

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friday, June 30, 2000

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### SAVE THE COYOTES

Editor -- On behalf of the Alameda Creek Alliance, I would like to speak up for protection of the family of coyotes found living in Dougherty Hills Park in Dublin. The trigger-happy Department of Agriculture trapper, Ken Waters, who advocated shooting the coyotes, should back off, and the California Department of Fish and Game should ensure that these predators are not harmed. Coyotes are an important part of our natural ecosystem and help to keep rodent populations in check. Coyotes also are necessary to maintain native songbirds -- the presence of coyotes will limit the wandering of suburban house cats, which can decimate native bird populations. It is suburban homeowners and their pets that have encroached on the habitat of coyotes, not the other way around. We need to adapt our ways to ensure these animals can survive in the remnants of habitat we have left for them.

This is no public safety issue -- coyote attacks on humans are almost unheard of. Maintaining healthy populations of native predators such as bobcats, foxes and coyotes should take precedence over revenge killing because of the loss of a few pets.

**JEFF MILLER**

Alameda Creek Alliance Canyon