dogs off the streets.

Finally, Brooks told council members they should stop listening to "instant coyote experts" who have come before the council in recent weeks to testify about the city's problem.

"They are confusing this confusing issue," she said. "There are more coyote experts now in Glendale than there are coyotes."