

The City of Huntington Beach Coyote Town Hall Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD ~ 6:00PM - 9:00PM

at
First Christian Church
1207 Main Street

SPECIAL GUESTS

Chief Robert Handy ~ HB Police Department

Lt. Kent Smirl ~ Department of Fish & Wildlife

Wildlife Watch ~ Department of Fish & Wildlife

Representative ~ Orange County Animal Care

Representative ~ Animal Pest Management Services, Inc



Urban Coyotes

Coyotes can be a risk to people once they become comfortable around humans. When this occurs, coyotes lose their natural fear and learn to see humans, their yards and their pets as food sources and safe havens. You must discourage coyotes from feeling comfortable around you and your family. Residents should take precautions to avoid creating potential problems with coyotes.

To report a coyote incident, please call the Huntington Beach Police Department at (714) 536-5913.



Precautions:

- *Feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meals outdoors. Store bags of pet food indoors.
- *Use trash barrels fitted with pipe clamping devices on the lids to prevent spills.
- *Remove fallen fruit - particularly avocados, from yards and orchards. Fallen fruit will attract other food 'sources' for coyotes.
- *Keep small animals indoors as much as possible, especially at night.
- *Do not feed or provide water to coyotes or other wildlife.
- *Use aggressive gestures (hazing) toward coyotes when you see them.

Coyote Description

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are found throughout most of California. Coyotes are very adaptable and inhabit most areas of the state with the exception of the centers of the major metropolitan areas. They are medium sized animals belonging to the dog family. Most adults weigh between 22-25 pounds on average, with males being the larger of the sex. With large erect ears, slender muzzle, and bushy tail, they resemble a small collie dog. In the hotter, drier regions of California, coyotes are tan-brown in color with streaks of gray. In the winter the coats become quite dense, especially in the colder areas. The voice of the coyote is quite distinctive, consisting of various howls, high-pitched yaps, and occasional dog like barks. Coyotes are proficient predators, possessing the speed, strength and endurance necessary to tackle prey as large as adult deer. Coyotes are not threatened or endangered in California. They are classified as non-game mammals by the DFW and can be taken at any time using approved methods.

Coyote Biology

Coyotes often mate for life, are devoted parents, and are highly communicative (barks, yips, howls). In California, coyotes breed mainly during January, February and March. The gestation period is about 60-63 days. Young are born March through May, with litter sizes averaging 5-6 pups. Coyotes produce one litter per year. The young are weaned at 5 to 6 weeks and leave the parents at 6 to 9 months. Most adults breed first in their second year.

Non-breeding, yearling coyotes often stay with the adult parents and help care for the pups. Coyote dens are found in steep banks, rock crevices, sinkholes and underbrush. Coyote dens are often holes that have been used by badgers, skunks, foxes or other animals with entrances enlarged to about one foot in diameter. Dens vary from 4 or 5 feet deep to 50 feet deep.

Coyotes, like all predators, will stabilize their populations if they are not constantly exploited. In general, coyotes regularly roam an area of about 2-5 square miles or whatever it takes to get enough food for the pack members. Normally, each pack is a territorial family group that varies in number from 3 to 10 individuals. A portion of the area the pack inhabits is

the pack's territory, which they defend from other coyotes. The number of mature coyotes in the pack is linked to the amount of food resources in the territory. The pack system keeps coyotes from getting too numerous because the packs defend the area they need to survive.

A coyote pack usually has one breeding (or alpha) female. This female produces more pups than are ultimately wanted in the pack. Young coyotes may leave the pack at about 9-11 months of age but dispersal patterns are highly variable. These coyotes become transients. Other types of transients include older individuals that no longer defend their role as upper level pack members and leave the pack.

Transients move all over in narrow undefended zones that exist between pack territories searching for an open habitat to occupy or group to join. They often die before they succeed (many are hit by cars). It is largely because of these transients, that coyote eradication programs are unsuccessful.

Removing a group of territorial coyotes will create an undefended area into which the transient coyotes will flow. At all times of the year, numbers of transients are immediately available to replenish any voids created by killing the resident coyotes. Further, if either the alpha male or alpha female in a pack is killed, the resulting effect may result in ovulation in other breeding-age females in the pack and an increase in the number of litters as well as the number of pups per litter.

Coyotes eat whatever is available. The diet of the coyote consists mainly of mice, rats, ground squirrels, gophers, rabbits and carrion. They also eat insects, reptiles, amphibians, fruits, birds and their eggs, and deer fawns. In urban and suburban areas, garbage, domestic cats and dogs, other pets, hobby animals, and pet food can be important food items.

Coyotes are most active at night and during early morning and late evening hours. In areas where they are not disturbed by human activities, and during the cooler times of the year, they may be active throughout the day. Urban coyotes are becoming very tolerant of human activities. Young coyotes tend to be more active during daylight hours than adults. Home range size varies depending on food and water availability.

COYOTE CONFLICT-PREVENTION CHECKLIST

Food

NOTE: Food should never be intentionally left out for wild animals.

- ✓ Garbage can lids should be secured at all times or garbage stored indoors.
- ✓ Food scraps can be frozen and placed out just before the trash is picked up.
- ✓ Condiment jars and food stuff containers can be rinsed with water prior to discarding them. Recycling helps.
- ✓ Pets should be fed during daylight hours and all pet food removed before darkness. Pet food should be stored indoors.
- ✓ All windfall fruit/vegetables should be picked up daily. When possible cover at night or enclose garden and fruit trees by a coyote proof fence to prevent access.
- ✓ Keep small pets, such as cats, rabbits, and small dogs indoors. Don't allow them to run free at any time. Large dogs should be brought inside after dark. Large dogs can be enclosed in a coyote proof enclosure.

COYOTE CONFLICT-PREVENTION CHECKLIST

NOTE – Coyotes have been known to lure domestic pets off properties using various strategies i.e. female coyote in heat. Domestic dogs regardless of their size often don't recognize coyotes as a predator until they are ambushed by more than one coyote. By then it is too late!

- ✓ **During the time of year when adult coyotes are caring for their young (May – September), they can be very aggressive when their young are threatened. Domestic dogs are especially vulnerable to attack during this time.**
- ✓ **Stray, feral, and roaming cats are an easy target for coyotes. If domestic cats cannot be contained indoors, and predation is viewed as a problem, posts can be installed in open space areas which provide an escape for cats. These posts should be at least 7 feet tall, made of material that the cat can climb, and have enough space on top for the cat to sit.**
- ✓ **Pet adoption leagues and human societies will provide information for trapping and safely removing and finding homes for stray cats.**
- ✓ **Rabbit hutches should have a solid bottom. A hutch standing above ground, with only a wire bottom, makes your rabbit an easy mark.**

COYOTE CONFLICT-PREVENTION CHECKLIST

- ✓ When building aviaries and chicken coops, dig a one-foot trench around its perimeter. Extend the chicken wire fence well into the trench and bury it.
- ✓ Aviaries and bird enclosures will attract rodents when feed and shelter are not properly maintained. The rodents i.e. rats and mice, eating the bird feed will then attract coyotes.
- ✓ Yards which have pocket gophers or moles attract cats which in turn attract coyotes.
- ✓ Bird feeders not properly located and maintained can attract cats which in turn attract coyotes.

Water

- ✓ Pet water bowls should be emptied and not left out after dark.
- ✓ Sprinkler systems and irrigation should be monitored for surface water collection. Remove receptacles in your yard that could inadvertently hold water. Coyotes utilize urban water runoff as a water source.

COYOTE CONFLICT- PREVENTION CHECKLIST

Water

- ✓ Coyotes will often drink water from swimming pools or fish ponds. Cover them at night when possible. Fish, amphibians, and reptiles which live in an aquatic environment, i.e. turtles, are all prey items for a hungry coyote.

Shelter

- ✓ Brush and vegetation should be cleared from backyard and adjacent areas to eliminate habitat for prey which could attract coyotes. Landscaping should be pruned on a regular basis.
- ✓ Areas where rodents may concentrate, such as wood and brush piles or seed storage areas should be cleared and kept clean.
- ✓ Remove hiding cover that may be used by coyotes when stalking domestic pets.



Coyote and Other Wildlife Information

Many residents in Huntington Beach and all of Orange County experience occasional visits from local wildlife, especially those that reside in newly developed neighborhoods or areas next to protected parks and wilderness trails. During spring time, these visits may become more frequent as this is the breeding season for many wild animals. While some residents understand that wildlife is being pushed from their natural habitat and take pleasure in these visits, many consider them a nuisance because of late night forages in trash cans, messes left behind and the occasional "setting up camp" in or around one's property.

Small pets can easily become coyote prey. Cats and small dogs should not be allowed outside alone, even in a fenced yard. It is highly recommended that their owner always accompany small pets. Though coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise, they can be observed at all hours of the day and will not pass up the opportunity for an easy meal. A dog or cat left in a backyard can be taken in a matter of moments. Eradication and/or relocation of the urban coyote is not effective. These programs actually provide a vacuum in nature, causing these animals to have even larger litters, ultimately increasing the coyote population.

The City of Huntington Beach contracts with OC Animal Care for animal services. OC Animal Care receives many calls about wildlife from residents throughout the year. In an effort to alleviate their concerns, we have some helpful tips to discourage wildlife activity in their neighborhoods.

- Keep pet food indoors and do not leave food of any kind outside at night. Food left out at night will be taken as a welcome invitation by wildlife, and may prompt a future visit.
- Keep cats and small dogs indoors or in the close presence of an adult.
- Remove any fruit which has fallen to the ground.
- Store trash in covered, heavy-duty containers.
- Keep yards free from potential shelter such as thick brush and weeds, and enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- Eliminate garbage, debris, lumber piles, etc.
- Check fencing and try to eliminate access points to roof tops.
- Change automatic sprinkler settings regularly.

Taking these preventive measures should help in deterring wildlife from visiting your property. Please remember that if the three (3) life sustaining elements are available (food, water and shelter), you are likely to encounter some wildlife in your area. OC

Animal Care will respond to situations regarding any wildlife that is sick, injured, dead, or has had physical contact with a human or domestic animal.

Visit <http://surfcity-hb.org> – Web Spotlights – Coyote Information - for info including:

▣ [How to Haze a Coyote](#)

▣ [Watch Living with Coyotes in HB Video](#)

[Preventing Coyote Conflicts](#)

[Coyote Hazing Guidelines](#)

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/LivingWithWildlife/>

Visit <http://surfcity-hb.org> – Web Spotlights – to Report a Coyote Contact

For more information on the laws pertaining to urban wildlife and their protection visit the Department of Fish and Game's website at www.dfg.ca.gov.

The contact information for OC Animal Care is:

Hours of operation:

8:00am-5:00pm daily

(714) 935-6848 or (949) 249-5160

5:00pm-8:00am nightly

(714) 935-7158

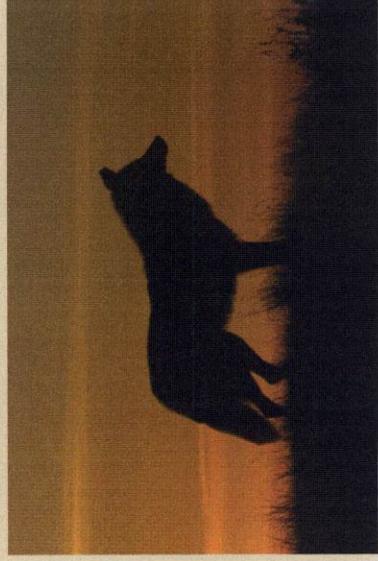
Huntington Beach Police Dispatch: (714) 960-8825 or (714) 536-5913

In an emergency, call 911.

Are coyotes dangerous?

Although naturally curious, coyotes are usually timid animals which run away if challenged. Coyotes can be a risk to people once they become comfortable around humans, usually as a result of feeding or indifference. When this occurs, coyotes lose their natural fear and learn to see humans, their yards and their pets as food sources and safe havens. You must aggressively discourage coyotes from feeling comfortable around you and your family by:

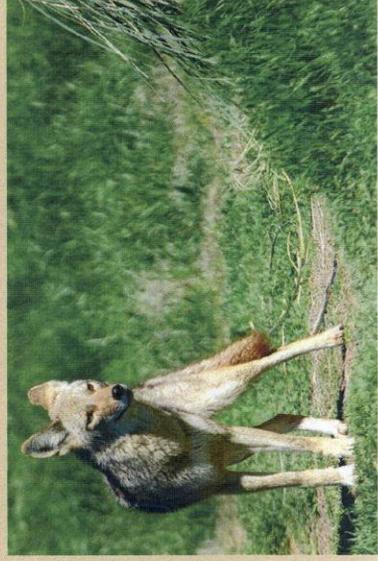
- Never intentionally feeding coyotes, eliminating attractants (food sources, including pet food) from your yard. Intentional feeding of coyotes and other wild animals is illegal in California.
- Use aggressive gestures (hazing) toward coyotes when you see them, and encouraging your neighbors to do the same.
- Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning or feeding/hiding pups.
- Appreciate coyotes from a distance. Share this information with family and friends.



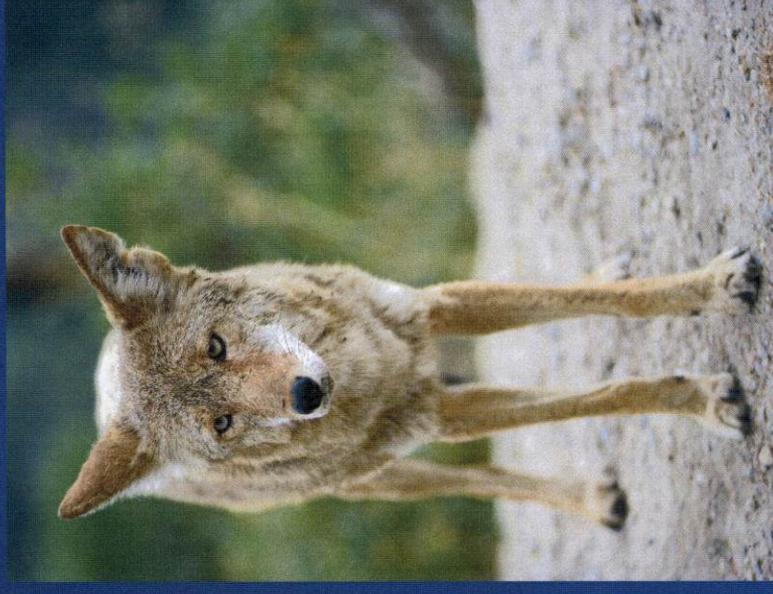
Traits and behaviors.

Coyotes are clever and opportunistic wild canines, and they are well adapted to living in various environments. When developments are built in their habitat, coyotes are not permanently displaced. Some move on to other areas, but many simply adjust to their new surroundings. Coyotes can be seen at golf courses, parks and preserves and in neighborhoods.

- Coyotes often mate for life, are devoted parents, and are highly communicative (barks, yips, howls)
- Coyotes may be seen in groups, called family units, or alone.
- Local coyotes generally weigh between 18-35 pounds.
- Coyotes eat whatever is available, including seeds, dates and other fruit, dead animals, rodents, rabbits, garbage, pet food, cats and small dogs.
- Coyotes breed every year. They have two to 12 pups per litter, with an average of six. Pups are raised in a den.
- Coyotes are naturally wary of people but can habituate to our presence and the reliable food sources we provide.



Living with Coyotes



Coyotes have been seen in all areas of Huntington Beach.

Please read this information so you will understand how to live with coyotes.



City of Huntington Beach

What should I do if a coyote approaches me?

If a coyote approaches you, appear as large and threatening as possible. Make aggressive gestures (haze) by moving arms and legs, shout in a low voice, and throw rocks, sticks or objects toward, not at the coyote. Maintain eye contact and move slowly away toward a building or area of increased activity; never run.

Be consistent and persistent: haze every time you see this too-close-for-comfort behavior. Do not stop until the coyote has left the area or you risk teaching the coyote that your hazing behavior is “normal,” and is nothing to be concerned about.

When not to haze:

- If you think the coyote is sick or injured. Call your local wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control/services office.
- If it is March-July, and you are in a park or open space and think you could be near a coyote den, or if you think that pups could be present.
- If the coyote is at a comfortable distance from you. Seeing a coyote at a distance is no cause for alarm. They have adapted to urban environments.

What about children's safety?

Education is the key to preparedness. Children should be taught how to behave around coyotes. Teach children to **Be Big** (stand up and raise their arms in the air), **Be Mean** (sound angry, stomp their feet, and throw something toward the coyote), **Be Loud** (yelling “Go Away Coyote” so people nearby will come help), and **Never Run**.

How can I keep my pets safe?

- Supervise your pet when outside, especially at dawn or dusk.
- Always walk your pet on leash.
- If confronted by a coyote, pick up small pets and do what you can to discourage its approach.
- Never leave cats or dogs outside after dark. If you must leave your pet outside, secure it in a fully enclosed kennel.
- Do not leave food or water outside for pets.

How can I discourage coyotes from entering my yard?

Coyotes generally avoid humans, even when their home range encompasses largely urban or suburban habitat. However, the presence of a free buffet in the form of pet food, compost or trash can lure coyotes into yards and create the impression that these places are bountiful feeding areas. Without the lure of food or other attractants, their visits will be brief and rare. But a coyote which finds food in one yard may learn to search for food in others.

To help discourage wildlife activity in your neighborhoods:

- Keep pet food indoors and do not leave food of any kind outside at night. Food left out at night will be taken as a welcome invitation by wildlife, and may prompt a future visit.
- Keep cats and small dogs indoors or in the close presence of an adult.
- Remove any fruit, which has fallen to the ground.
- Store trash in covered, heavy-duty containers.
- Keep yards free from potential shelter such as thick brush and weeds, and enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- Eliminate garbage, debris, lumber piles, etc.
- Check fencing and try to eliminate access points to rooftops.
- Change automatic sprinkler settings regularly.



Resources

For more information on living with urban wildlife, call Orange County Animal Control at 714-935-6848 or California State Fish and Game at 858-467-4257.

- Home
- I Want To...
- Residents
- Visitors
- Businesses
- Government
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- About HB

Residents

Beach Information

City Calendar

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Housing

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Parks & Facilities

Recreation & Culture

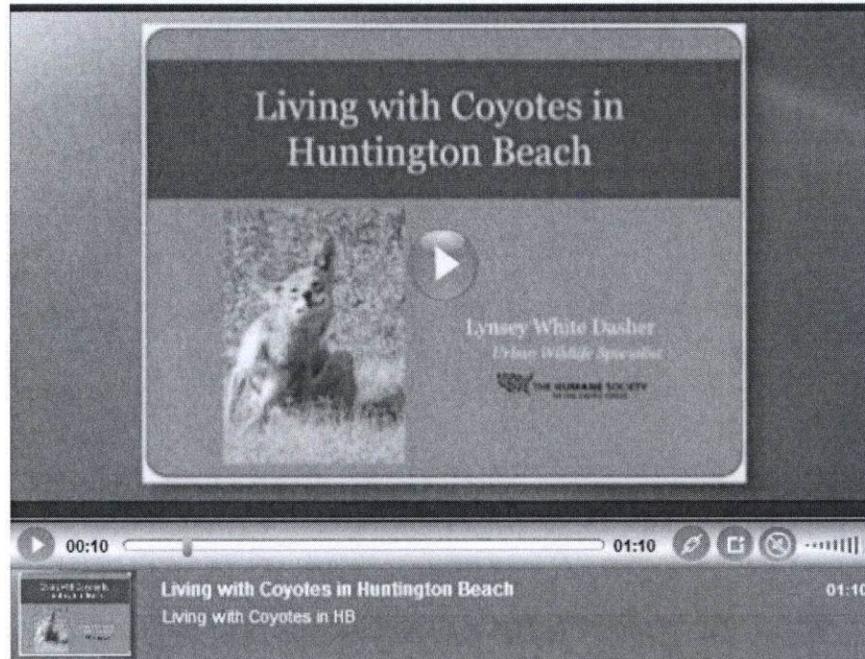
Safety Information

Utility Services

Videos & HBTv3

Volunteer Opportunities

Living with Coyotes in Huntington Beach



* If you pause the video for more than 10 seconds, please reload the web page.

PRESENTED BY: THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

LINK TO VIDEO

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/videos/hbtv3/coyote-meeting.cfm>



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

PREVENTING COYOTE CONFLICTS:

How to Keep Coyotes Out of Your Yard and Keep Your Pets Safe

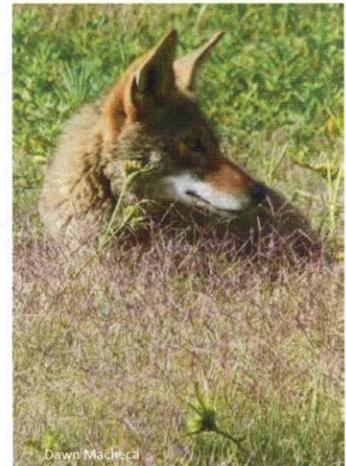
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What attracts coyotes to urban and residential areas?

Food

Deliberately feeding coyotes is a mistake. You may enjoy hand-feeding animals, but this is a surefire way to get them accustomed to people and will ultimately lead to their demise. Here are some other general rules to follow:

- Avoid feeding pets outside. If you must, feed them only for a set time during the day (for no more than one hour) and remove the food bowl as soon as your pet has finished her meal.
- In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable.
- If you compost, use enclosed bins and never compost meat or fish scraps.
- Good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, can also help discourage coyote activity near residences.
- Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave them out overnight, they are more likely to be tipped and broken into.



Shelter

Coyotes are secretive animals, and studies have shown they can live for a long time in close proximity to dense human settlements without ever being noticed. Such coyotes are abiding by the rules we set for minimal conflicts, and should be left alone.

In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise litters, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which the young are sheltered. At these times, they may become highly defensive and territorial, and challenge any other coyote or dog that comes close to the pups. People walking their dogs in parks and wooded areas may run into these situations and even be challenged by parent coyotes to back off. Fights occur rarely and most often when dogs are off leash. It's important to recognize such incidents for what they are: defense of space, not random attacks. If you encounter a coyote when walking your pet, do NOT run away; haze the coyote with the techniques described in our **Hazing Guidelines**.



Free-roaming pets

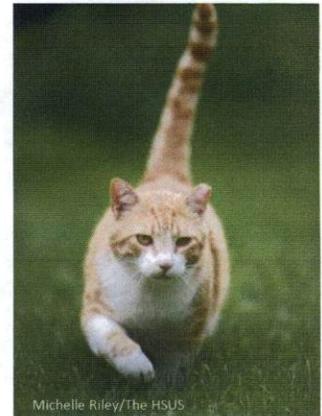
Free-roaming pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into certain neighborhoods. Although coyotes are primarily nocturnal, the best way to minimize risk to pets

is not to leave them out unattended at any time. Don't allow your cat to roam freely. Ideally, cats should be kept indoors regardless of whether there is a coyote in the area or not—to keep cats safe and healthy as well as to keep them from killing birds and other wildlife.

Feral cat colonies

People who feed feral cats are often concerned coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well founded, as coyotes will be attracted to both the outdoor pet food and the cats themselves as prey. Here are some general suggestions for keeping such cats safer:

- Feed cats only during the day and at a set time— and pick up any leftovers immediately. Provide escape routes for cats. In treeless or open areas, erect "cat posts" (see below).
- Elevate feeding stations beyond coyotes'—but not the cats'—reach. The size of the station/s can be customized to the size of the colony you feed and the amount of food should be adjusted for the number of cats you feed. Avoid leftovers that attract other animals. Elevated feeding stations mean safer cats, no more messy, turned over bowls and great savings in cat food bills!
- In places where trees and other climbing opportunities are scarce, some people have reported success protecting barn and feral cats from coyotes by giving the cats escape routes in the form of "cat posts." These can be wooden posts (four inches by four inches or corner posts) that stand out of the ground at least ten to twelve feet and can be climbed by cats, but not by coyotes.
- Discourage/harass coyotes seen on the property. Go after them aggressively, using the techniques described in our **Hazing Guidelines**. Making them feel uncomfortable will encourage them to stay out of the area.



Risks to dogs



Dogs (especially small dogs) are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes who are either accustomed (habituated) to people (usually due to wildlife feeding), or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season).

Dogs (especially small dogs) should not be left outside unattended and should always be kept on a leash in public areas. It is important to never let your dog interact or play with a coyote. Pet food and water should be kept indoors to avoid attracting coyotes to your yard.

Although "attacks" on larger dogs are rarer, coyotes will sometimes go after a large dog when they feel that their territory is threatened. This generally occurs during the coyote breeding season, which takes place from January through March. During this time, it is especially important not to leave dogs outside unattended and to keep them on leashes when in public areas.

To further protect cats and dogs, fencing can be used to keep coyotes out of residential yards. Fences must be at least 6 feet tall, extend underground at least 12 inches or include an L-shaped mesh apron extending outward at least 18 inches and secured with landscaping staples. Devices such as the "coyote roller" (www.coyoteroller.com) "roll off" coyotes that try to scramble over the fence and can enhance the effectiveness of a fence. Do-it-yourself options include adding PVC piping or chicken wire to the top of your fence to prevent coyotes from jumping over, and retrofitting a mesh apron to the bottom of the fence (extending 12+ inches out, secured with landscaping staples) to keep coyotes from digging under.

For more information and tips, see our website: www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

COYOTE HAZING GUIDELINES:

How to Haze for Effective Reshaping of Coyote Behavior

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Coyotes who've adapted to urban and suburban environments, however, may realize there are few real threats and approach people or feel safe visiting yards even when people are present. These coyotes have become habituated (lost their fear of humans), likely due to the ready availability of food in our neighborhoods. Sometimes, this food is deliberately provided by people who like to watch wild animals or misguidedly feel they are helping them by feeding. These bold coyotes should not be

tolerated or enticed, but definitely given the message that they should not be so brazen.



Hazing is a method that makes use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and play spaces.

The following guidelines are adapted from the Denver, Colorado coyote problem mitigation program's Hazing Guidelines, written by the Natural Areas Program of the Denver Parks and Recreation Department in October 2009. These guidelines have proven very successful at correcting problematic coyote behavior both in the short and longer term.

Methods of Hazing include:

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical; coyotes can habituate to individual items, sounds, and actions.

- Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote
- Noisemakers: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, soda cans filled with pennies or dead batteries, pots and pans banged together
- Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls
- Other: hoses, water guns with vinegar water, spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, bear repellent, walking sticks

"Go Away Coyote!"

- The simplest method of hazing a coyote involves being **loud and large**:
 - Stand tall, wave your arms and yell at the coyote, approaching it if necessary, until it runs away.
 - Follow this link for a demonstration:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDm9wjfcdbw&feature=player_embedded
- If a coyote has not been hazed before, he may not immediately run away when you yell at him. If this happens, you may need to walk towards the coyote and increase the intensity of your hazing.
- The coyote may run away, but then stop after a distance and look at you. It is important to continue to haze the coyote until he completely leaves the area. You may need to use different tactics, such as noisemakers, stomping your feet, or spraying the coyote with a hose, to get him to leave.

Dog-walking Tools

- There are several tools that you can carry with you while walking your dog that can be used to repel coyotes. (*Remember to always walk your dog on a leash.*) These include:
 - Homemade noisemakers (follow this link for “recipe”):
<http://www.stanleyparkecology.ca/programs/conservation/urbanWildlife/coyotes/deterrent.php>
 - Whistle or small air horn (you can purchase small air horn “necklaces”)
 - Squirtguns
 - Pepper spray
 - Pick up sticks or rocks and throw them towards the coyote

In Your Yard:

Remember, keeping pets and pet food inside is the best way to keep coyotes out of your yard. If you do encounter coyotes, all of the above methods can be used in your yard at home. First, try the “Go Away Coyote!” method (yell and wave your arms as you approach the coyote). Here are some additional methods you can also use:

- Squirt the coyote with your garden hose
- Bang pots and pans together

Remember:

- **NEVER run away from a coyote!**
- The coyote may not leave at first, but if you approach it closer and/or increase the intensity of your hazing, it will run away.
- If the coyote runs away a short distance and then stops and looks at you, continue hazing it until it completely leaves the area.
- After you have successfully hazed a coyote, he or she may return again. Continue to haze the coyote as you did before; it usually takes only one or two times to haze a coyote away for good.
- Coyotes are skittish by nature and as a rule do not act aggressively towards aggressive people. However, engaging animals that are sick or injured can result in unpredictable behavior. If you suspect that a coyote is sick or injured, contact the proper authorities and DO NOT interact with the coyote.



Tips for Success:

- The more often an individual coyote is hazed, by a variety of tools and techniques and a variety of people, the more effective hazing will be for changing behavior.
- The coyote being hazed must be able to recognize that the potential threat is coming from a person. (Hiding behind a bush and throwing rocks, for example, will not be effective.)
- Techniques and tools can be used in the same manner for one animal or multiple animals. Usually there is a dominant animal in the group who will respond, and others will follow her lead.
- Certain levels of hazing must always be maintained so that future generations of coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits or behaviors.
- Educating the public about removing coyote attractants, proper pet care and safety, and coyote behavior are critical parts of a successful coyote plan.

For more information and tips, see our website: www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes



Stash Your Food and Trash

Allowing coyotes access to human food and garbage is reckless and deadly.

Coyotes primarily hunt rodents and rabbits for food, but will take advantage of whatever is available, including garbage, pet food, and domestic animals.

- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- Bring pets in at night, and do not leave pet food outside.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, etc.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these tips.

Please respect and protect wild animals. Keep them wild.

www.keepmewild.org

For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Northern Region
Redding – (530) 225-2300
- North Central Region
Rancho Cordova – (916) 358-2900
- Bay Delta Region
Napa – (707) 944-5500
- Central Region
Fresno – (559) 243-4005 ext. 151
- South Coast Region
San Diego – (858) 467-4201

Inland Deserts Region
Ontario – (909) 484-0167

Sacramento Headquarters - (916) 322-8911

To order more pamphlets, please call (916) 322-8911 or email publications@wildlife.ca.gov.

Alternate communication methods are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife, (916)322-8911 or the California Relay Service serving deaf and hearing-impaired residents using TTY/TDD phones, and speech-impaired callers, at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



KEEP ME WILD

Feeding Wildlife is Dead Wrong.



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Wild Animals Ruined, Even Killed by People's Carelessness!

Wild animals are in trouble, and the problem is people who are careless with food and garbage.

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are by nature fearful of humans.

If coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear. They may cause property damage. They might threaten human safety. They might be killed.

Relocating a problem coyote is not an option because it only moves the problem to someone else's neighborhood.

Help prevent deadly conflicts for these beautiful wild animals.



A campaign for all wild animals.

“Coyote country” precautions

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes. The result may be deadly conflicts with pets or livestock, or serious injuries to small children.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Be aware that coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young.
- If followed by a coyote, make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.
- If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Wildlife or law enforcement office. After normal business hours, call 911.

Stash Your Food and Trash

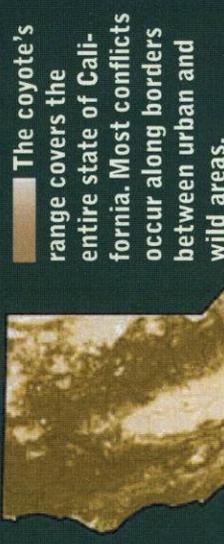
Coyote-Proof Containers

Use garbage cans that have a locking mechanism on the lid. Use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object so that it cannot be tipped over.



New Laws

Feeding coyotes is illegal in some communities. Many local ordinances require installation of wildlife-proof garbage containers and make wildlife feeding punishable by fines.



The coyote's range covers the entire state of California. Most conflicts occur along borders between urban and wild areas.

Coyote Conflicts

You Can Help

Please visit www.keepmewild.org for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other Keep Me Wild™ materials.

