



## Co-Existing with Urban Coyotes & Other Wildlife

Over the past few decades, our East Bay communities have seen a sharp rise in wildlife predation, with cats and dogs often becoming the prey. While there are several reasons for the increase, most of it is due to loss of wildlife habitats and human encroachment in areas that used to be considered wildlife homes. These areas continue to be inhabited by wildlife such as coyotes, whose ability to adapt to urban living is exceptional.

This means that neighborhoods and residents must also adapt to this new reality by better understanding predatory animals such as coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions. To that goal, we have provided some helpful information below about living with wildlife in Contra Costa County.

### **IMPORTANT: If your domestic animal is attacked by a coyote, or other wild predator**

- If you observe your cat or dog tangle with a coyote or any other wild animal, and your animal sustains open wounds, please do contact **Contra Costa County Animal Services**. This scenario constitutes a rabies exposure that we need to document and quarantine for, at your home.
- If your dog or cat, is attacked and killed by a coyote or any other wild animal, and it is taken away by that predator, there is unfortunately nothing we can do regarding the attack.

### **Here are some ideas on how to best approach this urban living concern**

- Learn about coyotes and other wild predators. Research their behavior so you can recognize it. They are opportunistic hunters!
- Coyotes work in packs. It is common for them to send one coyote to engage with a dog, then playfully lure the dog away from the house until the pack can surround the dog and attack it.
- Maintain your pet on a leash while off their property. Walk in pairs, if possible- fun for the people, fun for the dogs!
- Carry a walking stick!
- Be certain to supervise your pet when they are outdoors. Coyotes, bobcat, and mountain lions can scale an 8-foot concrete wall with astonishing ease.
- Bring pets in after dark or secure them in an appropriate kennel or garage area.
- Consider keeping your outdoor cat inside, especially at night.
- Cut down overgrown areas and weeds where coyotes or other animals may hide.
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- Pick up all remains of cat and dog food on your property, after feeding and secure trash cans and lids.

- Shore up any open crawl spaces or deck areas in your home
- Pick up fruit that has fallen off a fruit tree...this is a strong attractant for coyotes!
- Consider sites like: <https://discoverwildcare.org/living-with-coyotes/> or <https://www.nativeanimalrescue.org/coyote-lore-living-with-california-coyotes/> to learn how to co-exist with coyotes.

### **If you encounter a coyote or other wild predator, here are some helpful tips**

- Be as loud as possible- shouting and yelling to deter their approach. Do not turn your back and run. Keep steady eye contact and be aggressive!
- Wave your arms in the air; clap your hands; bang pots- make noise!
- Consider carrying a small marine air horn. Sound this when you first see the coyote
- Throw sticks or rocks at the coyote if it continues to approach
- If the coyote is particularly close, use a hose to spray it.

Further information and predation permit information can be obtained by contacting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife/ Bay Delta Region at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/3>.

Please understand predation permits are not readily handed out, especially in urban areas, due to public liability concerns. In addition, trapping and relocating wildlife such as coyote, bobcat or mountain lion is not allowed per California Code of Regulations §465.5/ Use of Traps.

For ongoing coyote issues, contacting the California Department of Fish & Wildlife can be helpful. They may be able to help address the problem or provide helpful tips about living with coyotes.

### **Coyote Quick Contact List**

- Dial **911** for any emergency.
- Contact the **CA Department of Fish & Wildlife** at (707) 428-2002 to report coyote nuisance issues.
- Contact **Contra Costa Animal Services** at (925) 608-8400 to report potential rabies exposure involving a coyote or to report a deceased coyote on public property.

*For more information about living with wildlife, visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Living with Wildlife" page: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Living-with-Wildlife> or watch their recent workshop about coyotes in urban areas here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=ajc4OyzWzbM>.*