

WILDLIFE

We are privileged to live in such a beautiful place where wildlife can be viewed daily. For the health of the animals and our neighborhoods, we must keep them wild. Here are some key pointers to keep you and your pets safe from coyotes:

- Please report any gopher and squirrel activity around your homes as they attract coyotes.
- Never feed the wildlife or coyotes, as it is illegal in most places. Feeding lures coyotes into neighborhoods.
- Make sure attractants such as fallen fruit, pet food left outside, dirty barbeque grills and unsecured trash are removed.
- Keep cats and dogs indoors or in completely enclosed runs, especially at night. Do not assume that a fence will keep a coyote out of your backyard.
- Accompany your pet leashed when going outside. The Division of Wildlife recommends a leash no longer than 6 feet, which is also required by the San Clemente Municipal Code, 6.08.030.
- Keep noisemakers such as whistles, horns and shakers close by to scare away any coyotes. Motion activated sprinklers will also deter any wildlife from entering your yard.
- Do not run away or turn your back on a coyote. Try to make yourself look larger if you have a close encounter with a coyote.
- Do not allow a coyote to get in-between you and your pet or child. Keep your children close to you.
- Note where and when you have an encounter with a coyote. Coyotes often follow routines. Try avoiding this area in the future if this encounter was negative. Coyotes can be found in any open space, parks, neighborhoods and even commercial areas.

Although Coyotes are thought of a nuisance, they play a vital role in our ecosystem by keeping the rodent populations under control. For more information please visit the following websites:

www.dfg.ca.gov | www.keepmewild.org | www.humanesociety.org/resources/coyote-hazing