

# Human-Large Carnivore Conflicts: Effective Policy Development & Implementation

The Community Perspective

Town of Paradise Valley, Arizona







# Community Perspective: Town of Paradise Valley AZ

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- Surrounded by Phoenix and Scottsdale
- Population about 12,000
- Affluent
- Founded 1961 “to preserve a rural, desert lifestyle”
- One acre minimum lot size
- Prohibition on street lighting, street curbing

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## Geography and Terrain

- ◉ Mummy Mountain preserve in middle
- ◉ Indian Bend wash through corner
- ◉ Camelback Mountain
- ◉ Phoenix Mountain Preserve
- ◉ Once open desert

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## Now

- Xeriscape landscaping but **widespread**
  - Irrigation
  - Swimming pools
  - Fountains
  - Patches of lush grass, golf courses

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## And!

- ◉ Rabbits galore
- ◉ Birds of all kinds
- ◉ Other small rodents
- ◉ Lots of *domestic cats, small dogs*
- ◉ Some exotics: emu, wallabies, sheep

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## Police Chief/Director of Public Safety

- Town Code: chief is personally THE Animal Enforcement Officer
- Chief designates all 35 other officers as Assistant Animal Enforcement Officers
- Roles for dispatchers, admin

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## Responsibilities:

- Bees, wasps, hornets
- Roof rats – **huge** problem!
- Other small rodents
- Snakes
- Dogs, cats, exotics
- Livestock
- Coyotes
- Javelina
- Mountain lions
- Bobcats
- Raptors
- ***Whatever ...***

**Rescue Animals!**





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## Issues

- Threats to humans: “what if?”
  - Children
  - People walking pets
  - People defending pets
- Threats to pets and livestock

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## Solution

# Community Action Plan

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## Paradise Valley Community Action Plan:

- Educate residents
- Record-keeping
- ***Compassion and interest***
- Arizona Game and Fish
  - Urban wildlife biologist
  - Regional officers

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## Education Plan:

- HOA
- Classes at PD
- Newspaper articles/TV
- Website
- Special events: Blessing of the Animals
- Posters
- One-to-one
- Partnerships:
  - County Animal Care & Control
  - Humane Society
- EVERY opportunity

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## ◎ **Record Keeping: “the log”**

- Dispatch center
- Admin office

***Keystone to everything else!!!!***

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## Assessing action needed

- Possible but never happened
  - Armed officers to stop attack
  - AZ G&F called if actual risk to humans
- Call back by chief, assistant chief or police supervisor
  - Show interest: just **listen**
  - Sympathy
  - Education
- Field visit – same as above
- Pass info to AZ G&F if actual attack
- Notify AZ G&F of coyote feeding

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## It Worked!

- Actual attacks reduced
- Complaints reduced
- Mayor and Council happy
- Officers pleased

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Questions?

Comments?

Discussion?

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**Need help? It's Free..... Just Call Me!**