

The purpose of this brochure is to provide some basic tips for dealing with coyotes. Whether it's leaving food, garbage or pets outside, our behavior is changing the behavior of the coyotes. Habituated coyotes have learned that our neighborhoods are a source of food.

Please talk to your family, friends and neighbors and share these simple tips with them.

Coyote Sightings in the Area

There have been sightings of coyotes in the area. Coyotes may come out at any time of day or night. Coyotes are wild animals. DO NOT entice or approach them.

They are smart, fast, can jump 6 ft. and will take what they can get.

Cats and small pets should be kept indoors. Dogs must be kept under direct supervision and restrained on a chain or leash, not exceeding 6 feet in length, while being walked in any public area.



Are coyotes dangerous?

Coyotes have a natural fear of humans, but may become defensive and may attack if they are protecting their food or a den. In cases of coyote attacks on people, it usually involves a coyote that has been fed by humans. Experts agree that coyotes will steer clear of humans until they learn that people are a source of food.

To report a sighting or coyote incident, visit:

www.downeyca.org

or call:

CITY OF DOWNEY
COYOTE HOT LINE

562.299.6625

If someone is in danger or you see an aggressive coyote (snarls, shows teeth, or fur comes up) call:

Emergency 911

To obtain additional information call:

City of Downey Coyote Information Hot line at 562.299.6625 or refer to the following websites:

http://www.downeyca.org/residents/coyote_information_.asp

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/keep-me-wild/coyote>



City of Downey



Living with
Urban Wildlife

COYOTES

What to do if you encounter a coyote

To prevent coyote attacks on humans, modern wildlife management focuses on 'aversive conditioning'. This practice tries to change an animal's behavior by making every human-coyote encounter unpleasant for the animal. This method only works if we all respond to coyote encounters aggressively. If a coyote does approach, make it feel unwelcome. They should not feel comfortable around us.

Take these immediate steps:

- Respond to its presence aggressively by making yourself appear large (wave your arms overhead or shove long objects like a walking stick toward the coyote).
- Throw rocks, sticks or other objects in its direction to scare it away.
- Carry a whistle and blow it to startle the animal.
- Carry pepper spray in areas highly frequented by coyotes.
- Shout in a deep voice and maintain eye contact.
- Do not turn away or run. This may trigger a natural predator/prey instinct and might encourage the coyote to chase after you.
- If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward buildings or human activity.



Secure 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 small domestic animals.

- Do not set your trash out for pick-up until the day of pick-up to reduce attracting predators in the middle of the night.
- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object so that it cannot be tipped over.
- 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.
- Remove any fruit which has fallen to the ground, and cover compost piles.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, and other outdoor animals.
- The City adopted ordinance No. 19-1912 prohibiting the feeding of wildlife. No person shall knowingly feed wildlife in the City. No person shall leave or store any refuse, garbage, pet food, seed or bird seed, fruit, meat, dairy, vegetable, grain or other food in a negligent manner likely to feed wildlife.

“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 cover landscaping and shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Be aware that coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young.
- **Hazing** - also known as “fear conditioning” is the process that facilitates this change and is by necessity a community response to negative encounters with coyotes. The more often an individual animal is hazed, the more effective hazing is in changing coyote behavior.
 - Deterrents include: loud noises, spraying water, bright lights, throwing objects, shouting.
 - Hazing can help maintain a coyote’s fear of humans and discourage them from neighborhoods such as backyards and play areas. Hazing does not harm or damage animals, humans or property.



Coyotes and Pets

Coyotes view dogs as competition. If a dog comes in their territory, they may attempt to intimidate the dog. Keeping dogs on a 6 ft. or less leash at all times is the best way to ensure the safety of the dog and the owner.