

Are Coyotes Dangerous?

Although coyotes are usually timid, they are also naturally curious. In urban settings, coyotes have become used to living around people. They may approach people, their yards, or even take small pets while searching for food. To prevent this from happening it is important to:

- **NEVER** intentionally feed coyotes. In fact, it is illegal in the State of California.
- Avoid unintentionally feeding coyotes by removing food and water sources from areas surrounding your home.
- Teach children not to approach coyotes or any other wild animal.
- Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning, feeding or hiding their pups. Female coyotes will become extremely aggressive if their pups are in danger.

The Irvine Police Animal Services Unit tracks coyote activity. To report sightings, please call 949-724-7092.

Not sure if it is a coyote? Check for a full drooping tail.



COYOTE



BOBCAT



MOUNTAIN
LION

Additional Resources About Coyotes

www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes
www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/coyote.html

Want to Learn More?

Please visit our website, friend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check out our videos on YouTube. If you have questions about our Department or any of our programs, contact the Business Desk at 949-724-7000 during regular business hours.



IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**AccessIrvine
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Coyote Quick Facts

**An informational brochure about
coyotes in our community**



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For more information about coyotes and other wildlife, call the Irvine Police Animal Services Unit at 949-724-7092, or visit the Animal Services page of irvinepd.org and click on the brochure.



Physical Traits

The coyote is a member of the canine family and is often mistaken for a wild dog or a small wolf. They range from 15-46 pounds and stand 23-26 inches tall. Their upper coat is gray-brown or yellow-gray with white along the throat and belly. Often they will have a dark cross-like marking on their shoulders. Their tail is full and droops downward, below the line of their back, when running.

Behaviors

Extremely keen and clever, the coyote adapts easily to changing environments and ecosystems. Even as humans have moved into their habitat, coyotes are not displaced. They are often seen in golf courses, parks, neighborhoods and shopping centers. Although coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise, they can be observed at all hours of the day.

Coyotes usually find their mates between January and March. The average litter is six pups, born usually between May and July.



What Do Coyotes Eat?



Coyotes will eat virtually anything. By nature they are predatory animals, known for hunting rabbits, rodents, fish, frogs, and even deer. However, they are also known for dining on insects, snakes, fruit, grass and birds. Because of their increasing tolerance for human activities, garbage, pet food and small pets have also become food sources to coyotes.

What Do I Do If A Coyote Approaches?

Remember, although coyotes have adjusted to human activity, they are still generally timid animals. You can dissuade a coyote from approaching with aggressive gestures. Simply put,

LOOK BIG and BE LOUD

If confronted by a coyote, energetically flap or wave your arms, stomp your feet, shout in a low tone, throw rocks, sticks or other objects toward (but not at) the coyote. Continue these gestures until the coyote is at a comfortable distance.

Warning: NEVER use this technique if the animal is sick or injured or if you believe there are pups nearby. The coyote may be taking a defensive stance and could become aggressive. Contact Animal Services for assistance.

How Do I Keep Coyotes Off My Property?

To discourage coyotes from feeling comfortable around you and your family, consistently follow these easy steps:

- Do not feed coyotes
- Keep your property well lit
- Take your trash out the morning of pick-up
- Store trash in heavy duty containers with secure lids
- Keep yards free from potential shelter such as thick brush, wood piles or excess debris
- Eliminate potential food and water sources such as fallen fruit, standing water, and pet food



How Do I Protect My Family and Pets?

- If confronted by a coyote, pick up small pets and use aggressive gestures to discourage the coyote
- Keep small children under close supervision
- Keep cats and small dogs indoors or under adult supervision - especially after dark
- Use fenced-off animal runs and fully enclosed kennels for outdoor pets
- Always use a maximum 6-foot leash to walk pets

