

# Coyotes

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# General trends

In CA, increasing reports of coyotes in urban areas

Can adapt to living in human-modified environments and thrive in residential communities

# Coyote biology

Solitary or in packs

Territory size varies based on resource availability and sex

Lifespan: up to 8-10 years in the wild

In the Bay Area, natural enemies are  
mountain lions and people



# Coyote biology

The ultimate opportunistic omnivore

Primarily small rodents and mammals

Also: vegetation, fruits, nuts, berries, insects, eggs, birds, amphibians, reptiles, carrion, deer, pets

Feral cat colonies



# Coyote biology

## Urban behavior

Generally shy around humans but in some areas have lost or are losing their fear of humans

When begin associating humans with food, may start acting aggressive

While it is tragic to lose a pet, a coyote attacking an outdoor cat or a small dog off leash on its own is normal behavior--the coyote views the cat or dog as a prey item. Protect your pets by keeping cats indoors and dogs on a short leash

# Coyote biology

Coyotes can jump up to 5-6 feet and can climb fences as tall as 10 feet

# Coyote Reproduction

Breed once per year (Jan-March)

In California, typically have one or two dens

Excavate den but will use culverts, hollow logs, rock piles, etc.

Gestation ~ 60 days

Litter size avg 4 - 6

Pups born March-May

**Coyotes may defend their den area from perceived threats**

# When the public doesn't want their neighborhood coyote

It is illegal to capture and relocate wildlife in CA

Why can't we move wildlife?

Moving animals only moves the problem

May spread disease

May cause Territorial disputes

Unknown area, food sources, shelter



# If you remove one coyote.....

A new one will move in

Coyotes are notoriously hard to trap

Eliminating all coyotes is not an appropriate nor effective management goal

Coyotes are native predators to CA that provide ecosystem benefits

Practically speaking, nearly impossible to truly eradicate coyotes from an area

There is no “right” number of coyotes

The number of coyotes living in an area is determined by the amount of resources available

Rather than absolute number, the types of human-coyote interactions is key

We want to alter coyote *behavior*

Coyotes are wild canids and understand dominance and territorial displays

# Coyote attacks are rare

~ 4.5 million people are attacked or bitten by domestic dogs in the US each year

In comparison, between 1970-2015, 367 attacks by coyotes in all of North America

Most bites are reported in southern California, but can occur elsewhere (in 2021, one coyote bit 4 people in the east bay)

Coyote aggression often tied to denning season or consuming human food

# What can we do?

A lot!



Remove attractants (**compost, bird seed**, trash, fallen fruit, pet food)

Do NOT feed wildlife

Remove ground-level shrubbery coyotes can hide in

Carry Air horn, can with pebbles/coins, umbrella, stick when walking dog

Walk with a buddy

If in backyard, spray with hose, yell, throw rocks

Always keep dogs on leash

**DO NOT RUN AWAY**

If a person is attacked, immediately contact CDFW or call 9-1-1

Questions?  
Want more info?  
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