

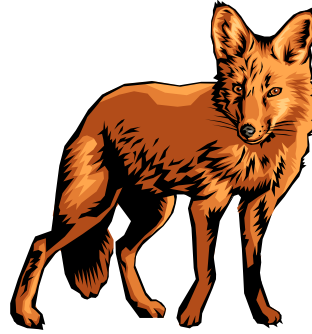
DETERRENTS & SCARE TACTICS

- Spray a little ammonia in your trash several times a week to cut the odor of food.
- Place mothballs or mothball cakes in areas where coyotes sleep or hang out to deter them from staying.
- Carry something with you for protection such as an air horn, whistle, walking stick or cane. (This is also recommended in case you encounter loose dogs.)
- Throw balls or rocks. Bang two pans together or use a high-pressure water sprayer.
- A can containing a few coins can be shaken and even thrown at a coyote.
- If a coyote approaches you: wave your arms, shout in a low, loud voice. Throw objects at the coyote while keeping eye contact with the animal. Make yourself look as big as possible. If you are wearing a jacket, open it up like a cape.

KEEPING COMPANION ANIMALS SAFE

Small dogs and cats can be seen as prey to the coyote. Larger dogs may be injured in a confrontation. To avoid these types of situations, please consider the following:

- **Spay and/or neuter your dogs!** Female dogs in season attract coyotes. Unaltered male dogs are attracted to female coyotes in season. Both scenarios can be disastrous to your pets.
- **Walk your dog on a leash!** If your yard does not have a fence, use a leash while on your property to keep your pet close to you. Many dogs, upon seeing a coyote, will leave the property to chase it. Do not let your pets roam from their home.
- **Fence your property or yard.** Leaving a dog chained in a yard increases their chances of becoming a victim of a coyote (or stray dog), as there is no means of escape.
- If possible, it is safest to **bring pets in at night**, especially your smaller pets. Also, do not leave pet food outside when your pet is indoors.



Coyotes and Disease

Outbreaks of rabies are uncommon in coyotes; however, coyotes can carry distemper and mange. Talk with your veterinarian about what vaccinations your pets should have to protect them from *any disease* they are susceptible to in the area where they live.

TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

57090 29 Palms Hwy.
Yucca Valley, Ca 92284
760-369-7207 Fax 760-369-0626

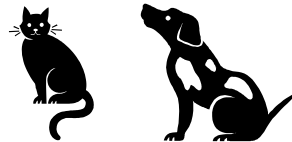
Operating Hours:

Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After Hours/Weekend/Holiday Emergencies
760-365-2364 (Sheriff's Dispatch)

**DON'T LITTER!
HELP KEEP YOUR ANIMALS SAFE!**

SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS!



*ENCOUNTERS
WITH.....*



COYOTES



Town of Yucca Valley

Community Development / Public Works Dept.

Animal Control Services

Wildlife Information Brochure

California Dept. of Fish & Game

Eastern Sierra Inland Deserts Region

Habitat Conservation

3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220

Ontario, CA 91764

909-484-0459 Fax 909-481-2495

Fish & Game Warden for Yucca Valley

951-769-3023



COYOTE (CANIS LATRANS)

The California Department of Fish and Game estimates a population range of 250,00 to 750,000 coyotes throughout California. The coyote weighs an average of 18 to 40 lbs. They mate January through March with pups being born in April through June. They average about 4 to 8 young. When coyotes live in an urban area, they can die early as a result of being hit by cars, or become afflicted with diseases and parasites, such as distemper and mange.



The coyote is well known as a very clever, indigenous predator that has conformed to living in close proximity to humans. They are often seen traveling in residential areas around vacant lots, on the Town Roads (both paved and unpaved), through easements, crossing the highway, running in flood channels, along horse trails and so on. Coyotes will seek and find water from a variety of sources throughout the Town. Their main diet consists of rodents, small mammals and insects. Coyotes are also great scavengers, and if given the opportunity, they will eat fruit, vegetable matter and trash. When people dispose of their leftovers somewhere outside in an area that coyotes feel reasonably safe to enter, the coyotes will quickly learn to scavenge for food in those spots instead of hunting for food on their own. Coyotes will expand their natural territories as they learn where it is safe to go and find food in residential areas. While roaming the neighborhood seeking handouts, they will not hesitate to kill cats, small dogs, chickens, ducks and other small domestic animals.

What You Can Do

Coyotes are capable of scaling or jumping a fence upwards to 5 ½ feet high. They can be deterred by increasing the height to 6 feet and by adding an angle at the top facing outwards at 45 degrees and 16 inches wide. (Contact the Town's Planning Department for requirements for fences over 6 feet). Bury the bottom of the fence at least 12 to 18 inches underground, and line the trench with rock to prevent the coyote from digging underneath. An apron underground at the base extending an additional 18 to 24 inches out from the fence should be added as well as an extra precautionary measure (this type of fence will also deter bobcats and stray dogs from entering your yard.)

Do's and Don'ts

The following suggestions are offered as options to discourage coyotes from coming into your yard:

- It is safest to bring pets in at night and do not leave pet food or water outside when your pet is indoors.
- During daytime hours, keep small dogs or cats indoors or secured in a covered outdoor kennel (unless you have upgraded your fencing standards as described above).
- Confine small animals and birds that you cannot keep indoors to covered enclosures constructed of heavy gauge wire. Coyotes (and dogs) can break through chicken wire.
- Remember, if you chain your dog outside, he/she is more apt to be a victim of a coyote (or a stray dog) attack as there is no escape for a chained dog. Leaving a female dog in season outdoors (chained or not) will increase the chance that coyotes or other male dogs may dig holes or damage fencing to enter your yard.
- Walk your dog on a leash at all times. If your yard does not have a fence, use a leash while on your property to keep your pet close to you. Many dogs, upon seeing a coyote, will leave the property to chase it. Do not let your pets roam from their home.

- Put all trash bags inside the trashcans and ensure lids are properly secured. Place trash bins inside sheds, garages or other enclosures. If this is not possible, use a rope or elastic cord to secure the can to a fence or other solid object to prevent it from being tipped over. Ammonia sprayed on your trash also helps deter coyotes. Do not set your trash out until the day it is to be picked up.
- Do not throw food into an open compost pile.
- If you have fruit trees, remove the fallen fruit from the ground, as coyotes are very fond of ripe fruit.
- Outdoor lights triggered by motion sensors may help keep coyotes from approaching your house at night.
- Clear excess vegetation to remove secluded hiding places. Clear and trim underneath bushes.
- Do not feed or provide food for coyotes.
- Restrict feeding birds and rabbits. Coyotes are attracted to many of the small animals that come into our yards.

Other Deterrents and Scare Tactics

- You may carry something with you for protection such as an air horn, whistle, walking stick or cane. (This is also recommended in case you encounter loose dogs.)
- Throw balls or rocks. Bang two pans together or use a high-pressure water sprayer.
- A can containing a few coins can be shaken and even thrown at a coyote.
- If a coyote approaches you: wave your arms, shout in a low, loud voice. Throw objects at the coyote while keeping eye contact with the animal. Make yourself look as big as possible. If you are wearing a jacket, open it up like a cape.

Rattlesnakes

CO-EXISTING WITH THE RATTLESNAKE

Spring and summer are rattlesnake season, particularly if you live in areas where there is a large amount of brush nearby. But the danger is minimal if you understand (1) how to keep rattlesnakes out of your yard, and (2) what to do if you do encounter one.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A RATTLER, AND WHAT TO EXPECT

Rattlesnakes are easily identifiable by their broad, triangular heads, narrow necks, relatively heavy bodies and rattle on the tail, or blunt tails if the rattles are missing. Baby rattlers can be as dangerous as adults. Rattlesnakes should not be confused with harmless gopher snakes, which are beneficial to humans as vermin catchers. (Both have blotch-like markings down the back.) Rattlesnakes will purposely attack only those animals smaller than themselves, such as rodents, unless they are frightened by noise, vibrations or certain odors. They are terrified by humans (mainly because of our size) and would rather run (slither really fast) than fight if possible. Like all snakes, the body temperature of the rattlesnake depends on the air temperature, so you would be more likely to encounter a rattlesnake in the open during the warmest hours of a spring day and during the cooler hours (morning and evening) of a summer day.

PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOURS

Rattlesnakes come into residential areas for two reasons: food and cover. Therefore, you should: 1. Eliminate the food attraction (rodents) by (a) keeping your yard free of places where mice or rats might nest, such as piles of grass cuttings or wood and trash, (b) plugging all ground openings, such as gopher holes, (c) using only covered trash containers. 2. Eliminate the cover attraction by (a) making sure there are several inches of ground clearance under shrubs, (b) avoiding tall ground covering, (c) moving hiding places such as large rocks or rubbish. If your property backs onto a canyon or other uninhabited area, you should clear a bare strip of from 30 to 100 feet, or cut back the chaparral to waist height and thin enough to let sunlight filter through. 3. Construct, if necessary to protect children, a snake-proof fence of heavy galvanized screen, 36 inches wide with 1/4-inches mesh. Bury the lower edge a few inches in the ground and slant the fence outward at a 30-degree angle from top to bottom. The ground outside the fence should be kept clear of tall vegetation - ladders for snakes.

FOR HIKERS

Be prepared, if you go hiking in brush, by (1) wearing loose trousers over boots or high-top shoes, (2) never stepping in or placing your hands in places where you can't see, and (3) never hiking alone.

Rattlesnakes (Continued)

IF THE WORST HAPPENS

For Town of Yucca Valley residents, if you see a rattlesnake on your property and want it removed, call the Town's Animal Control Services for help. Animal Control Services will only provide this service if the snake is visible (i.e.; in your home, on your front porch, in your garage in a visible area.) We will not search the property or through boxes in the garage to find snakes. If you see a rattlesnake and report it for removal try and keep an eye on it (from a safe distance, of course. Many times once an officer has gone out to the property, the snake is gone and is nowhere to be found.

So please help us help you.

If a rattlesnake bites someone, transport the victim to a hospital as quickly as possible or call the Sheriff or Fire Department for help transporting the victim. Call Animal Care and Control for removal of the rattlesnakes. Do remember: Stay calm, call for assistance and keep in mind that rattlesnake venom is of such a nature as to usually allow ample time for successful medical treatment.