



California Department of **Fish and Wildlife**

Help Keep Coyotes Out of Your Neighborhood!

In light of recent coyote sightings in our area, here are some precautions from the website of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Respect wild animals and keep them wild.

Coyotes are smart adaptable canines that have learned to live comfortably alongside people in residential neighborhoods. Wildlife experts agree that people have played a part in this phenomenon by being 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.

However, if coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear. They may begin to harass domestic livestock and pets. They might threaten human safety.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife works to preserve the natural habitats of these animals in the wild and recommends safeguards so they don't become a neighborhood danger to people or pets.

Take Precautions

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes.
- 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.
- In the event of a coyote attack, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Wildlife or law enforcement office.

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.
- Avoid using bird feeders as they attract rodents and other coyote prey.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry and other livestock.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.

[www.https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote.](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote)