



AP Photo / Janet Kessler

## Exclusion Techniques

Consistency is the most effective means to establishing appropriate human/coyote interactions.

- Remove all sources of food. Keep trash and compost inaccessible. Pick up fallen fruit in yard. Clean under bird feeders.
- Keep pets inside at night (or in a completely enclosed kennel) when coyotes are more active.
- Maintain fences so coyotes cannot slip underneath. Add deterrents to tops of fences to reduce a coyote's ability to pull themselves over. Coyote rollers and wire extensions can discourage animals from breaching fences.
- Install motion activated lights. Keep lights on when pets are outside.
- Visually inspect your yard before allowing any pets outside.
- Trim vegetation to eliminate hiding places and increase yard visibility.
- Contact Department of Fish and Game if the following occurs:
  - a. Coyote biting a person or attacking a cat or dog.
  - b. Person feeding coyote, accidentally or purposely.
  - c. Coyotes feeding on open trashcans and/or dumpsters at local area businesses.

## Information

**Burbank Animal Shelter**  
[www.burbankanimalshelter.org](http://www.burbankanimalshelter.org)

**Project Coyote**  
[www.projectcoyote.org](http://www.projectcoyote.org)

**Department of Fish and Game**  
[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

**National Park Services**  
[www.nps.gov/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/index.htm)

**California Wildlife Center**  
[www.cawildlife.org](http://www.cawildlife.org)



City of Burbank  
Animal Shelter  
1150 N. Victory Place  
Burbank, CA 91502  
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[www.burbankca.gov](http://www.burbankca.gov)

# COYOTES IN THE CITY

Living  
with  
Urban  
Coyotes



# Coyotes

Living with coyotes is a controversial topic. Cities have created a unique habitat, rich in resources (food, water and shelter) while eliminating large predators. Certain species like the coyote adapted as a new urban ecosystem developed. Today, multiple generations of offspring have been born in cities. People, houses, pets, cars and more are a normal part of their lives. An urban coyote is comfortable surviving in an urban environment.



# Biology and Ecology

Family groups are very protective of pups and coyotes are excellent parents allowing most pups to survive to adulthood. Litter size depends on the amount of resources available and the number of coyotes in the territory.

# Conflict

Coyote behavior changes as they "habituate", or get used to living with people. They can be seen more frequently during the daytime, in neighborhoods and even in busy parks. Some coyotes learn to beg or scavenge in yards for fruit, rodents, bird seed, open trash and compost.



When coyotes associate people with food, it reduces their wariness in interacting with people and pets. If nothing negative happens to the coyotes, they become more comfortable around people.

Unattended pets are no different to urban coyotes than any other animal in their territory. Without human protection pets can be treated like potential prey or as competition for resources. Pets often don't have the ability to protect themselves like other wild animals do. Pet injury or loss is the biggest source of conflict between humans and coyotes. Concern over increasing coyote population size is common. The number of animals found in an area is directly related to the amount of resources available. If resources do not change and animals are removed, then the population rapidly rebounds.



For more information, please visit the Burbank Animal Shelter's Coyote page: [www.burbankpd.org/coyote](http://www.burbankpd.org/coyote)

# How to Reduce Conflict

## Human Safety:

- Teach children to never approach or feed ANY strange animal.
- Never ignore, turn your back or run from a coyote(s).
- Carry a walking stick or a noisemaker at night or during early morning hours if walking with pets (Coyotes are more likely to approach someone with a pet).
- Haze or harass a coyote(s) until it chooses to leave the situation (it's OK if it doesn't run).
- Let neighbors and friends know coyotes have been seen in the area.
- File a Coyote Encounter Observation Report through Coyote Cacher at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/CoyoteCacher/>
- Contact the California Department of Fish and Game ([www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)) if a human is attacked and call your local emergency services for assistance.



## Pet Safety:

- Keep cats safely indoors, especially when dark.
- Keep pets on a leash. Short leashes are safer than long ones.
- Check your yard before letting pets outdoors. Coyotes will sometimes hide in yards.
- Change your routine, coyotes learn neighborhood habits. For example, don't let your pet out every morning at 5 am.
- Don't go outdoors with small dogs, especially after dark.
- Close pet doors after dark.
- Don't let dogs play with or chase after coyotes.
- Don't feed pets or wild animals outside.
- Be aware that coyotes live in parks and undeveloped areas and act accordingly.