

Deterrents & Scare Tactics (Hazing)

If a coyotes begin frequenting your neighborhood, let them know they're not welcome.

- 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.
- 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.

Hazing should never be used to injure the coyote, and its intent is to modify coyote behavior to avoid human contact.

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 may 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 short 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.

Report Coyote Sightings

We are asking that non-emergency coyote sightings be reported to the PVEPD Dispatch Center at 310-378-4211; **Emergencies should be reported to 9-1-1**. When calling, the Dispatcher will ask specific information about the time/location of the sighting, number of coyotes, and the coyote's behavior.

The coyote's behavior is very important and allows us to better identify problem animals. Here are some questions you should be prepared to answer regarding a coyote's behavior:

- Did the coyote run away at the sight of a human or another animal?
- Did the coyote stand its ground or close distance? What was the animal's distance from you?
- Did the coyote seem interested or disinterested in you?
- Was the coyote aggressive? Explain? (Showing teeth, back fur raised, lunging, nipping, biting, growling, etc.)
- Did the coyote appear to stalk or follow you or others?

Coyotes play a crucial role in controlling the population of mesopredators, e.g. foxes, raccoons, opossums and skunks. Rodents make up 80% of their diet, making them Nature's natural rodent control (especially helpful where there is Hanta Virus or other endemic in rodent populations). They consume carrion, which helps to keep the environment and watersheds clean and free of disease. When left to do their "own thing," we benefit tremendously from their activities. But due to our expanding population and their shrinking habitat, these remarkably adaptable animals have learned to live closer to us.

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.

Report Coyote Sightings to PVEPD

310-378-4211



Additional information and resources can be found at
www.pvestates.org

Living with Urban Coyotes



Palos Verdes Estates
Police Department
(310) 378-4211

Coyote

The California Department of Fish and Game surveys an estimated population range of 250,000 to 750,000 coyotes throughout California. The typical 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 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.

Coyote Sightings

Coyotes may be seen in a family group, yet urban coyotes 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 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 target larger prey such as deer. Coyotes are opportunistic and may also target cats, small dogs, poultry, sheep, and goats when given the chance. Coyotes are also scavengers and will eat fruit, vegetable matter, and food refuse.

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, but no longer than 6 feet. Keep your pet close to you while outside and stay alert for Coyotes.
- 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 one 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.
- Close off crawl spaces under your home, porches, decks, and sheds. Coyotes use such areas for resting and raising young as a den.
- 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 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 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.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Share this information with your neighbors, as your efforts may be futile if someone nearby 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.