



Tips for Discouraging Coyote Visits

Following are some tips for discouraging coyotes from becoming a nuisance in urban and suburban areas.

Photo Courtesy California Department of Fish and Game



1. Do not feed coyotes (or other wild animals). When coyotes begin associating humans with food, they lose their natural fear and may become dangerous.
2. Eliminate water sources that attract rodents, birds, and snakes that the coyote feeds upon.
3. Make bird feeders inaccessible to coyotes as a food source. Rodents and birds attracted by bird feeders will also attract coyotes looking for easy prey.
4. Limit disposal of edible garbage in compost piles or other outside areas. Coyotes are opportunistic and will be attracted to such food sources.
5. Secure trash containers, or use trashcans with lids that clamp down tight or use bungee cords to secure garbage cans. Keep containers inside a closed garage or shed.

6. Place trash cans out on pickup day. Putting them out the night before allows coyotes to scavenge under cover of darkness.
7. Do not leave barbecue grills outside and uncovered. Food smells from the grill will attract coyotes. All grills should be covered and put away as soon after use as possible.
8. Feed pets indoors whenever possible. Pet food left out quickly attracts coyotes and other wild animals to this easily available food source.
9. Clear brush and high weeds from around your property. These areas provide cover for coyote prey such as small mammals and birds.
10. Install a fence around your yard to deter coyotes. The fence should be a minimum of 6-feet high and should extend into the ground a minimum of 6 inches to prevent coyotes from digging under it.
11. Do not leave small children alone outside in areas where coyotes are known to roam.
12. Do not allow pets to run free, especially at night. Coyotes may prey upon small pets like rabbits, cats, and small dogs as they are similar to prey items encountered in the wild.
13. Discourage coyotes from frequenting your area whenever possible. Harassment, including rock throwing, shouting, and making loud noises, can be effective when they are seen. Caution should be taken, however, in close confrontations, especially when the coyote shows aggression toward either you or your pet.¹

¹ <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/coyotes.pdf>