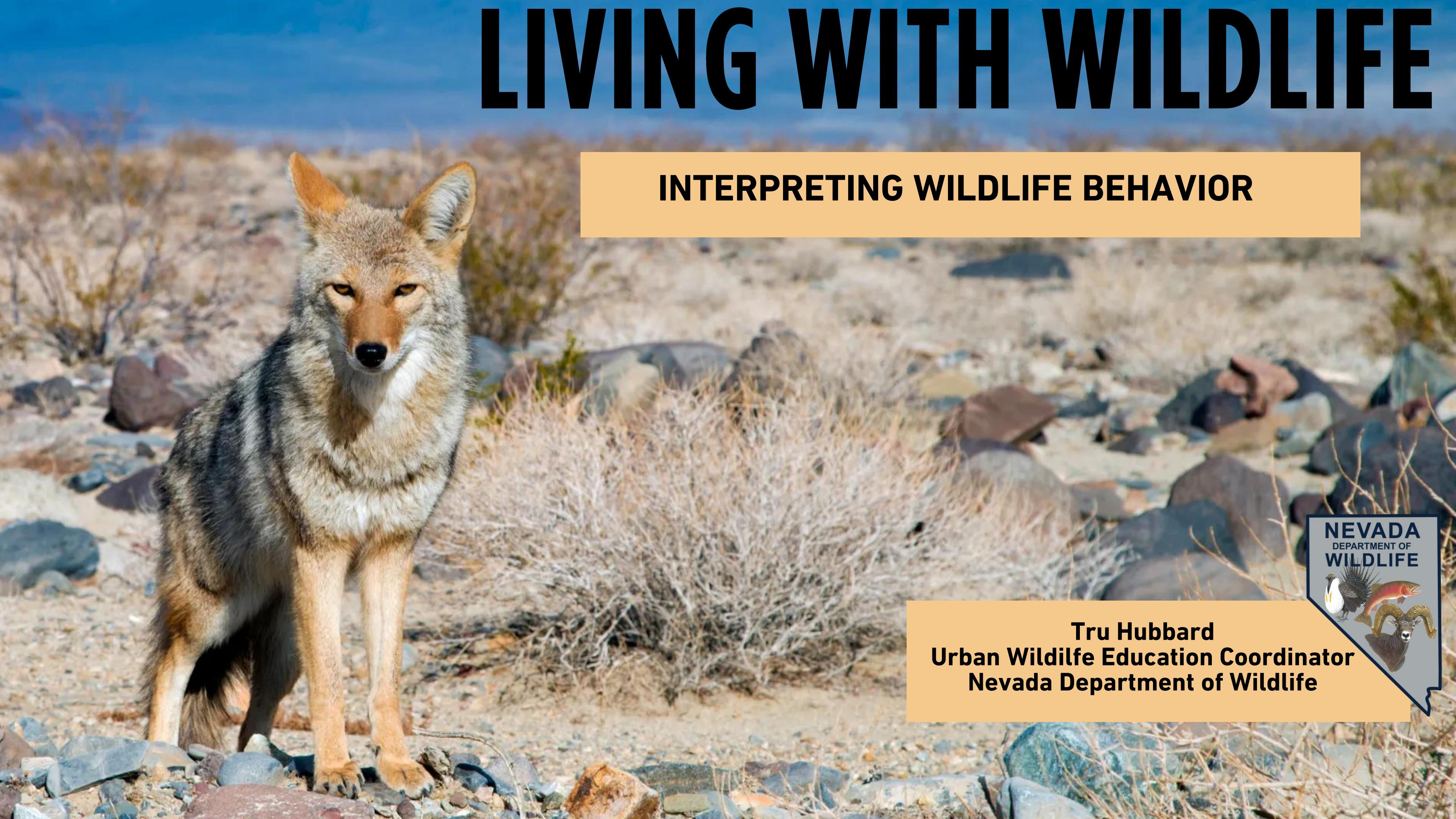
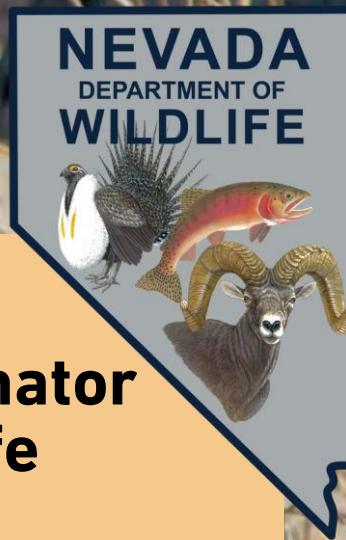


# LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

## INTERPRETING WILDLIFE BEHAVIOR



Tru Hubbard  
Urban Wildlife Education Coordinator  
Nevada Department of Wildlife



# UNDERSTANDING WILDLIFE BEHAVIOR



## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Many people misinterpret common behaviors of species that may see on a regular basis.
- Incorrectly identifying behavior can lead to incorrect response or fear when encountering wildlife.
- Understanding behavior allows us to properly interpret and respond to wildlife in our area.
- Better understanding can lead to coexistence.



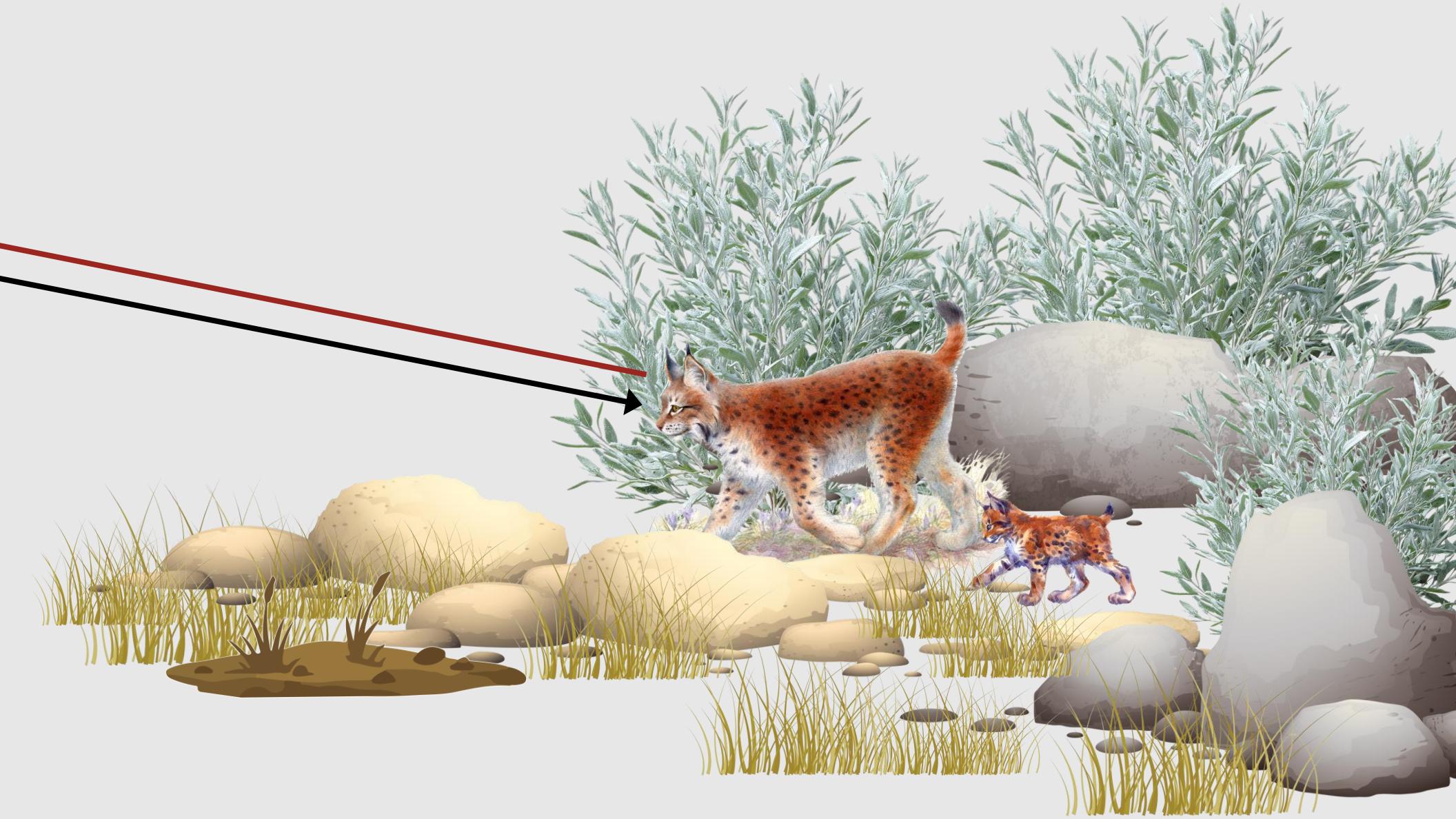
# WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

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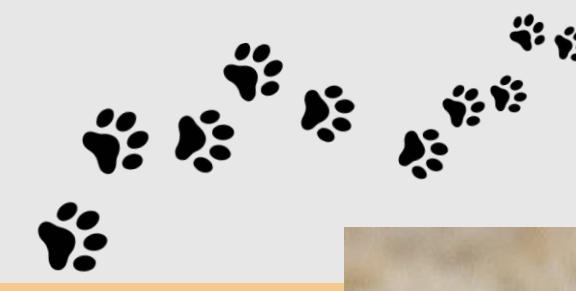


- Wildlife encounters include many different experiences, ranging from planned wildlife viewing like safaris to unplanned and possibly even unsettling experiences.
- Different encounters can require different actions.
- Many urban encounters should not be surprising, thus our goal is to help residents be prepared if an encounter does occur.

**Remember: in any encounter not only is the individual observing the behavior of the animal, but the animal is also observing the human.**



# SPECIES OF INTEREST



## WHAT WILDLIFE CAN BE SEEN IN URBAN AREAS?

BOBCAT, COYOTE, BIRDS OF PREY,  
WATERFOWL, RACCOON, SKUNK, BATS,  
SQUIRRELS, FOXES, ETC.



### BOBCAT

Not seen often, but are great at taking advantage of urban areas if needed. Bobcats generally visit urban areas looking for rewards.



### COYOTE

Most commonly seen predator in urban areas due to their adaptability and flexibility in diet and activity.



# WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DURING AN ENCOUNTER...

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## Time of the Year

The time of the year can play a large role in the behavior we are observing. (i.e., mating, babie season)

## Health

The condition of the animal could cause an animal to behave differently.

## Distance

The distance between you and a wild animal can have an impact on how they behave and what you observe.

## Physical Posture

Observe how the animal is standing and what its body is doing.

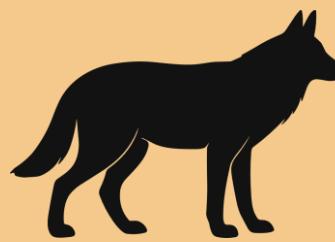
## Your Initial Response

What are you doing that could impact on the animal responds.

# THINKING BEHAVIORALLY



# A COMMON MISINTERPRETED ENCOUNTER



## DO COYOTES STALK PEOPLE?

**NO**, this is a myth.

Coyotes following humans, especially humans walking dogs, is a very normal behavior for coyotes, but it is actually known as **ESCORTING**.

Coyote "escorting" is when a coyote follows a person or dog, not to attack, but to guide them away from the coyote's den or territory, especially during pup-rearing season (early spring).

While it can feel threatening, it's a defensive behavior, and you should respond by staying calm, making noise, looking big (waving arms), and backing away slowly to show the coyote you're leaving its space.

# DAYTIME SIGHTINGS

DAYTIME SIGHTINGS ~~≠~~ RABIES

Seeing nocturnal species out during daytime hours is obviously less common, but it does not mean the animal is ill.

Many animals must change their daily activity to adjust to other environmental changes, seasonal shifts, and prey activity.

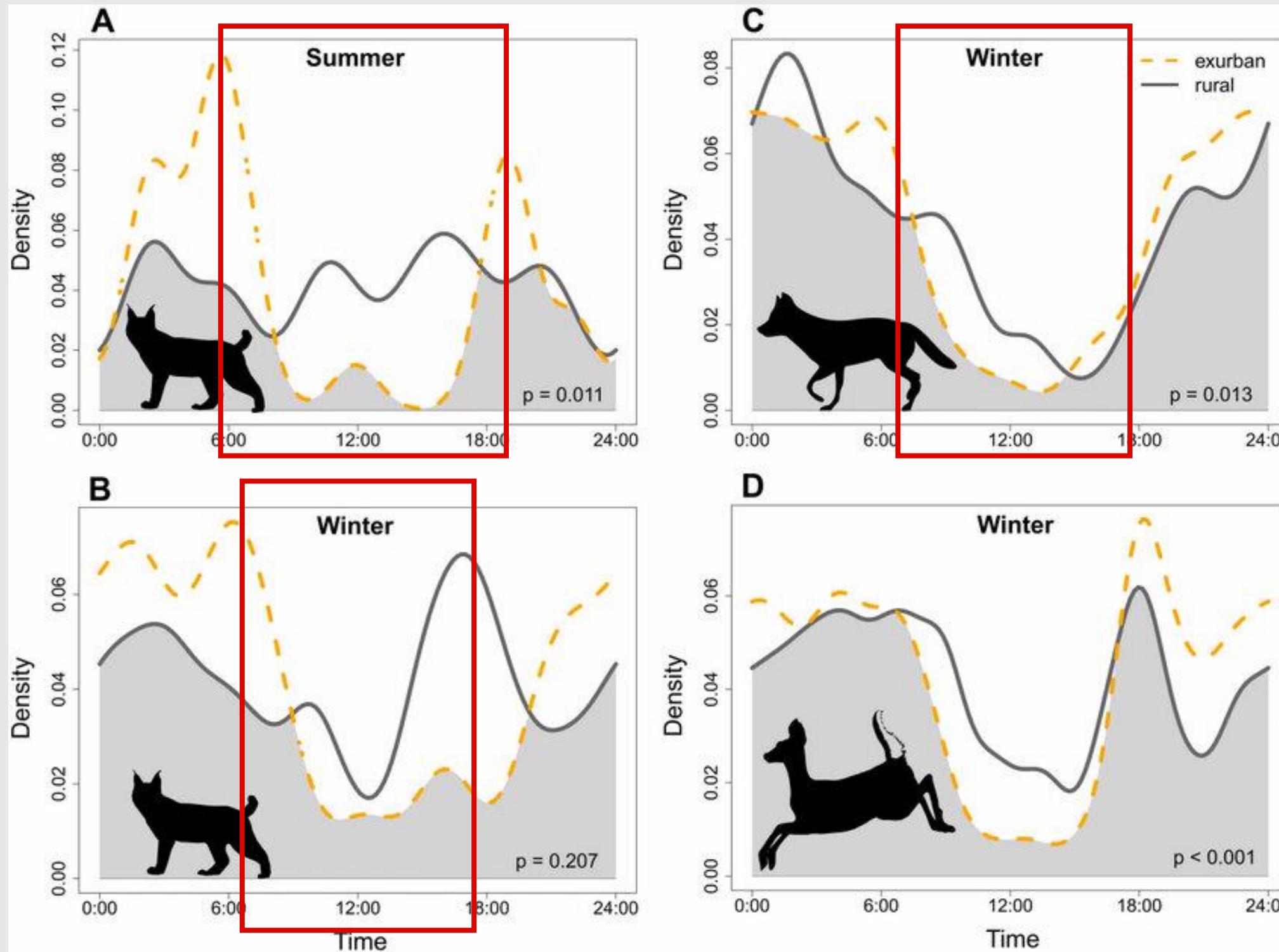


- INCREASE DURING MATING SEASON
- INCREASE WHILE RAISING YOUNG
- LOOK FOR OTHER ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

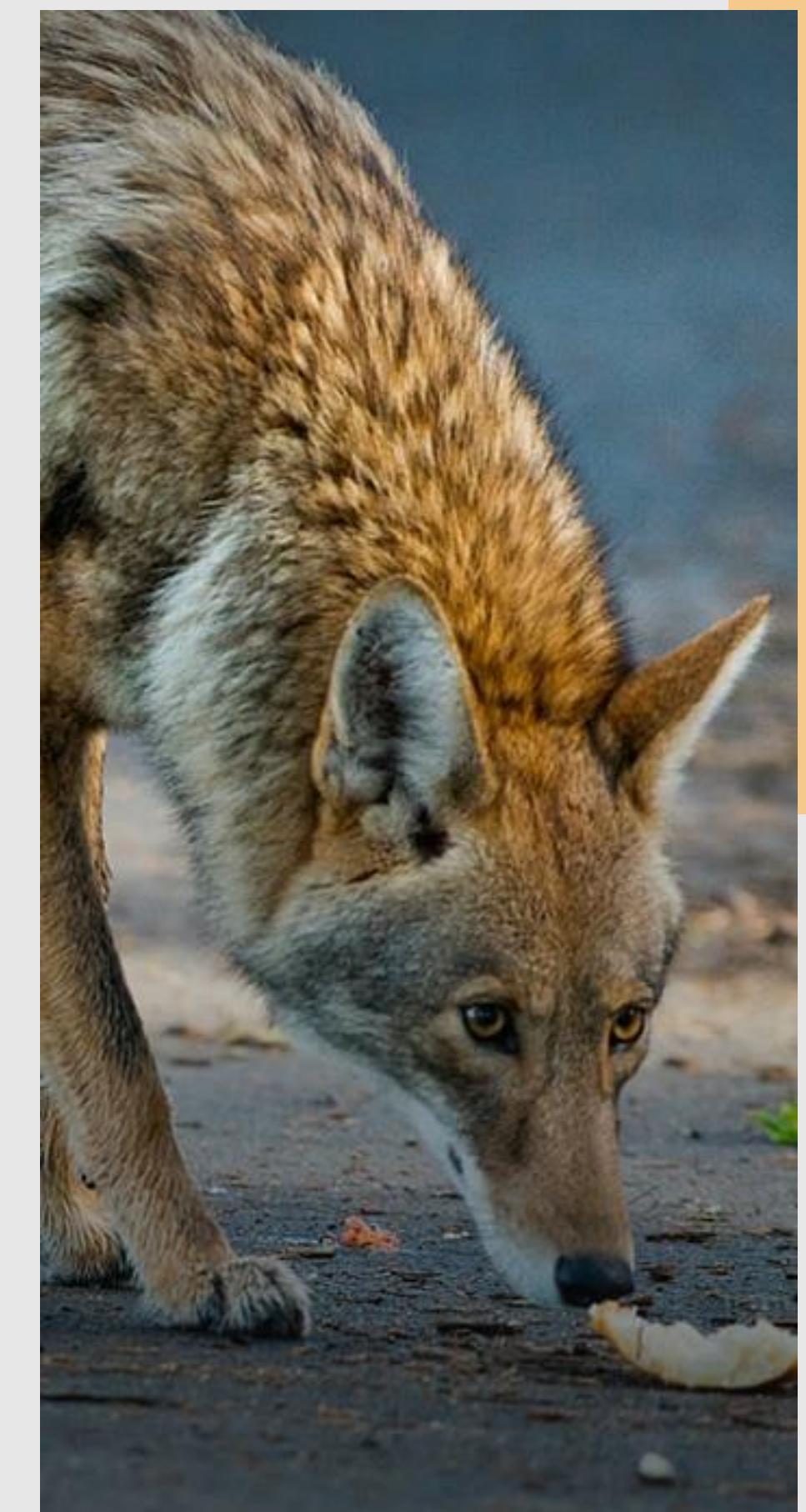
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Seeing wild animals during the daytime does NOT mean they are rabid



# DIEL ACTIVITY EXAMPLE



Poisson, 2023



# A BEHAVIORAL MYTH?

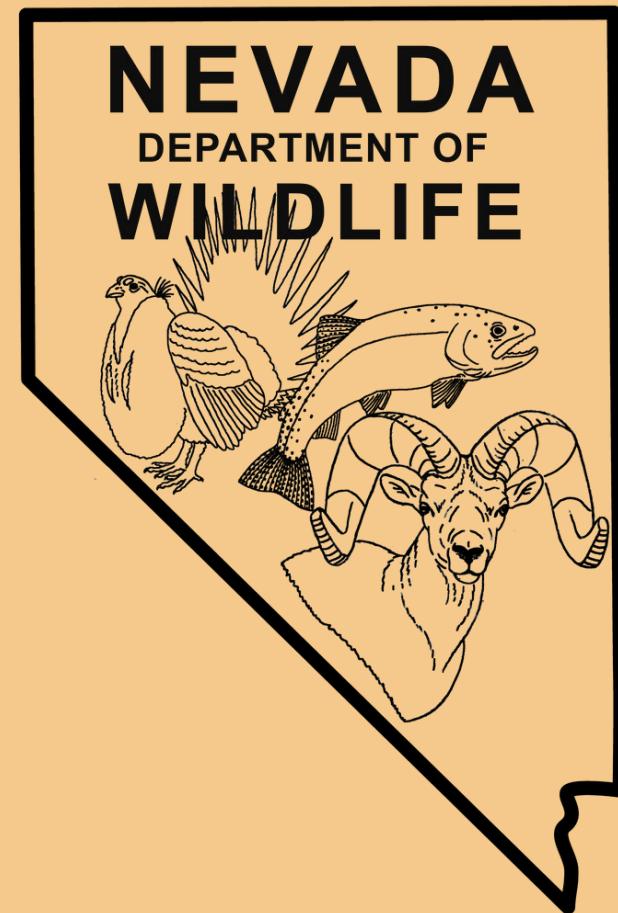
DO COYOTES LURE DOGS TO THE PACK FOR A KILL?

NO, THIS IS A MYTH.

- Dogs are naturally very curious, and often approach wildlife. Some coyotes might respond with the same curiosity.
- When the coyote is done with the interaction and chooses to retreat, dogs often don't understand that cue, and will follow. If that coyote or their nearby family begins to feel threatened or like they're being pursued, they may react defensively.
- Sending one of their own into a vulnerable position in attempts to lure a dog toward them is very risky for a possible meal.



# THANK YOU.



# QUESTIONS?

