

The science of wildlife conservation and pet safety, a community outreach study

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The future of wildlife conservation rests on the hands of students; but it is up to the scientists of today to create opportunities to help them succeed in the sciences. Led by Dr. Ted Stankowich, the California State University Long Beach (CSULB) Mammal Lab has partnered with the CSULB Science Learning Center (SLC) to provide such an opportunity.

With the support of the Education Committee of Animal Behavior Society, we are working alongside K-12 students to address questions of wildlife conservation and pet safety. Student will be given the tools and skills to help disseminate our survey campaign that asks residents to report data on their previously owned dogs' and cats' experiences with coyotes, including the size, color pattern, amount of time spent outdoors, and interactions with coyotes and other wild predators. The results of this survey will help us determine what factors of pet coloration and behavior expose them to greater risk of predation by urban carnivores.

The study is designed to teach students about the scientific method and the interactions that occur between predators and prey, emphasizing wildlife and conservation biology, ecology, and human impacts.

Follow our progress on Twitter at @CSULBMammalLab, Facebook at "StankowichLab", and our website <http://web.csulb.edu/~tstankow/>

