



BE COYOTE AWARE

Coyotes are common throughout North America, including in urban areas. You may see and hear them more during mating season (Dec-Feb) and when juveniles are dispersing from family groups (Sept-Nov). These facts and safety tips will help increase comfort and decrease conflicts when living or recreating near America's native "Song Dog".

FACTS

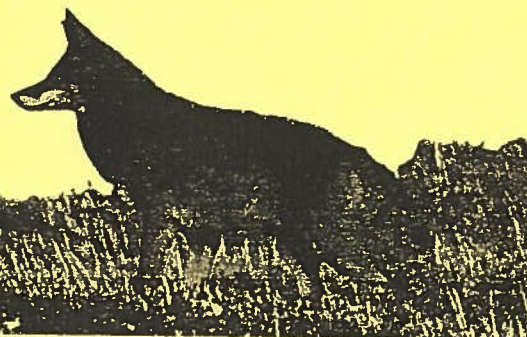
- Coyotes are members of the dog family; they are curious, adaptable, and learn quickly.
- Coyotes often mate for life, are devoted parents, and are highly communicative (barks, yips, howls).
- Coyotes weigh 18-35 pounds in the West and 30-60 pounds in the East.
- Coyotes may be more protective of dens/territories during pup rearing (April-Aug).
- Coyotes eat large numbers of rodents and rabbits, as well as fruit, vegetation, insects and carrion. They help keep ecosystems vital, healthy and clean.
- Coyotes are naturally wary of people but can habituate to our presence and the reliable food sources that we provide.

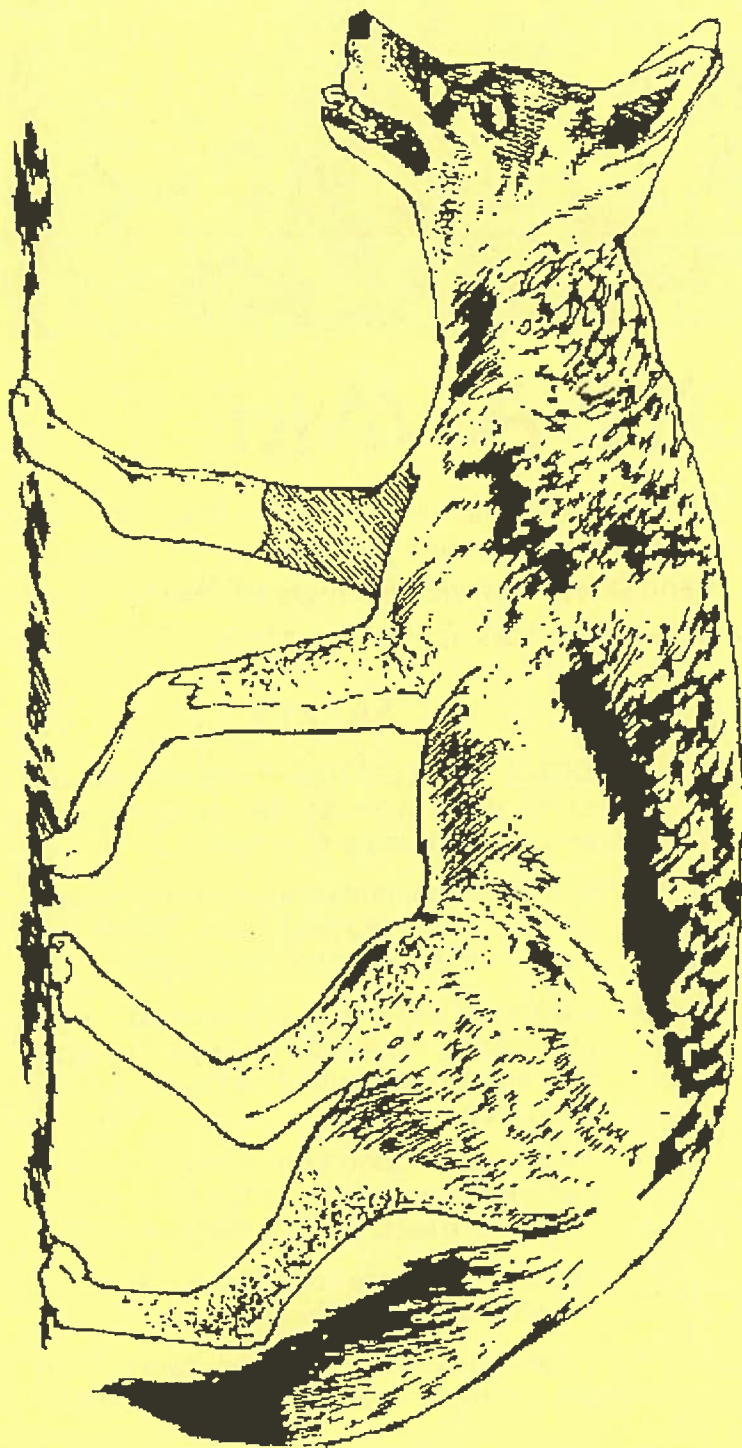
SAFETY

- **DON'T FEED COYOTES.** Their life and your safety depend on coyotes remaining wild and naturally wary of people.
- Remove attractants; pick up trash, secure garbage, and feed pets inside. Don't leave food or pets outside at night.
- Walk dogs on leashes, especially during pup rearing season (April-Aug). Pick up your small dog if you see a coyote and don't let pets roam.
- If approached, don't run. Wave arms, make noise and walk toward the coyote until he retreats. Be "Big, Bad and Loud."
- Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning or feeding/hiding pups.
- Appreciate coyotes from a distance. Share this information with family and friends.



PROJECTCOYOTE.ORG







THE COYOTE NEWS

Special Edition

Get the current science and best practices for keeping family, pets, and livestock safe in a healthy ecosystem.

VOL1

SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

FREE

Canid Experts Recommend Coexistence as Best Strategy

Effective, Long-term Solutions for Common Concerns

Wild territory is shrinking, forcing wildlife to live closer to people. This fact sheet can help residents and ranchers prepare in the case of seeing a coyote in the neighborhood.

Perhaps no other wild animal has endured the wrath of humans, while evoking such genuine heartfelt admiration, than the coyote. Some livestock owners curse their existence; many Native Americans consider them the smartest animal on earth, and others delight in seeing or hearing this vocal Song Dog.

Coyotes are extremely adaptable animals and quickly adjust to changing conditions. Canid experts have found that coyote populations can actually increase in response to lethal control, and agree that maintaining stable coyote populations is the best approach.

They are comfortable in the country, mountains, or in cities, as long as there is appropriate shelter and food. As a result, people must be aware of their presence and take precautions to avoid conflict with them. With a better understanding of coyotes and their habitat, people can coexist with these adaptable canines.

Coyotes are an important part of a healthy ecosystem. They do people an important favor by controlling rodents and insects, and are nature's 'clean-up service' removing carrion and preventing disease. But as people encroach on natural areas, coyotes are finding food sources that are not natural, and this may bring them (and other wildlife) into unwelcome contact with people. The good news is that there are proven long-term solutions for common concerns.

Tips & tools, page 2

EDITORIAL

Camilla Fox, Wildlife Specialist
Executive Director, Project Coyote

Coyotes are a new urban reality for many, but they are not new to North America. Wild canids have been a part of our landscape since the Pleistocene Era, and these adaptable survivors are here to stay. Our job as scientists and educators is to give you the best information plus a handy toolkit for feeling comfortable with coyotes. We hope you'll gain a new appreciation for what some Native Americans call, "God's Dog", and share this fact sheet widely. 🐾

Tips & Tools

...for common concerns about living, working, or recreating near coyotes and other wild neighbors.

- see page 2 -

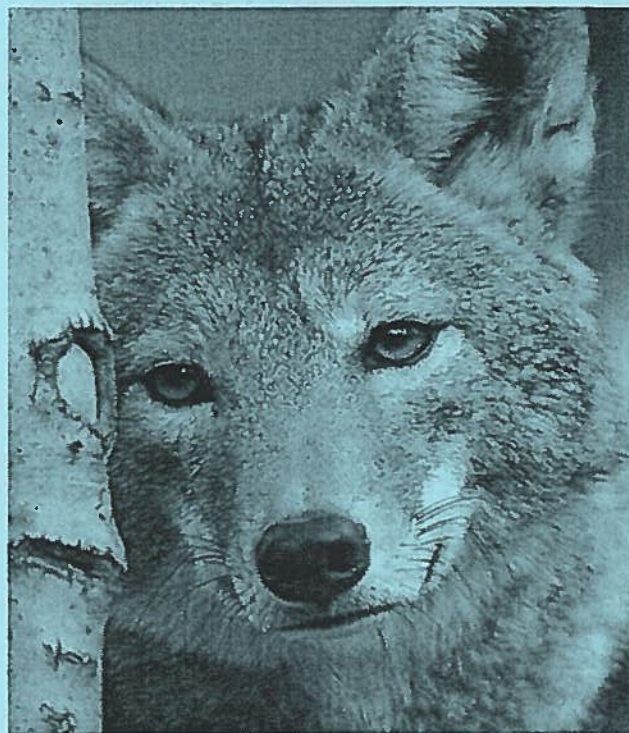
Top Scientists: Culling, Bounties "Don't Work"

**By Dr. Paul Paquet
and Dr. Marc Bekoff,**
Renowned Canid Biologists



Trapping is not selective, and may injure or kill family pets and endangered species.

Read on Page 2



Model Communities: Long-term Solutions Working!

Comfort Up, Conflicts Down

Colorado, California & British Columbia report...

Have you heard that a good example has twice the value of good advice? We set good examples for each other all the time as responsible parents, good neighbors and effective leaders. Here are a few model communities leading the way by empowering its citizens and promoting educated coexistence.

Denver, Aurora, Centennial and Broomfield, Colorado (pop. > 3 million). **Policy:** Negative coyote/human interactions in suburban areas are easily preventable. **Quotes:** "Data clearly showed that human injuries from coyotes were extremely rare, and there were usually preventable circumstances if people had the right information about living in coyote territory." - Ashley DeLaup, Wildlife Ecologist, Parks and Recreation Department, City and County of Denver.

🐾 (Project Coyote thanks these community leaders for contributing to this fact sheet.)

"I have to say that sightings and observations - really all of our reporting - have pretty much decreased over just the last year," - Karen Strickland, management analyst, City of Centennial. **Actions:** Encouraging people to take an active role in keeping coyotes in their community wild by removing attractants, taking responsibility for pet safety, hazing coyotes in neighborhood or other community spaces; and teaching about coyote ecology and behavior. Education programs available in a variety of media, including video demonstrations of hazing techniques for children and adults.

Vancouver, British Columbia (pop. >600,000). **Policy:** Negative coyote/human interactions in suburban areas are preventable. **Quote:** "A fed coyote puts your community at risk. Never feed coyotes." - signs on trails and in neighborhoods. **Actions:** Reducing conflict between people, pets, and coyotes by providing accessible information through

Continued on Page 2

Top Scientists: Culling, Bounties "Don't Work"

Interview with Dr. Paul Paquet and Dr. Marc Bekoff,
Internationally Renowned Wildlife Biologists

For two hundred years, coyotes have been hunted, poisoned, and persecuted. Bounties and contest hunts are set for their pelts and paws, often for the only crime of being seen. Taxpayers have spent billions supporting federal killing programs, but does killing coyotes make our communities safer and healthier?

Dr. Paul Paquet is one of many prominent wildlife biologists in North America advocating for effective long-term solutions to human-coyote conflicts. As a world expert on wild canids, respected author, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary, Dr. Paquet tells us, "Coyotes usually have an orderly social structure, with the dominant pair of a group breeding once a year. If left alone, family groups and populations are stable, with 1st year pup mortality at 50%-70%. If we kill pack members, other members can begin breeding more often, and with more food now available for pup survival, the result is more coyotes. Over the years, we've been acting in opposition to our best interests because we didn't consider how biologically and behaviorally adaptable coyotes are."

Dr. Paquet adds up the benefits of leaving coyotes to do their ecological job. "We kill approximately 500,000 coyotes every year. Considering that one coyote will eat at least 5 rodents per day, that could amount to over 9 billion extra rodents per year that may be poisoned to match the organic rodent control that would have been provided for us, for free. If we also consider the sheer number of insects coyotes eat, the sick animals they remove from the gene pool, and carrion they clean up, it's not a stretch to say we're clearly working against ourselves."

Canid ethologist, Dr. Marc Bekoff, editor of three animal encyclopedias and numerous books, and a former Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, reminds us that coyotes are no different from other animals - they go where food and shelter are.

"Expanding human development puts wildlife in a position of constantly looking for new territory and habitat, finding food that is less-than-wild, resulting in real or anticipated conflicts." Dr. Bekoff states that it's "ethically indefensible to wantonly go out and kill coyotes because they try to live among us". He also confirms that, "Only rarely is the 'problem' coyote caught or killed. When any coyote is killed, another will take its place almost immediately, and that may not be the coyote you'd prefer as your neighbor."

A last issue, commonly described by top scientists, is that killing coyotes indiscriminately - through bounties/contests, culls or trapping - prevents young coyotes from learning essential lessons from their parents, like how to forage wild foods and imparting a natural fear of humans. Dr. Bekoff summarizes the sentiment of many respected wildlife biologists, "Killing does not and never has worked. Community education and a willingness to coexist are the keys to eliminating human-coyote conflicts, and it's surprisingly easy."

Model Communities...

con't from page 1

range of media, an extensive website with downloadable media, a dedicated hot line, and school/group presentations and walks. Developed in cooperation with the Vancouver Parks Board and B.C.'s Ministry of Environment.

Marin County, California (pop. <250,000). **Policy:** Promote active coexistence through non-lethal livestock and wildlife protection program. **Quote:** "...we couldn't tell if the [loss] reductions were a trend or a blip. Now, we can say there's a pattern...we'll be a model without anyone questioning our success." -Stacy Carlsen, Marin Agriculture Commissioner. **Actions:** Program provides cost-share funds to assist ranchers with coyote deterrent methods including livestock guard dogs and llamas, improved fencing, and night corrals. Designed by Marin County Department of Agriculture in consult with Project Coyote's founder, Camilla Fox.

If coyotes are present in your area, ask decision makers to take a look at how other forward thinking communities are empowering their citizens, bringing comfort up and conflicts down.



MYTH BUSTERS

TRUTH: Statistically, coyotes are not a significant threat to your safety. Lightning, cows and deer pose a greater risk, but acting responsibly is always the key to safety. Follow our '7 Easy Tips'.

TRUTH: You may see a coyote in the daytime. If you see coyotes during daylight hours, don't assume they have rabies or are sick.

TRUTH: Coyotes are not a significant predator of pets and deer. While coyotes may occasionally take free roaming domestic animals and deer, diet studies show that in general, rodents, rabbits, insects, fruit, and carrion make up the bulk of their diet, depending on season and location.



SIMPLE TOOLS

Make a shaker - and shake it!

Put 40 pennies inside an empty soda can, then wrap with shiny aluminum foil, and secure with duct tape. Easy and effective hazing tool.

Carry an umbrella - and pop it!

This is a portable and easy solution. Animals don't like surprises!

Carry a whistle - and blow it!

Look around - and improvise!

Be BIG and LOUD, shout, wave your arms above your head, throw handy objects toward (not at) the coyote. Hazing is powerful and easy for all ages.



7 EASY TIPS

Keeping coyotes wild is the key to successfully coexisting with these naturally shy animals. It's easy when you know what to do.

1. Do not feed coyotes!

2. Walk pets on leash.

During spring and early summer pups are in dens and coyote parents may try to deter you and your dog.

3. Supervise small pets and children & keep cats inside.

4. Secure garbage, compost & pet foods.

Make sure can lids are tight, feed pets inside, pick up fallen fruit, and prevent bird feeders from attracting rodents.

5. "Haze" coyotes near homes & community spaces.

Use one of our great tools (this page) or just act BIG and LOUD. You are doing everyone a favor by reinforcing a fear of humans.

6. Talk to your neighbors.

See a coyote in your neighborhood? Ask your neighbors to remove attractants, haze coyotes on sight, and share this fact sheet.

7. Secure livestock.

Ranchers who use proven tools, like guard animals and secure fencing report few or no predator problems.

"Successful coexistence with coyotes requires an understanding of how coyotes survive, as well as an understanding of how humans can shape coyote behavior." - City of Aurora, CO

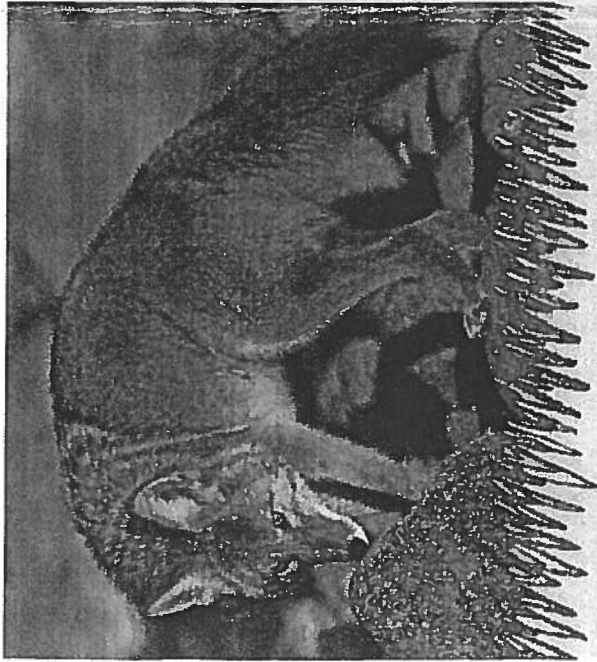


Project Coyote

Project Coyote is a coalition of wildlife biologists using the most current science for promoting educated coexistence with North America's Song Dog.

www.ProjectCoyote.org





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.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, etc.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these tips.

Please respect and protect wild animals. Keep them wild.

www.keepmewild.org

For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Game

Sacramento Headquarters, (916) 653-6420

Northern California, North Coast Region
Redding, (530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley, Central Sierra Region
Rancho Cordova, (916) 358-2900

Central Coast Region
Napa, (707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley, Southern Sierra Region
Fresno, (559) 243-4005 ext. 151

South Coast Region
San Diego, (858) 467-4201

Eastern Sierra, Inland Deserts Region
Ontario, (909) 484-0167

Alternate communication formats are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed contact the Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-6420, libernard@dfg.ca.gov or the California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.

KEEP ME WILD™

**Feeding Wildlife
is Dead Wrong.**



California Department
of Fish and Game

Wild Animals Ruined, Even Killed by People's Carelessness!

Wild animals are in trouble, and the problem is people who are 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.

If coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear. They may cause property damage. They might threaten human safety. They might be killed.

Relocating a problem coyote is not an option because it only moves the problem to someone else's neighborhood.

Help prevent deadly conflicts for these beautiful wild animals.

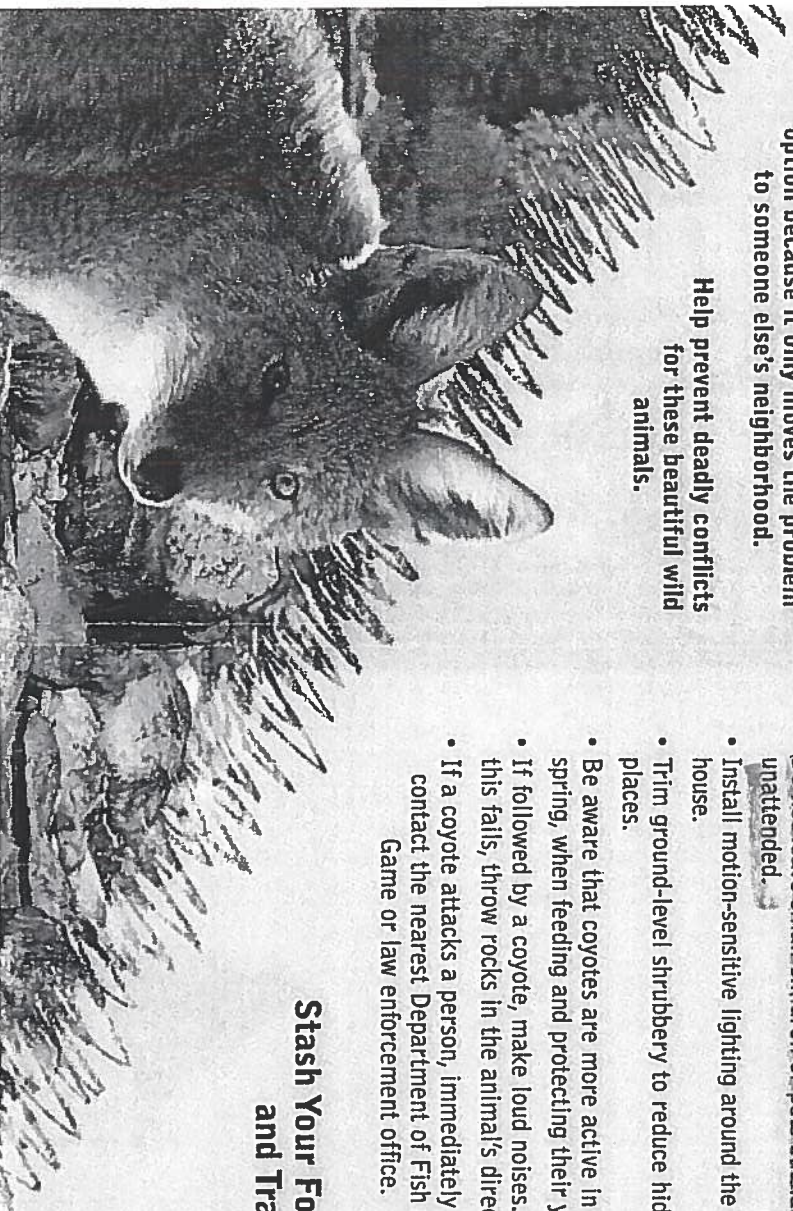
A campaign for all wild animals.



"Coyote country" precautions

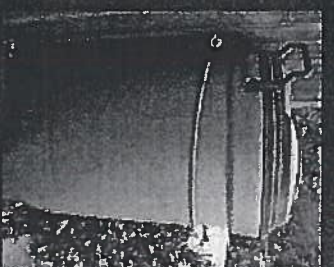
- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes. The result may be deadly conflicts with pets or livestock, or serious injuries to small children.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- 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.
- If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Game or law enforcement office.

Stash Your Food and Trash



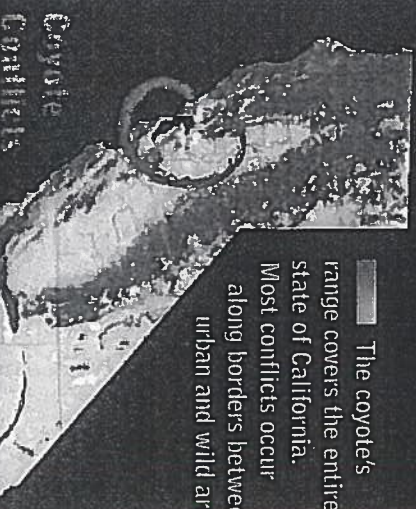
Coyote-Proof Containers

Use garbage cans that have a locking mechanism on the lid. Use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object so that it cannot be tipped over.



New Laws

Feeding coyotes is illegal in some communities. Many local ordinances make wildlife feeding punishable by fines and requirements to install wildlife-proof garbage containers.



The coyote's range covers the entire state of California. Most conflicts occur along borders between urban and wild areas.

You Can Help

Please visit www.keeptomewild.org for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other Keep Me Wild™ materials.

Coyote sightings have been more common within the City of Rosemead due to recent weather conditions and the availability of food in our neighborhoods. Although statistics show coyote attacks on humans are extremely rare, it is important for residents to learn how to take precautions with wildlife.

How to Discourage Coyotes in your Neighborhood

1. **DO NOT RUN** away from a coyote.
2. Do NOT feed coyotes.
3. Make loud noise and big movements such as yell, stomp your feet, & wave your hands.
4. Carry a whistle or small air horn during your walks.
5. Throw sticks or objects toward (but not directly at) the coyote.
6. Squirt the coyote with your garden hose.
7. Do NOT place pet food outside.
8. Keep garbage containers tightly lidded.
9. Do not allow pets to roam from your home.
10. Remove outdoor sources of water such as pet water bowls.
11. Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
12. Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
13. Share this information by teaching your family, friends, and neighbors. The more people that get involved, the more quickly you will see results.



If a coyote is posing a threat to people or pets, please report the incident immediately to the Rosemead Public Safety Center at (626) 569-2292 or (626) 285-7171 during afterhours. If you are reporting a situation that needs medical attention, call 911.

For more information, please visit these useful links:

>> http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes/tips/hazing_guidelines.html

>> <http://www.ci.la-verne.ca.us/index.php/home/bulletins/247-coyotes-and-wildlife-safety-precautions>

