



That Wile E. Coyote, Friend or Foe?

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**Although not man's best friend,
the coyote is an essential player within
Orange County Parks' ecosystems.**

Looks Like A Lean German Shepard



Cousins?

Coyote, What, Where, How

Also known as: American Jackal, Prairie Wolf

Range: Alaska into Central America

Evolution: North America more than 1.8 million years ago

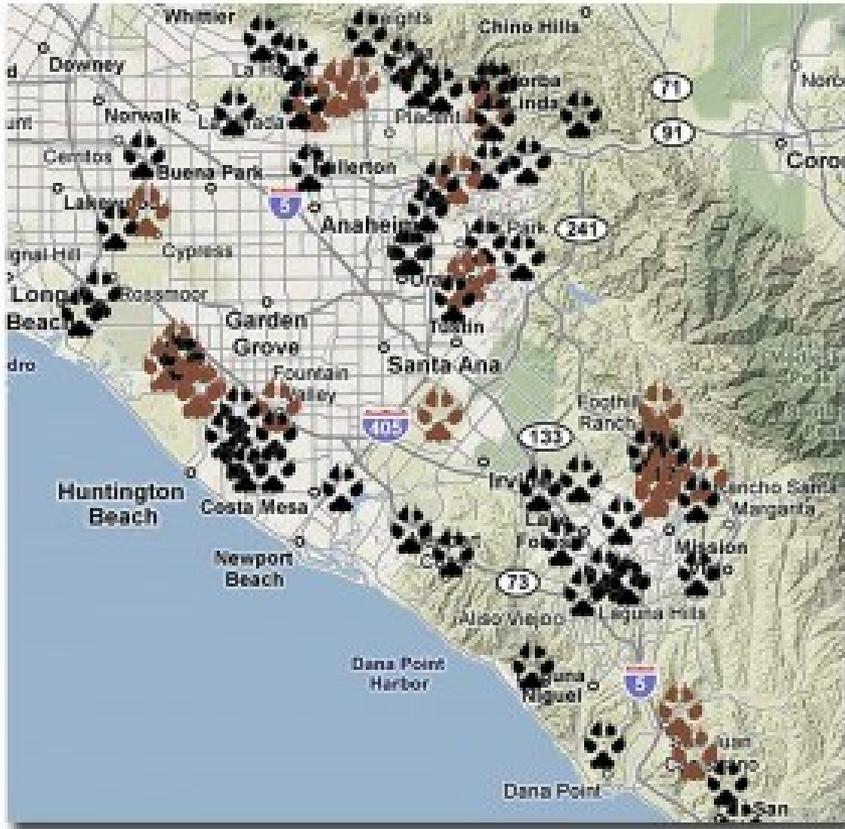
Habit: Grasslands, open woodlands scrub, prairies and chaparral

Habits: Nocturnal, alone, pairs, packs, cunning, great survival skills

Senses: Keen sense of sight, smell, hearing



Coyote Range in OC



- Within the last century, Orange County's coyote populations have increased and their range expanded, despite being trapped, shot, poisoned by the thousands.
- Commonly spotted in many urban areas throughout Orange County.

Sampling of coyote sightings in Orange County
Courtesy, Orange County Register, Nov. 9, 2009

Coyote Call

Coyotes are known for their bone-chilling howls. These vocalizations, however, are nothing more than ways to communicate, to show fear, favor, defend territory, and to strengthen bonds.



Coyotes can woof softly, growl, bark, yip and howl.

Omnivore & Nocturnal

- Mice, rabbits, ground squirrels, small rodents, insects reptiles, small dogs & cats
- Berries, fruit, vegetables, seeds and grain
- Generally nocturnal, but will venture out mid-day depending on availability of prey.



Photo, Courtesy of National Geographic

Why are Coyotes Thriving in Orange County Parks?

- Coyotes have adapted to urban encroachment, less fearful of humans and domestic dogs.
- Human's make it easy picking for Coyotes:
 - ✓ Unattended cats and small dogs
 - ✓ Garbage
 - ✓ Pet food
 - ✓ Barbecue grills



Without Coyotes, OC Parks' Ecosystems Could Collapse

- A keynote species
- Controls the numbers of meso-predators.
 - ✓ Skunks
 - ✓ Foxes
 - ✓ Raccoons
 - ✓ Feral Cats
- Controls rabbit, squirrel, rats that infest urban communities



Coyotes Have Attacked Small Children and Pets

- Griffith Park Incidents

The Orange County Register

NORTH AND CENTRAL COUNTY

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010 | Local 5

Coyotes kill four pets in Westminster, Rossmoor

By ROXANA KOPETMAN
FOR THE REGISTER

Coyotes have killed at least four pets last week in Westminster and Rossmoor, including a cat that was found on the lawn of Hopkinson Elementary School in Rossmoor, officials said.

In Westminster, a homeowner found a mauled cat

on the 6600 block of Bestel Avenue – one of 12 cats and eight dogs killed by coyotes in the last six months in that city, police reported Tuesday.

In recent months, the number of coyote sightings has increased slightly, according to Van Woodson, Westminster's police spokesman. But the numbers are not necessarily un-

usual, as the city is surrounded by the Bolsa Chica Wildlife Preserve and the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, he said.

In Rossmoor, a custodian at Hopkinson Elementary found a dismembered cat on campus before children showed up to school Monday. The same day, a resident on Copa de Oro Drive in Rossmoor found a dog's

paw and other body parts on her front lawn, said Rebecca Lara, a Rossmoor homeowner who earlier this year helped form a committee to warn fellow residents about the coyotes and to track their behavior.

Over the weekend, there were two other coyote-related incidents close to Hopkinson Elementary, Lara reported. On Sunday, a

homeowner on Salmon Drive walked into his backyard and found two coyotes trying to corner his 80 lb. retriever, which was saved by the homeowner, Lara said. On Saturday, a resident on Argyle Drive went to pick up his morning newspaper, saw a coyote run off and then found the remains of a cat on his front lawn, she said.

Since May, the residents' group, the Rossmoor Predator Management Team, has received reports of 28 pet killings and 13 pet attacks, Lara said Tuesday.

Henry Taboada, general manager of the Rossmoor Community Services District, said the problem with coyotes is a daily occurrence and the community's "highest priority."

Remember



Coyotes are an essential player within Orange County Parks' ecosystems.



Without Coyotes, the Orange County's Parks' ecosystems could collapse.



Coyotes are opportunistic predators, thriving in urban areas.



To discourage coyote visits.



Appreciate them from a distance.



Photo, Courtesy Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game

So, Friend or Foe?



Questions

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Information & Resources

1. **National Geographic**
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/coyote/>
2. **Keep Me Wild: California Department of Fish & Game**
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/coyote.html>
3. **Desert USA**
http://www.desertusa.com/june96/du_cycot.html
4. **County of Los Angeles**
<http://acwm.lacounty.gov/scripts/coyo.htm>
5. **Animal Advocates**
<http://www.animaladvocates.us/coyote.htm>

The End

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