

- In populated areas where wild animal dens are identified, the site must be posted with warnings of dangers to humans and their pets. These signs should also include information, about how humans can avoid possible risks.

Additional supporting information

Applications will be more favorably reviewed if the following have also been instituted prior to the application for and exemption permit:

- Documented presence of a community hazing program to scare them off (if applicable).
- Description of the shortcomings of the hazing program(s).
- Demonstration that measures have been/or will be taken to prevent feeding, elimination of food sources, harborage, and attractants.
- Documented presence of a community education program with a focus on activities conducted from May through September. This includes but is not limited to trail signs, the Colorado Division of Wildlife brochure “Living with Wildlife in Coyote Country,” and newspaper and newsletter articles.

All issued exemptions will have limitations on duration and number of wild animals to be controlled. All wild animals collected shall be tested for rabies at the applicant’s expense. Permit extensions will only occur under extraordinary circumstances.

4/2011

Avoiding coyote conflicts with humans and pets



And how to apply for a trapping exemption



Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties
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Coyotes provide an enjoyable wildlife viewing experience. However, communities and individuals should take precautions to avoid human/coyote conflicts.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife offers the following suggestions:

If you live in areas where coyotes have been seen, protect your pets! Coyotes will attack and kill cats and dogs.

Do not allow your pets to roam, especially at night. Make sure your yard is appropriately fenced, with at least a six-foot fence, or, better yet, keep your dog in a completely enclosed kennel.

Do not allow dogs to run with coyotes. Although it appears they are “playing,” coyotes can turn on dogs to defend their territory.

Do not leave pet food outside. This invites wildlife into your yard and problems may result.

Keep your garbage in a storage facility or in a tightly sealed container. Clean garbage cans regularly to reduce residual odors by using hot water and chlorine bleach.



What to do if you meet a coyote:

Enjoy the opportunity to view wildlife, but keep your distance and do not approach the animals.

Keep your pets on a leash when walking them. If a coyote approaches you or your pet, you can throw rocks or sticks to frighten it away.

Use a loud, authoritative voice to frighten the animal. Use your arms or clothing to make yourself appear larger and reinforce their fear of humans.

When conflicts occur with a pet, contact your law enforcement agency. For conflicts with humans, contact both law enforcement *and* your local office of the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Documentation of the details of the encounter is very important in seeking the most appropriate and rapid resolution to the situation. In some cases local law enforcement and/or Division of Wildlife staff may shoot dangerous animals.

When other options are either ineffective or not appropriate, one option available in very limited cases is obtaining a leg-hold trapping exemption to allow trapping and removal of one or more of the dangerous animals.

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Leg-hold trapping exemption application requirements

The passage of Amendment 14 to the Colorado Constitution, and the subsequent legislation, prohibits the use of leg hold traps, body gripping traps, snares and poisons in the taking of wildlife.

An exemption is permitted for the purpose of protecting human health and safety, CRS §33-6-205. It is best if an exemption application comes from a governmental organization such as a municipality. However, individuals can also submit applications. According to Colorado Revised Statutes, permits can be issued in the following situations:

HEALTH

- A zoonotic disease, verified by laboratory testing, is present in the species and the area for which control is being proposed.
- There is evidence that ongoing disease transmission in the species to be controlled is occurring as opposed to a single, isolated case.
- Alternative disease control methods are not available, have been unsuccessful, or the risk for human exposure exists while alternative methods are being implemented.

SAFETY

- Evidence exists that a specific wild animal or group of specific wild animals has inflicted a human injury from a bite, a scratch, or a physical injury sustained from being knocked to the ground and/or...
- There is evidence that a specific animal or group of specific animals has exhibited overt aggression towards humans such as approaching a person in an aggressive manner (snarling, teeth bared, stalking movements, etc.), has entered a human dwelling or cannot be frightened off.

Whole-body live cage traps are not regulated by this process, therefore, no local health department permit is necessary. Cage traps must be used in compliance with state and local laws and regulations.

NOTE:

- 1) Attacks on pets by an aggressive animal(s) does not qualify for the issuance of an exemption unless the pet is on a short leash in close proximity to a person.**
- 2) Exemptions are also NOT available for coyote population control.**

Initial actions to be taken:

Primary notifications of wild animal incidents must be reported to your Law Enforcement/Animal Control Agency and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Incidents must be documented in official reports and include details of wild animal encounters.

Checklist for an exemption permit application

If it is determined that the only course of action is to apply for an exemption for prohibited traps, the following information will be necessary for the formal application to Tri-County Health Department for the “Application for public health/safety exemption to use prohibited devices for the taking of wildlife.”

Call 303-288-6816 for information, or download an application online: www.tchd.org/environmentalhealth.htm

Documentation to be included must address the following:

Applicant information

- Applicant Organization/Person
- Mailing Address
- Contact Person/Title
- Telephone Number
- Contact information of a Public Information Officer for a county, municipality, special district, agency or company making the application.

Incident(s) description

- A detailed description of the date, time and location of the incident(s) or attack(s) (and related official reports from local law enforcement, animal control and Colorado Division of Wildlife, if available).
- A detailed description of the observed behavior and number of wild animals involved.

Application details required

- Property owner information for the area(s) where the prohibited device(s) will be used.
- Location(s) where the prohibited device(s) will be used.
- Species and number of animals to be removed.
- Specific description of animals of concern.
- Time period during which the device(s) will be used.
- Type of prohibited devices for which the exemption is being requested.
- Name of the trapper and 24/7 contact information.

Required documentation/plans

- A written statement from the Colorado Division of Wildlife stating they support/concur with the need for a trapping exemption.
- A Public Education Plan must be submitted and in place, before and during the trapping exemption. The plan must address steps taken to inform and educate the public of the use of prohibited devices proposed both before and during the trapping exemption.
- A plan for posting signs at the site while the exemption is in place must be submitted.
- A plan for monitoring the site and addressing site security during the exemption process must be submitted. The area shall be monitored for all human and stray animal activity that may be impacted during the use of prohibited devices.
- Euthanization plan. (Relocation is not an option.)

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