Remove fallen, decaying, or rotting fruit.

Keep bird seed off the ground.

Report AGGRESSIVE coyote behavior.

✔ Maintain fruit trees

Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores and will eat nearly anything. To prevent fruit trees from becoming sources of food for coyotes or their prey, pick up and remove fallen, decaying, or rotting fruit.

✔ Keep bird feeders clean

Even small amounts of bird seed that finds its way to the ground may attract rodents and other animals that are easy prey for coyotes.

Consider adding baffles or shields to bird feeders to discourage interference by squirrels and other rodents. Check with your pet supply or home improvement stores for recommendations.

Hummingbird feeders are a safer alternative to bird feeders, as they use liquid nectar instead of seed that can fall to the ground.

✔ Report coyote attacks and other aggressive behavior

Too often, individuals fail to report aggressive encounters with coyotes or make reports to entities other than Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services. As your animal services provider, we are only able to act on reports that we actually receive.

What Can't Be Done?

✘ Coyotes cannot be completely eradicated

It is not possible to eradicate all coyotes due to their breeding and territorial patterns, nor would it be wise given ecosystem implications (e.g., predator-prey cycles). Research shows that, often times, when coyotes are aggressively eradicated, their reproductive rates increase, with breeding occurring earlier and in greater numbers.

✘ Coyotes cannot be relocated

Relocating coyotes is illegal. State law requires trapped coyotes to be immediately euthanized or released.

✘ Coyotes cannot be poisoned or sterilized

It is generally illegal to use poisons or toxicants to control coyotes.

No sterilization or other fertility-control methods are approved for use on coyotes and commercially available in California.

City of Laguna Woods
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
(949) 639-0500
www.lagunawoods.gov
www.lagunawoods.gov/coyotes

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Coyote Awareness in Laguna Woods

Coyotes (Canis latrans) *are native to California and can be seen everywhere from densely populated urban areas to more rural, wilderness-type settings. Coyotes are a common sight in Laguna Woods and the surrounding area. While most encounters with coyotes are non-threatening, some problematic coyotes can exhibit aggressive behavior and attack people and pets. Factors that may increase coyote activity in urban areas include, but are not limited to, wildlife feeding and the presence of other "attractants" (e.g., off-leash dogs, dogs on long leashes, and free-roaming cats), human development that encroaches on wilderness areas, and climate-related reductions in wilderness sources of food and water.*

8/26

What is Being Done?

Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services works throughout the year to prevent and respond to instances of aggressive coyote behavior. Our approach is multifaceted and includes:

- **Public Education**

  Animal Services Officers are available to speak with you in-person or by telephone. Arrangements can also be made for Animal Services Officers to speak at club events or neighborhood gatherings. For more information, please call the Non-Emergency Coyote Hotline at **(949) 639-0501 (leave a voicemail)** or email **coyotes@lagunawoods.gov**.

- **Hazing**

  Animal Services Officers use sound, visual, and tactile stimuli (e.g., compressed air guns that fire non-lethal, biodegradable water pellets) to deter coyotes from areas with potential human-wildlife conflict.

- **Habitat Management**

  Animal Services Officers work closely with property owners to eliminate dens and other areas where coyotes may hide, lurk, rest, or breed.

- **Abatement**

  Lethal coyote abatement is undertaken as conditions warrant. While targeted abatement to address aggressive or habituated coyotes that have become public safety problems can be helpful in reducing threats to people and pets, research shows that more widespread efforts can actually increase reproductive rates and result in even greater numbers of coyotes.

Who should I contact and when?

If a coyote runs away after being shouted at, or after small objects are thrown at it, that is a healthy interaction!

When Should I Call 9-1-1?

- If you or someone else are in imminent danger or under attack and require a police response

When Should I Contact Animal Services Dispatch?

(949) 497-0701 (Press 0)

- To report a coyote attack
- If you observe off-leash dogs (except at the City of Laguna Woods' dog park)

When Should I Contact the Non-Emergency Coyote Hotline?

(949) 639-0501 (leave a voicemail) or **coyotes@lagunawoods.gov**

- If you observe dogs on leashes longer than six feet
- If you encounter a coyote that approaches or follows you or your dog, or has no reaction to efforts to frighten it away (please note when and where)
- If you have knowledge of anyone feeding wildlife
- If you observe pet food or water bowls left outside
- If you observe fallen, decaying, or rotting fruit
- If you observe poorly maintained bird feeders
- If you observe overgrown vegetation or other landscaping providing habitat for coyotes

What Can Individuals Do?

✔ Obey leash laws

Keep your dog on a leash when outdoors. Allowing dogs to be off leash for even "just a moment" (e.g., while bringing in the mail, unloading groceries, or at the end of a walk) greatly increases the risk of a coyote attack. When returning home from a walk, do not remove your dog's leash until you are inside with the door securely closed behind you. **Allowing dogs to be outdoors without a leash is illegal and carries fines and penalties!** *(Laguna Woods Municipal Code Section 5.14.010)*

Walk your dog using a leash of six feet or less. The greater the distance between you and your dog, the more likely a coyote is to attack. **Walking dogs using a leash longer than six feet is illegal and carries fines and penalties!** *(Laguna Woods Municipal Code Section 5.14.010)*

If you would like your dog to play outdoors off leash, consider visiting the City of Laguna Woods' "A Place for Paws" Dog Park at 23190 Ridge Route Drive, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. There are also nearby public dog parks in Laguna Beach and other cities that would welcome you and your dog.

✔ When you walk your dog, walk safely

Walk your dog with a friend or in a group, whenever possible.

If you encounter a coyote and you are with your dog, pick up your dog (if possible) and leave the area. Otherwise, stand tall, shout, flail your arms in a defiant manner, and throw rocks or other small objects. Consider carrying an air horn, cowbell, whistle, or other noisemaker.

Avoid walking your dog near Aliso Creek. Aliso Creek spans nearly 20 miles from the foothills to the ocean and is a natural habitat and source of water for coyotes and other wildlife. While there are no "coyote free" areas, choosing to walk your dog in such close proximity to wildlife carries heightened risk.

Consider purchasing coyote-deterrent vests and other protective body armor for your dog to wear on walks. Check with your pet supply store or veterinarian for recommendations.

✔ Keep cats indoors

Free-roaming cats are easy prey for coyotes, no matter the size or breed. Keep your cat inside your home to ensure its safety and avoid emboldening coyotes.

✔ Keep pet food and water bowls indoors

Pet bowls are convenient sources of food and water for coyotes and their prey. Keep pet bowls indoors at all times. Doing so will also help to ensure your pet is alert for coyotes and not distracted by eating or drinking when outdoors.

✔ Do not feed wildlife

Though often well intentioned, feeding wildlife draws coyotes closer to populated areas where they can lose their natural fear and caution, making them a threat to both people and pets. **Feeding wildlife is illegal and carries fines and penalties!** *(Laguna Woods Municipal Code Section 5.20.070)*

***DO NOT* allow your dog to be off leash.**

Walk your dog in groups!

Keep your cats indoors.

***DO NOT* feed wildlife.**