



Coyotes Are Wild Animals

NEVER attempt to feed a coyote or any other wild animal.



If there are coyotes in your neighborhood, here are some things to remember:

- Generally shy and wary of humans, coyotes can also be quite curious and will often observe human activity from what they perceive to be a safe distance. **This behavior is normal and part of peaceful coexistence.** Coyotes help keep the urban ecosystem in balance by eating small rodents such as mice, rats, and squirrels. However, coyotes will also eat rabbits, raccoons, birds, insects, berries and other fruit, vegetables, human garbage and compost, outdoor pet food, and small, unprotected pets. Please check your yard before letting pets outdoors, and close and secure pet doors after dark.
- **Problems may result if humans – intentionally or not – teach coyotes to be dependent on humans. That is one reason it is illegal to feed them.** Coyotes have adequate food sources and the species will survive without our help. **It is also critical for peaceful coexistence that coyotes never learn to associate people with food.**
- **Coyote attacks on humans are very rare,** but when they have happened, they have usually involved a coyote that has become accustomed to seeking food from humans instead of continuing to exhibit normal, beneficial coyote behavior. In such situations, they lose their natural meekness and become demanding and even aggressive.
- **If you see a coyote, DO NOT** offer food or anything else to a coyote. Never ignore, turn your back on, or run from a coyote. Carry a walking stick or noisemaker at night or during early morning walks, and be ready to use them. Keep your pets next to you on a leash if they are with you.
- **If a coyote approaches you,** make eye contact. Don't let coyotes intimidate or scare you. Coyote attacks on adult humans are very rare and are not routine coyote behavior. If you are walking a small dog, picking it up may protect your dog, though an unusually aggressive coyote may bite you while trying to get to your pet. You should look and sound as big and authoritative as possible. Scare or appear threatening to coyotes with claps, shouts, loud noises, bright lights, and waving your arms. Don't hesitate to pick up small objects, such as a light stone or ball, and throw it at an approaching coyote. If a water hose is close, spray the coyote with it. Don't turn your back on a coyote; to get away, face the coyote and carefully back away slowly.
- **If a coyote or other wild animal is attacking or is threatening a human, call 9-1-1.**

The County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures has more information, including about how to discourage coyotes from frequenting your home.



ACWM.LACOUNTY.GOV
(626) 575-5462
12300 LOWER AZUSA ROAD
ARCADIA, CA 91006-5872

