



# ALERT

## 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. A number of factors encourage coyotes to interact with humans including: people leaving out food for animals and the presence of unsecured refuse containers.

Coyotes are wild animals. Do not entice or approach them.

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

Cats should be kept indoors at all times. 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.

## NEVER FEED COYOTES



City of Downey Coyote Hotline Number  
Please report wildlife sightings and issues to:  
**(562) 299-6625**

## **The City of Downey suggests the following guidelines to assist residents in coexisting with this wildlife:**

- Do not leave small children and pets (even if pets are caged) unattended outdoors.
- Should you have to maintain your pet outdoors and you have the room to do so, consider the placement of an enclosed dog or cat run adequate in size to allow your pet exercise. The run should contain a 6 sided shelter and potable water and have some shade to protect your pet from direct sunlight.
- Do not encourage, entice, approach or feed mammalian wildlife such as coyotes. It is a violation of the law. (Los Angeles County Code 10.84.010)
- Please remove your pet's food dish or bowl when your pet has finished eating and do not leave any unattended food outdoors.
- Pick up all fallen fruit & berries from your yard. If possible, do not leave ripened fruit on branches. Trim ground level shrubbery and low hanging branches.
- Enclose or remove wood piles.
- Do not compost human food items.
- Enclose vegetable gardens with sturdy welded wire mesh or greenhouse.
- Clear dense vegetation to reduce wildlife hiding places.
- Secure crawl spaces such as access ways under the house, decks, and porches by screening off with high gauge welded wire mesh where possible. Do not use chicken wire as most wildlife can chew right through it.
- Block access under storage sheds and containers.
- Clean all grills or barbecues after use.
- Secure or store trash containers in enclosed structures or securely strap down the lids. Do not place refuse containers out until the day of service. Spray ammonia occasionally in the trash to cut down on food odors. Canned goods, water bottles, soda cans, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, and trash, unwashed items that were used for preparing or eating meals can become food. Coyotes are opportunistic predators and eat fruit, vegetables, and refuse in addition to their usual prey.
- Keep your property well-lit at night and use motion lights when possible to help alert you to activity outdoors. Placing an electronic motion activated device such as a motion alarm with strobe or motion activated sprinkler may help to discourage wildlife from your property. A radio plugged in to a motion activated outlet may scare away wildlife outside (use caution for outdoor electronics near water sources and avoid setting out where they may be rained on).
- Make sure that your fence is secure. Check for gaps and openings that even a cat can fit through. Fence heights should be increased to 6 feet when possible and have an angled addition at the top extending outward for an additional 16 to 24 inches at 45 degrees. Coyotes have been known to scale chain-link, so consider options to discourage climbing. Wrought iron bars should be no further apart than 4" inches in width to avoid wildlife squeezing between or even your pet from exiting. You may also consider wrought-iron mesh to cover half way up the fence height, as well. Coyotes can walk on top of brick or cinder block walls, so consider obstructing the top of the wall with lattice, flower pots, etc.

## **What should you do if you see a coyote?**

- Do not turn and run. Running may trigger the coyote to chase you and coyotes can sprint at up to 40 mph.
- Never let a coyote go by without trying to scare it.
- Teach children never to approach coyotes just as you would warn them about stray dogs.
- Make yourself appear larger by raising your arms and waving them. If you have a jacket or belt with you, wave it around over your head and yell in a loud low tone at the coyote.
- Stomp your foot and clap your hands to scare them.
- Keep your pet leashed and close to you and be aware of your surroundings when walking. Coyotes may pop up anywhere, so always look far ahead of you and glance back often. Avoid establishing a regular routine for walking as coyotes pick up on patterns and may follow you. They associate the presence of people with food. Alternate directions of your travel and the times you walk if possible.

- Make a coyote shaker can by taking a steel or high density aluminum can and placing a few coins in it. Tape the hole shut. It can then be shaken and even thrown in the direction of the coyote to scare it away.
- Carry a walking stick or large colorful umbrella when out on walks so that you can use it to fend off an animal. An open umbrella, for example, presents you as being much larger than the animal and may frighten it away.
- Wear clothes with striking colors when walking.
- A whistle, air horn, or thrown golf ball may be used to frighten off a wild animal. Wear a waist pack and keep some of these items in it.
- For coyotes observed at your property, make a wildlife scare kit and keep it by the door to your yard. Include items such as air horns, whistles, 2 small pans to bang together, a bullhorn to yell at the coyote through, baseballs and golf balls to throw, a disposable camera with flash as the flash may scare the coyote, and/or a fire extinguisher which may be used to scare off an animal.

### **What else should I know about coyotes?**

- Report suspicious activity to the City of Downey's Coyote Hotline Number with regard to people who feed wild animals. When a person puts down food for the wild animals and walks away, that is not just littering. It is a violation to feed mammalian predators. (Los Angeles County Code 10.84.010)
- Coyotes with young are usually observed from March through September and may hold their ground, so keep your distance when applying any scare tactics.
- There have been less than 300 attacks by coyotes on humans in the known history of California.
- A person is many times more likely to be struck by lightning or attacked by their own pet than be attacked by a coyote.
- Most coyote injuries to humans that involved a bite were induced by the person feeding the coyote.
- Coyotes will den spring through fall on land between homes such as drainage ditches, or vacant properties. They feel safe to rear their young there, as they are not preyed upon by other predators. Coyotes do not always have a hole in the ground for a den. They will den in crawl spaces under homes, dense vegetation, under cactus patches and even under freeways.
- Coyotes in urban setting do not need to be in a "pack" to survive since food is so highly available.
- Coyotes can make eleven distinct vocalizations. What might sound like a group of six coyotes may merely be two.
- Coyotes are curious and may follow a person as more of a bold posture than that of aggression.



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