

# KILLING COYOTES IS NOT THE SOLUTION

For more than 100 years coyotes have been shot, trapped, and poisoned by the millions. Despite these efforts, coyotes' range has tripled in size across in the United States since 1850. How do coyotes continue to be so successful? Why doesn't indiscriminate killing decrease coyote populations or conflicts?

1

A COYOTE IS **KILLED** :  
SHOT, TRAPPED OR POISONED.



WHETHER HER TERRITORY IS FULLY ERADICATED OF ALL COYOTES OR SOME OF HER PACK MEMBERS REMAIN, AN ADULT COYOTE'S DEATH WILL ONLY LEAD TO **MORE** (INEXPERIENCED) **COYOTES** OCCUPYING THE TERRITORY.

5

SINGLE COYOTES CONTINUALLY LOOK FOR **NEW HABITAT TO OCCUPY**. IF A COYOTE IS KILLED, NEW INDIVIDUALS WILL TAKE THAT TERRITORY AND/OR ATTEMPT TO MATE WITH 'WIDOWED' COYOTES.



2

IN A STABLE, UNEXPLOITED PACK, BREEDING IS GENERALLY LIMITED TO A SINGLE PAIR.

KILLING OF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS CAN LEAD TO SUBORDINATE PACK MEMBERS BREEDING AT A YOUNGER AGE WHICH ULTIMATELY INCREASES THE POPULATION.



**COEXISTENCE  
REDUCES  
CONFLICT**

4

EXPLOITED COYOTE POPULATIONS TEND TO HAVE **LESS EXPERIENCED** COYOTES WHO HAVEN'T LEARNED NATURAL HUNTING BEHAVIORS. THESE COYOTES ARE MORE LIKELY TO HUNT EASY TARGETS LIKE FARM OR COMPANION ANIMALS— ESPECIALLY DURING PUPPING SEASON.



3

IN RESPONSE TO KILLING, REMAINING COYOTES WITHIN THE FAMILY GROUP MAY **REPRODUCE AT A YOUNGER AGE, AND MORE PUPS SURVIVE** FOLLOWING A TEMPORARY INCREASE IN AVAILABLE PREY.



**PREVENTION—NOT LETHAL CONTROL—IS THE BEST METHOD FOR MINIMIZING CONFLICTS WITH COYOTES IN URBAN AND RURAL SETTINGS.**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE STRATEGIES VISIT  
[WWW.PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG](http://WWW.PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG)

