

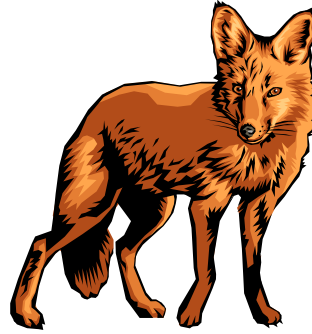
### DETERRENTS & SCARE TACTICS

- Spray a little ammonia in your trash several times a week to cut the odor of food.
- Place mothballs or mothball cakes in areas where coyotes sleep or hang out to deter them from staying.
- Carry something with you for protection such as an air horn, whistle, walking stick or cane. (This is also recommended in case you encounter loose dogs.)
- Throw balls or rocks. Bang two pans together or use a high-pressure water sprayer.
- A can containing a few coins can be shaken and even thrown at a coyote.
- If a coyote approaches you: wave your arms, shout in a low, loud voice. Throw objects at the coyote while keeping eye contact with the animal. Make yourself look as big as possible. If you are wearing a jacket, open it up like a cape.

### KEEPING COMPANION ANIMALS SAFE

Small dogs and cats can be seen as prey to the coyote. Larger dogs may be injured in a confrontation. To avoid these types of situations, please consider the following:

- **Spay and/or neuter your dogs!** Female dogs in season attract coyotes. Unaltered male dogs are attracted to female coyotes in season. Both scenarios can be disastrous to your pets.
- **Walk your dog on a leash!** If your yard does not have a fence, use a leash while on your property to keep your pet close to you. Many dogs, upon seeing a coyote, will leave the property to chase it. Do not let your pets roam from their home.
- **Fence your property or yard.** Leaving a dog chained in a yard increases their chances of becoming a victim of a coyote (or stray dog), as there is no means of escape.
- If possible, it is safest to **bring pets in at night**, especially your smaller pets. Also, do not leave pet food outside when your pet is indoors.



### Coyotes and Disease

Outbreaks of rabies are uncommon in coyotes; however, coyotes can carry distemper and mange. Talk with your veterinarian about what vaccinations your pets should have to protect them from *any disease* they are susceptible to in the area where they live.

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES**  
56460 Paseo Los Ninos  
Yucca Valley, Ca 92284  
760-365-1807 Fax 760-365-3723

### **Operating Hours:**

Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After Hours/Weekend/Holiday Emergencies  
760-365-2364 (Sheriff's Dispatch)

*ENCOUNTERS  
WITH.....*



# *COYOTES*



**Town of Yucca Valley**  
Community Development / Public Works Dept.  
**Animal Control Services**

*Wildlife Information Brochure*

**California Dept. of Fish & Game**  
Eastern Sierra Inland Deserts Region  
Habitat Conservation  
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
909-484-0167 Fax 909-481-2945



## COYOTE (CANIS LATRANS)

The California Department of Fish and Game estimates a population range of 250,00 to 750,000 coyotes throughout California. The coyote weighs an average of 18 to 40 lbs. They mate January through March with pups being born in April through June. They average about 4 to 8 young. When coyotes live in an urban area, they can die early as a result of being hit by cars, or become afflicted with diseases and parasites, such as distemper and mange.



The coyote is well known as a very clever, indigenous predator that has conformed to living in close proximity to humans. They are often seen traveling in residential areas around vacant lots, on the Town roads (both paved and unpaved), through easements, crossing the highway, running in flood channels, along horse trails and so on. Coyotes will seek and find water from a variety of sources throughout the Town. Their main diet consists of rodents, small mammals and insects. Coyotes are also great scavengers, and if given the opportunity, they will eat fruit, vegetable matter and trash. When people dispose of their leftovers somewhere outside in an area that coyotes feel reasonably safe to enter, the coyotes will quickly learn to scavenge for food in those spots instead of hunting for food on their own. Coyotes will expand their natural territories as they learn where it is safe to go and find food in residential areas. While roaming the neighborhood seeking handouts, they will not hesitate to kill cats, small dogs, chickens, ducks and other small domestic animals.

### What You Can Do

Coyotes are capable of scaling or jumping a fence upwards to 5 ½ feet high. They can be deterred by increasing the height to 6 feet and by adding an angle at the top facing outwards at 45 degrees and 16 inches wide. (Contact the Town's Planning Department for requirements for fences over 6 feet). Bury the bottom of the fence at least 12 to 18 inches underground, and line the trench with rock to prevent the coyote from digging underneath. An apron underground at the base extending an additional 18 to 24 inches out from the fence should be added as well as an extra precautionary measure (this type of fence will also deter bobcats and stray dogs from entering your yard.)

### Do's and Don'ts

The following suggestions are offered as options to discourage coyotes from coming into your yard:

- It is safest to bring pets in at night and do not leave pet food or water outside when your pet is indoors.
- During daytime hours, keep small dogs or cats indoors or secured in a covered outdoor kennel (unless you have upgraded your fencing standards as described above).
- Confine small animals and birds that you cannot keep indoors to covered enclosures constructed of heavy gauge wire. Coyotes (and dogs) can break through chicken wire.
- Remember, if you chain your dog outside, he/she is more apt to be a victim of a coyote (or a stray dog) attack as there is no escape for a chained dog. Leaving a female dog in season outdoors (chained or not) will increase the chance that coyotes or other male dogs may dig holes or damage fencing to enter your yard.
- Walk your dog on a leash at all times. If your yard does not have a fence, use a leash while on your property to keep your pet close to you. Many dogs, upon seeing a coyote, will leave the property to chase it. Do not let your pets roam from their home.

- Put all trash bags inside the trashcans and ensure lids are properly secured. Place trash bins inside sheds, garages or other enclosures. If this is not possible, use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object to prevent it from being tipped over. Ammonia sprayed on your trash also helps deter coyotes. Do not set your trash out until the day it is to be picked up.
- Do not throw food into an open compost pile.
- If you have fruit trees, remove the fallen fruit from the ground, as coyotes are very fond of ripe fruit.
- Outdoor lights triggered by motion sensors may help keep coyotes from approaching your house at night.
- Clear excess vegetation to remove secluded hiding places. Clear and trim underneath bushes.
- Do not feed or provide food for coyotes.
- Restrict feeding birds and rabbits. Coyotes are attracted to many of the small animals that come into our yards.

**DON'T LITTER!  
HELP KEEP YOUR ANIMALS  
SAFE!**

**SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS!**

