

COYOTE SIGHTINGS



Homeowners-

There have been several calls from homeowners regarding the sighting of Coyotes at the Palm Desert Resorter. We have called several agencies ie: Living Desert, Fish and Game, Agriculture, and Palm Desert City Hall to find out what we can do to get rid of them. Not too much. It is against the law to trap them and you can not shoot them because of the city ordinance of Palm Desert. We have been told that the reason for the roaming coyotes is due to the dry weather of our winter. They are coming off the mountain to seek food, water and closed surroundings. They advise you to keep your pets close to you and not let them roam. I have been advised that Woodhaven, Palm Desert C.C. and Indian Ridge are having the same issues.

Below is some helpful information to you and the community.

Pet Management

Cats and dogs should be fed indoors, or if fed outdoors, food dishes should be promptly emptied and removed after pets have eaten. Store pet food indoors or in sealed heavy-duty containers. Use refuse containers that have tight-fitting lids to prevent raccoons, dogs, or coyotes from having access to household garbage. Keep small pets such as cats and small dogs, indoors, or if outdoors, keep them within enclosed kennels. Large dogs should be brought inside after dark. Never allow cats or dogs to run free at any time, as they are easy prey. Because coyotes that come in contact with domestic animals may transmit diseases, vaccinate all pets for rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and other diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian.

Confine your pets from dusk to dawn as well as during the coyotes' pup rearing season (**March through August**), when their food needs are highest. When exercising your dog, always use a leash, and walk only in populated areas of high pedestrian traffic. You may want to carry a walking stick or cane that you can use to fend off an attack. Try not to establish a regular routine in terms of route or time of day, as coyotes can learn your schedule and have been known to lie in wait to attack. Avoid walking pets at dawn or dusk, and avoid areas of dense vegetation or cover. Coyotes are more likely to attack dogs during the pup-rearing season, if dogs come too near the den site. Never intentionally feed or provide water to coyotes, as this causes them to quickly lose their fear of people and become aggressive. Anyone who intentionally feeds coyotes is putting the entire neighborhood's pets and children at risk of coyote attack and serious injury. In addition, ask your neighbors to also follow the described methods in order to reduce the potential for conflicts with coyotes.

Habitat Management in Suburban Areas

Coyotes are attracted to ripening fruits of many kinds. Manage bird feeders carefully to avoid spillage that attracts rodents and rabbits, which are attractive coyote prey.

Responding to Coyote Aggression and Attack

If you or your pets are approached by an aggressive or fearless coyote, try to frighten it away by shouting in a deep voice, waving your arms, throwing objects at the animal, and looking it directly in the eyes. Stand up if you are seated. If you are wearing a coat or vest, spread it open like a cape so that you appear larger. Retreat from the situation by walking slowly backward so that you do not turn your back on the coyote.