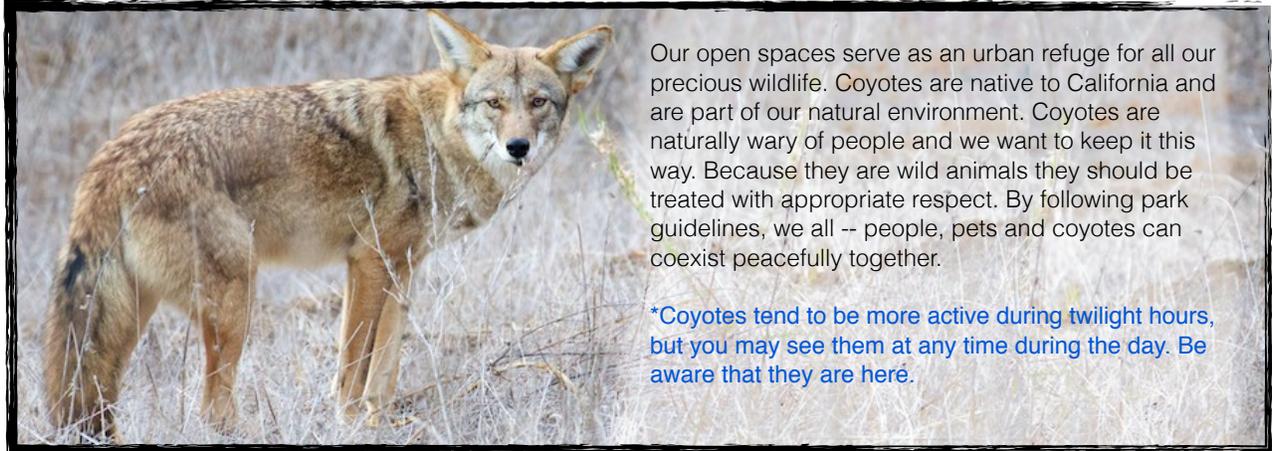


COYOTE ADVISORY

SIMPLE GUIDELINES FOR COEXISTENCE

These guidelines function to protect people, pets and wildlife:



Our open spaces serve as an urban refuge for all our precious wildlife. Coyotes are native to California and are part of our natural environment. Coyotes are naturally wary of people and we want to keep it this way. Because they are wild animals they should be treated with appropriate respect. By following park guidelines, we all -- people, pets and coyotes can coexist peacefully together.

**Coyotes tend to be more active during twilight hours, but you may see them at any time during the day. Be aware that they are here.*

Summary Guidelines for Individuals:

- *Keep your distance, coyotes will naturally keep theirs from people -- you are bigger and smarter than them,
- *Never feed a coyote, even unintentionally: food left out will be seen as an invitation to visit,
- *Small children should be supervised -- but you would do this anyway, no small child ever should be left unattended...

Summary Guidelines for Pets:

- *Protect your small pets: don't allow them to roam free and don't leave them unsupervised. All dogs should be restrained in a coyote area,
- *Always keep your distance from coyotes, especially if you have a dog -- the further the better, but at least 100 feet. Neither adults nor children should approach or feed wildlife of any kind,
- *If you see a coyote while walking your dog, best to walk away from the coyote, and pick up your small dog,
- *If you can't be there to supervise pets, build a coyote-proof fence,
- *Avoid coyote areas with your dog during pupping season from March - September.

Shooing Off A Coyote



Note: In almost all instances, coyotes will simply flee if they see you or your dog approaching them. Coyote incidents statistically are not common, but they have occurred and you should be prepared "just in case."

* In most cases -- unless a coyote approaches your dog -- you don't need to put a lot of effort or fierceness into shooing off a coyote. Shooing Off A Coyote -- coyote not approaching your dog.

Simply approaching while gazing directly in its eyes will make him move.

To hurry things up, add action: wave or toss a pebble towards the coyote

To hurry things up, add noise: clap or slap a newspaper on your thigh -- loudly; yell: "git outa here"

*There is one extremely important caveat here: Coyotes MUST defend their young. If a coyote stands its ground, it is almost assuredly because there are young around. It's best to move on rather than press the issue.

* A coyote approaching your dog needs to be shooed off fiercely: Throw a really-loud tantrum, and be aggressive: remember the acronym NAAG, Noise-Action-Approach-Gaze.

Pets

Pet issues fall into two categories: 1) Those involving coyote territoriality issues, 2) those involving small pets as prey. *Risks are minimal, *Precautions are easy, * Know how to shoo off a coyote from your pet

Precautions for small pets:

- *Don't let pets roam free.
 - *Supervise all pets out of doors.
 - *Restrain pets in a coyote area.
 - * Pick up small pets if you see a coyote.
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Territoriality

- *Coyotes instinctively protect their immediate family areas from ALL canine species.
 - *For example foxes, weighing only 13 pounds, are competitors for the same resources. They are also a threat to coyote pups. Coyotes drive them out of their areas, as they do intruder coyotes.
 - *By the same token, all dogs, no matter what their size, are seen as competitors for the same resources and as potential threats.
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What to do about Territorial Behavior?

- *Prevention in the first place is needed. Leashing and keeping your distance will prevent the opportunity for conflict to occur.
 - *If you are walking your dog and see a coyote, move on and away from the coyote.
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Prevent your dog from chasing coyotes:

- *almost all unleashed dogs chase coyotes.
 - *Once a dog has begun to chase, it may be difficult to call him back.
 - *An alpha coyote may chase back, and message the dog with a nip. ~~Coyotes remember who chased them.~~
 - *A small dog could be killed.
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Territorial Behavior: Following

- *A coyote may follow a dog out of curiosity or to monitor it, the same way you might follow a "suspect" prowling through your neighborhood, to find out where it is going and what it is doing.
 - *Just keep walking away from the coyote -- with your eye on it, and don't run. Running invites chasing.
 - *Shoo it off effectively if it gets too close, and move on. It's a good idea to leash your dog and pick up a small dog.
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A coyote could approach a dog over territoriality:

- If a coyote ends up approaching a dog, it will do so with a series of charges and retreats, and possibly -- ultimately -- with a nip to the haunches, tail or inner thigh. These are messages with unequivocal meaning.
- *You'll need to interfere with intense shooing off at this point, then leash your dog and quickly leave the area.

For an informative VIDEO presentation on "coyotes As Neighbors", click on the video at the top of the page on CoyoteCoexistence.com. This video is also available in Spanish and English.