

### Deterrents & Scare Tactics

- Sprinkle cayenne pepper or chili powder in areas where coyotes sleep to deter them from staying. These types of deterrents do not last & will need to be repeated if they become wet. Do not use these methods where children have access & do not use near air ducts.
- Use motion activated strobe lights, sprinklers, or radios that are set to talk or news stations to help deter the coyotes. Use caution as strobe lights can trigger seizures in people or pets with epilepsy.
- Use a coyote shaker can. This is a can containing a few coins which can be shaken & thrown towards a coyote. Throw tennis balls, open & close an umbrella towards the coyote, bang two pans together, blow a whistle, use an air horn, or use a high pressure water sprayer. Alternate the deterrents to prevent coyotes from getting used to one method.

### Frequently Asked Questions

- **What should I do if a coyote approaches me?** Wave your arms. Shout in a low, loud tone. Throw objects at the coyote while maintaining eye contact. Make yourself look as big as possible. If you are wearing a jacket, take it off & swing around over your head. If possible go towards active or populated areas but do not turn your back & run from the coyote as that could trigger a chase.
- **How can I keep my dog safe?** Closely supervise your dog. Do not leave small dogs unattended in your yard. Walk your dog on a leash at all times & stay close to high pedestrian traffic areas. Try not to establish a regular routine & route to avoid setting up a pattern for the coyote to detect. Avoid dense brushy areas or paths near abandoned properties. If you notice a coyote when walking your dog, keep your dog as close to you as possible & move towards an active area. Never encourage or allow your dog to interact or "play" with coyotes.
- **How can I keep my cat safe?** Keep your cat indoors at all times. If your cat must be outside, consider constructing an outdoor 6 sided enclosure that is made of heavy gauge wire or chain-link with an enclosed access way to the house.
- **How can I keep my children safe?** Make sure that your children never play outside in the same clothes they just ate food in. Wildlife may be attracted to food odors in clothing. Make sure children wash thoroughly after eating. Provide children with a whistle & breakaway necklace they can blow it if an animal approaches. Never let them approach any stray animal. If a coyote approaches, they should face the animal, move slowly to another person or dwelling entrance, raise their arms over their head, clap their hands, stomp their feet, blow a whistle, & call out in a stern loud voice "There is a coyote here." The best thing to do is avoid leaving children unattended.
- **Final Thought:** Keep in mind that coyote attacks on humans are rare with most attacks taking place as result of people feeding them. Coyotes should be frightened off when the chance presents itself to keep them fearful of humans, which benefits coyotes & people. Coyotes will always be around, trapping throughout history has not changed that. If trapping worked, there would be no more coyotes since it has been done over 200 years.



#### Main Office

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[http://www.laanimalservices.com/About\\_Animals/Wildlife.htm](http://www.laanimalservices.com/About_Animals/Wildlife.htm)

#### North Central Shelter

3201 Lacy Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90031

#### Harbor Shelter

957 N Gaffey Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

#### East Valley Shelter

14409 Vanowen Street  
Los Angeles, CA 91405

#### West Valley Shelter

20655 Plummer Street  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

#### South LA Shelter

1850 W 60th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90047

#### West LA Shelter

11361 W Pico Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

## ENCOUNTERS WITH...

## COYOTES



Courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo  
Photo by Greg Randall, LA Animal Services Wildlife Division

City of Los Angeles  
Department of  
Animal Services  
Wildlife Division



### Coyote (Canis Latrans)

The California Department of Fish and Game surveys an estimated population range of 250,000 to 750,000 coyotes throughout California. The coyote weighs an average of 18 to 40 lbs. They can run at speeds of 25 mph and sprint up to 40 mph.

### Coyote Breeding & Lifespan

Coyotes in captivity and in the wild may generally live to be 14 years old, however urban coyotes rarely live to ages beyond 2 or 3 years as a result of being hit by cars, killed by large dogs, disease and parasite affliction, rodent poison ingestion, and extreme weather events.



LA Animal Services Wildlife Division

### Coyote Sightings

Coyotes may be seen in a family group, yet urban coyote's are often seen traveling alone or in pairs. Coyotes are very clever indigenous predators that have conformed to living in close proximity to humans. They are seen in residential



Photo by Troy Boswell, LA Animal Services Wildlife Division

areas, vacant lots, hillsides, parks, city streets, freeways, landscaped areas, abandoned properties, horse trails, fire roads, flood channels, storm drains, and aqueducts.

### Coyote Food Habits

Coyotes find food & water from a variety of sources and their diet consists primarily of rodents, small mammals and insects. When hunting in a pack, they can go for larger prey such as deer. Coyotes are opportunistic and may also go after cats, small dogs, poultry, sheep, and goats when given the chance. Coyotes are also scavengers and will eat fruit, vegetable matter, and food refuse.

### Coyote Sounds

Coyotes are also known as the "song dog" and make \*11 distinct vocalizations; growl, huff, woof, bark, bark-howl, whine, woo-oo-wow, yelp, lone howl, group howl, and group yip-howl, \*(Gier 1975, Bekoff 1978) so what may sound like 8 or more coyotes may only be 1 or 2 sending out a greeting or calling to young, not celebrating a kill, which is a misnomer.

### Trapping Wildlife in the City of Los Angeles

*The City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services is not providing traps or issuing trapping permits for the public to use their own, rented, or borrowed traps to remove nuisance wildlife. The trapping or relocation of wildlife by the public is prohibited. The Department of Animal Services suggests trying property alteration, deterrents, & exclusionary methods. The option exists for L.A. City residents to contract with a Nuisance or Pest Control company that has permits to trap and remove some types of mammals. Wildlife trapped by these agencies would be released on site or immediately euthanized. California State law prohibits the relocation of predatory mammals (CCR Title 14 sec. 465.5).*

### Regarding Fences

Studies have shown coyotes are capable of scaling various types of fences upwards of 6 feet in height and often able to clear jump over fences of 5 feet with angles of adjacent hillside playing a factor. Increasing fence height to at least 6 feet and add an angle at the top facing outward at 45 degrees that is 16 to 18 inches wide, or use a device known as the coyote roller® available through the Internet. Fences over 6 feet in height may require a variance so check local laws beforehand. The bottom of the fence should be at least 12 to 18 inches underground and line the trench with rock or have a stone footing; alternatively an apron at the base of the fence extending an additional 18 to 24 inches outward can be used. Wrought-iron bar gaps should be no wider than about 3 ½ inches.

### Do's and Don'ts

- Keep your pets indoors if possible since coyotes may be active at any time of day or night. Confine very small pets that you cannot keep indoors to 6 sided covered enclosures constructed of a heavy gauge wire mesh. Coyotes can break through chicken wire.
- Walk your dog on a leash at all times. If your yard does not have a fence, keep your pet close to you while outside.
- Pick fruit from trees when ripened and remove all fallen fruit. Cut low hanging branches to prevent the coyotes feeding from trees. Trim and thin ground-level shrubbery. Create a 1 foot clearance of space below hedges and bushes to reduce animal hiding places.
- Vegetable gardens should be protected with heavy duty garden fences or greenhouse.
- Check with your local plant nursery to see what type of deterrent products are available. If you have access to the Internet, you may find some items on-line.
- Close off crawl spaces under your home, porches, decks, and sheds. Coyotes use such areas for resting and raising young.
- Clean and store barbecue grills after use.
- Avoid having open wood, brush, and compost piles.
- Do not allow pets to roam from home.

- Do not feed wildlife. It is illegal to feed predatory mammals in the City of Los Angeles (L.A.M.C. Sec. 53.06.5). Report violations of people observed to be feeding wild mammals.

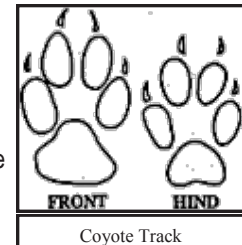


Photo by Greg Randall, LA Animal Services Wildlife Division

- Do not leave pet food or water bowls outside if your pet is not outdoors.
- Put all trash bags inside the trash cans and keep lids securely fastened. Place trash cans and bins inside sheds, garages or other enclosed structures. Do not set your trash out until the day of pick-up to reduce attracting predators.
- Do not attempt to pet or otherwise make physical contact with wildlife. Coyotes are wild animals and should be treated as such.
- Never leave small children unattended outdoors.
- Share this information with your neighbors, as your efforts may be futile if someone is providing food or shelter for coyotes.

### Coyotes, What are they good for?

Coyotes keep a balance in nature by eating rodents, small mammalian predators, and sometimes they may eat rattlesnakes and scorpions. They also help remove carrion from our roadways and hillsides. Coyotes and other wildlife help to proliferate our flora by distributing the seeds of plants, fruits, and trees by passing them in their scats. The saguaro cactus, which is endangered is one such plant that coyotes have had a paw in helping. So the next time you eat some fruit from a local tree in your yard, it may be there courtesy the song dog.



Coyote Track