

Co-Existing with our Wild Neighbors



Project Wildlife



- Started in 1972 by members of the public concerned about wildlife
- We care for sick, orphaned, injured, and displaced wildlife
- One of the largest wildlife rehabilitation centers in the United States, averaging 8,000-10,000 patients per year, with a 40% release rate. Currently we have taken in over 11,000 patients
- Why are we getting so many animals? Window strikes, pollution, hit by cars, cat/dog caught, entanglement, poisoned, trapped, tree cutting, baby-napped, orphaned, human impacts.

Bio-Diversity- Isn't it Great?

- San Diego is considered one of the top ten most bio-diverse cities in the world
- Different ecosystems: ocean, desert, mountains, coastal sage scrub, chaparral
- Provides wildlife with many options, over 320 different species of birds and mammals alone!



Why is Co-Existing So Important?



- Wildlife needs our voice more than ever right now
- Every animal has a job; we must let them do their jobs
- The more we encroach into their territories, the more they adapt to us. We must learn to adapt with them
- [PW video](#)



Skunks



- 70% of their diet consists of insects considered dangerous to humans, including **black widows and scorpions**
- Also eat rodents, lizards, frogs, bird eggs, beetles, larvae and earthworms
- Rarely attack unless cornered or defending young
- They give warning signs: fluffed fur, stomping feet, waving tail, stand on hind legs and spit
- Not uncommon to make friends with domestic cats, dining peacefully together
- Skin or dog contact; 1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide, ¼ cup baking soda, 1 tsp dish soap (rinse and repeat); burn or throw clothes away
- Apple cider vinegar is your best friend, too strong of a smell for them

Coyotes

- Members of the dog family; curious, adaptable and learn quickly
- Scientific name: *Canis latrans* means “barking dog”
- May live as solitary individuals, in pairs or small family unit. Often mate for life, devoted parents and are highly communicative, 4-8 pups born in April/May, high pup mortality rate.
- Generally reproduce once per year, reproduction limited to groups leaders, while other females remain behaviorally sterile. Juveniles disperse in late fall; some remain with their parents and form the basis of the pack
- Eat a variety of food; rodents, rabbits, insects, lizards, snakes, vegetables and fruit, unsecured garbage, pet food, carrion, smaller pets if left unprotected. Coyotes do not hunt in packs but work together to defend their territory from other coyote family groups. Other coyotes (transient coyotes) live alone or as an isolated mated pair.

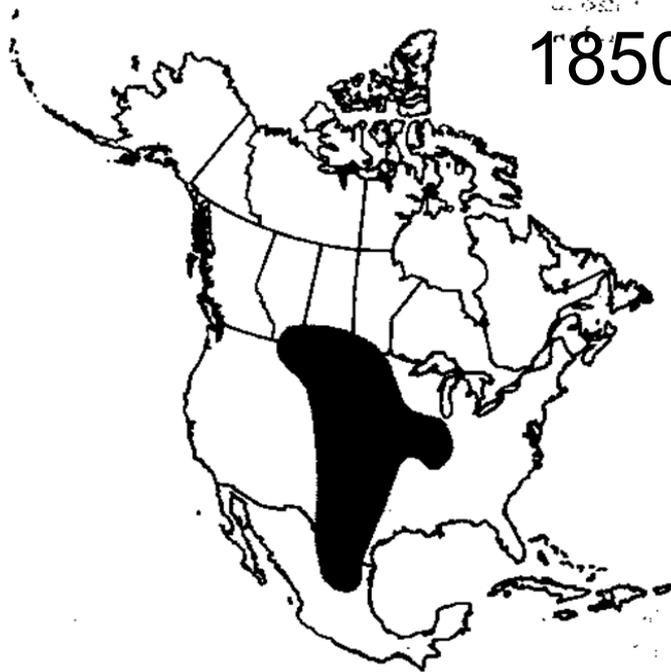


Why are they here?

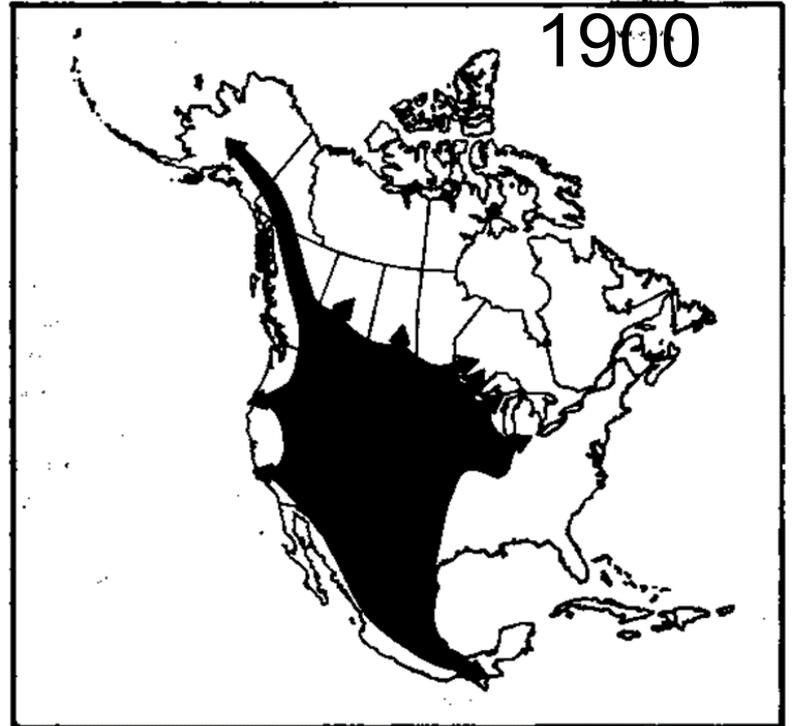
Expanded their range threefold since the 1850s, largely in response to human changes to the environment and the eradication of wolves.

Our government put a bounty on wolves, mountain lions and other large predators, taking away their competition. Then as we expanded our territory, they followed suit, resources. Highly adaptable animals are able to take up residence in the most unlikely places. Due to their intelligence and adaptability, in addition to extensive urbanization and the subsequent decline of larger predators, coyotes have successfully expanded their range across N. America. They live in every state, except Hawaii, and have become well established in nearly every ecosystem. Coyotes have been interacting with and adapting to people for at least the last 100 years.

1850



1900



Coyote Habits

- **Generally hunt by day and night**, whenever resources are available. They are naturally most active at dawn and dusk, but often shift to more nocturnal activity in urban and suburban areas in effort to avoid people.
- **Communicate by vocalizing, scent marking and through a variety of body displays.** It is common to hear them howling and yipping at night, or even during the day in response to sirens and other loud noises.
- **Common to mistake a few coyotes communicating with each other for a large group.** With approximately a dozen different vocalizations, it is common to mistake a few coyotes communicating with each other for a large group. Pups could be learning to howl, they make calls when they re-unite, defend territory, and many different reasons for vocalizations. Small groups of 2-3 coyotes can distort their voices and sound like a group of 20.

<https://urbancoyoteinitiative.com/translating-the-song-dog-what-coyotes-are-saying-when-they-howl/>

- **Coyotes are fast and agile.** They can run at speeds of up to 40 mph and jump 6 feet
- **Coyotes are also highly intelligent and social animals.** Coyotes are also highly intelligent and social animals; they learn quickly and are devoted parents. Breeding season occurs from Jan-March and pupping season is April-August. Litter sizes depend on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area. Average litter size is 4 to 7 pups. Pups need their mothers to teach them the ropes, staying with their mothers for about a year. You want mother's to teach their kids to stay away from humans.



Encounters with Coyotes

- Coyotes are usually wary of people and will avoid us whenever possible.
- **Bold behavior is unusual and is most often a result of habituation** due to intentional or unintentional feeding, the presence of a dog, or the coyote defending a den and young.
- **The abundance of resources can lead to conflicts.** The abundance of food, water and shelter offered by urban landscapes- coupled with unsecured garbage, unfenced gardens and unattended domestic pets- can lead to conflicts. Any animal that gets too habituated to humans could lead to possible euthanasia.
- **Documented cases of coyotes injuring people are very rare and most often related to people feeding them, intentionally and unintentionally.** More people are killed by errant golf balls and flying champagne corks each year than are bitten by coyotes. Solutions for coyote conflicts must address both problematic coyote behaviors (such as aggression towards people and attack on pets) and the problematic human behaviors (intentional or unintentionally feeding coyotes and letting pets outside unattended) that contribute to conflicts



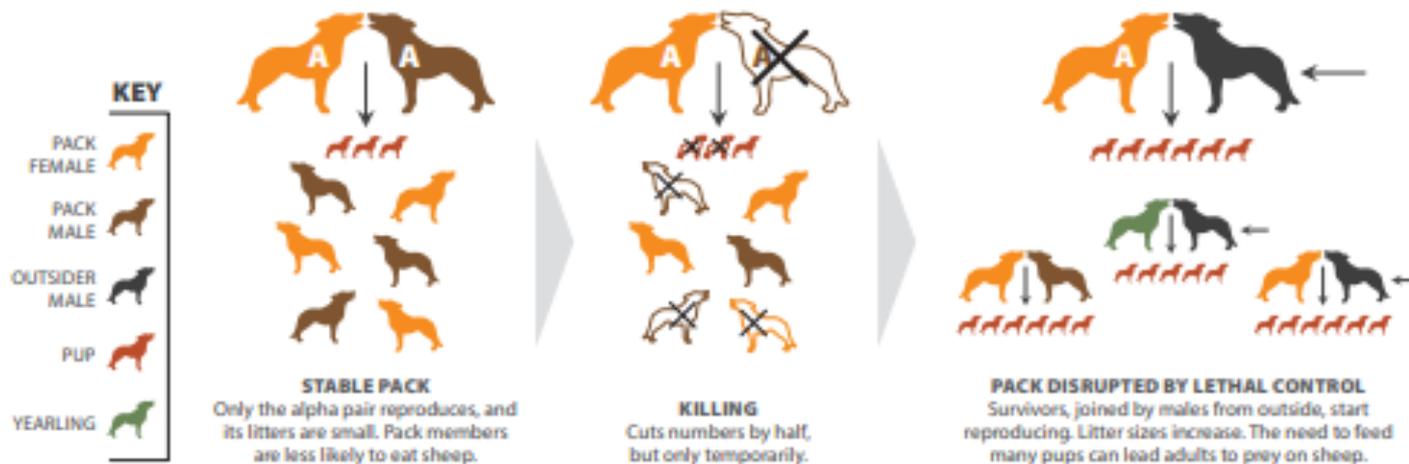
Coyote Control Methods

- Relocating animals is not allowed in the state of CA, trapped animals either get released or euthanized. ***Removing an animal from its home posts a VACANCY sign in that area and another one will move in.***
- Despite decades of poisoning, trapping and shooting of coyotes, there are more coyotes in North American now than ever before. Over 500,000 are killed every year.
- Lethal control can disrupt the group hierarchy allowing more coyotes to reproduce, encouraging larger litter sizes because of decreased competition for food and habitat, and increasing pup survival rates. Each area has a carrying capacity, mother nature won't allow for populations to grow out of control. Sizes of litters and groups all depends on the land and if there are enough resources to hold them. If young mothers have pups too early, they may not be the best suited for raising them. We want mothers who fear humans to raise kids



Why **KILLING** Doesn't Work

Shoot or poison coyotes and you will have just as many again within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring sooner, and litter sizes will grow.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

humanesociety.org

Ways to Co-exist

- NEVER approach an animal or its young!
- Wildlife will generally leave you alone
- Do NOT feed wild animals
- Be aware of breeding season
- Allow mothers and babies time to raise their young
- Give them a chance to get away before letting pets out
- If a coyote frequents your yard, make loud noises with pots, pans or air horns. Haze the coyote with a water hose
- Clear away brush and dense weeds near buildings
- If a coyote frequents your yard, make loud noises with pots, pans or air horns. Haze the coyote with a water hose.
- Remove bird seed feeders too.
- There are several tools for repelling coyotes that you can carry with you while walking your dog.
- Of course, remember that you should always walk your dog on a leash.
- If you see a coyote, either pick up your dog (if possible) or place him or her behind you before hazing the coyote.
- Then: Blow a whistle or air horn at the coyote.
- Squirt a squirt gun at the coyote.
- Yell and wave your arms.
- Use a homemade noisemaker, such as pennies in a sippy cup or soda can (sealed with duct tape).
- Pick up sticks or rocks and throw them towards the coyote.



Safe Deterrents for Wildlife



- Make sure fences are secure
- Seal and secure containers/trash cans
- Seal up any openings to structures
- Vinegar stations around perimeter, capsaicin (non-toxic irritant) sprinkle around plants, trash cans
- Keep compost in secure containers
- Eliminate accessible water sources
- Motion activated lights/radios/sprinklers
- Remove trash, debris, fallen fruit, birdseed off the ground
- Make sure fences are secure with no loose spots or holes
- Sealed and secure containers/trash cans- take trash out in the morning.
- Seal up any openings to structures – if certain a den has been abandoned by a mother and her young and none remain, seal off the entrance
- Vinegar stations around perimeter, capsaicin (non-toxic irritant) sprinkle around plants, trash cans



Co-existing is Key

Coyotes may view cats and small dogs as potential prey and larger dogs as competition.

- **Don't let domestic animals roam unattended.** Although free roaming pets are more likely to be injured by an automobile than from a wild animal, coyotes may view cats and small dogs as potential prey and larger dogs as competition. Spike collars for your dog as well. Also, spay and neuter your pets. Don't let domestic animals roam unattended, keep them indoors and protected at night. Look into cat-ios!
- **Fence your property, CoyoteRoller.com.** Fence your property. At least 6-8 feet tall with the bottom extending at least 6 inches below the ground. Fences are more effective by using wire mesh, outwardly inverting the top of the fence, by using electric fencing along the top and bottom
- **Hazing.** **Never** run away from a coyote! The coyote may not leave at first, but if you approach them closer and/or increase the intensity of your hazing, they will run away. If the coyote runs away a short distance and then stops and looks at you, continue hazing until he leaves the area entirely. After you have successfully hazed a coyote, they may return. Continue to haze the coyote as you did before; it usually takes only one or two times to haze a coyote away for good. Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical because the coyotes can become desensitized to the continued use of just one technique, sound or action. Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote. Making loud noises with whistles, air horns, soda cans filled with pennies, pots and pans. Even use you're the alarm on your phone or strobe light. Throwing projectiles like sticks, small rocks, tennis balls in the directions of the coyote. Squirtng water from a hose, water gun or spray bottle (vinegar water)



Share this information with your neighbors! Co-existing is a neighborhood effort!

Humane Society of the United States, HSUS, is another great resource for coyote information

Whoooo has questions?

