**Hazing Coyote**

*Carolyn Abernathy, May 2015*

**“A habituated coyote is a potential problem coyote.”**

-*Jonathan Way, Wildlife Biologist*

As coyotes adapt to our presence, they progressively lose their natural fear of humans. This is called habituation. Hazing is an important tool for re-instilling that fear. When you utilize hazing, you are teaching the coyote to avoid humans. This practice promotes the safe enjoyment of our yards, streets, parks and playgrounds.

Here are some suggested hazing techniques:

* shout loudly
* clap hands
* wave arms
* be as big and loud as possible
* throw rocks (sticks will do, but rocks are better)

Items around the house and yard that are useful in hazing include:

* a water hose
* repellent spray
* paintballs
* vinegar in a water gun

Teach your children never to approach wild animals or dogs they don’t know. Suggested hazing for older children is to Stomp Feet, Wave Arms and tell it to GO AWAY in a loud voice. Children should never run from a coyote as it triggers the instinct to chase. If the coyote remains in the area, call for help and slowly walk out of area keeping the animal in sight.

NWACA does not encourage the practice of hazing by small children or any individual who does not feel safe doing so in any given situation. Any coyote exhibiting aggressive behavior towards a person or pet should be reported to 311 immediately.

*Source: Colorado Parks and Wildlife brochure: “Your Guide to Avoiding Human-Coyote Conflict,” 2/2013.*