



Dear Homeowners,

There have been sightings of coyotes at the Palm Desert Resorter. Several Agencies such as Living Desert, Fish and Game Agriculture and Palm Desert City Hall all say not much can be done about them. It is against the law to trap coyotes and they cannot be shot at because of the City ordinance of Palm Desert. Once again we have been told that due to weather coyotes are roaming as they come off the Mountain to seek food, water and a closed surrounding. The agencies advise you to keep your pets close to you and not let them roam.

Below you will find helpful information for you and the community.

### **Pet Management:**

Cats and dogs should be fed indoors or if fed outside, food dishes should be promptly emptied and removed after pets have eaten. Store pet food indoors or in a sealed heavy duty container. Keep refuse containers completely closed to prevent animals from having access to the household garbage. Keep small pets such as cats and small dogs indoors or if outdoors keep them within a close distance while on a leash. All pets should be inside after dark. Never allow cats or dogs to run free off leashes at any time. This will make them easy prey.

Because coyotes that come into contact with domestic animals may transmit diseases, vaccinate all pets for rabies, distemper, parvovirus and other diseases as recommended by a veterinarian. Coyotes's pup rearing season are at its highest from March-August, and their food needs are at their high point during this time, however coyotes are always looking for a source of food. It is important to remember when exercising your dog, always use a leash and it is always helpful to walk in populated areas of the Community. You may want to carry a walking stick or cane that you can use to fend off an attack if needed. 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 or cats during their pup rearing season or if pets come too near their den site. Never intentionally feed or leave water for coyotes, as this causes them to quickly lose their fear of people and become aggressive. Anyone who intentionally feeds coyotes is putting the

entire community's pets and children at risk of a coyote attack. In addition, ask your fellow 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 ripened fruits. Manage bird feeders carefully to avoid spillage that attracts rodents and field rabbits which are attractive coyote prey.

### **Responding to Coyote Aggression and Attack**

If you or your pet are approached by an aggressive or fearless coyote, try to frighten it away by shouting in a deep voice, waving your arms and throwing objects at the animal and looking it directly into the eyes. Stand up if 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.

Palm Desert Resorter Association