

WARNING * WARNING * WARNING * WARNING * WARNING

Please beware that coyotes have been spotted roaming at night throughout Tolono.



Despite common misconceptions about coyotes, they are not likely to cause problems. However they do sometimes kill or injure domestic pets, young livestock, or poultry. These incidents can typically be prevented by removing resources that attract coyotes. Make sure livestock and poultry have access to secure shelter and properly fenced areas. Some coyotes become accustomed to human activity and may approach close to buildings, people, or pets. Cats and small dogs should be observed closely and placed in fenced areas (yards, kennels) when coyotes are known to be present.

- Keep garbage stored securely. Coyotes may eat garbage, but they are more attracted to the rodents that feed on garbage.
- Keep bird feeding areas clean of debris. Even well-maintained feeders can attract rodents. In turn, this may attract coyotes.
- Use squirrel-proof bird feeders. In an urban environment coyotes naturally feed on mice, voles, rabbits, and woodchucks. When natural prey populations decline, it has been shown that squirrels that visit bird-feeders become easy prey for coyotes.
- Feed pets indoors. If pets are fed outside clean up any leftover food daily.
- Do not leave small pets like rabbits, cats, or small dogs outside unattended, especially at night.

Fencing your property can keep coyotes out if the fence is properly installed. Coyotes can jump several feet and are also very good climbers and diggers. Thus, fences should be at least four feet tall to keep coyotes out. If a wire fence is used it may need to be reinforced with an electric wire or a roll bar to keep coyotes from climbing over or digging under the fence.

More information on coyotes can be found at:

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/directory_show.cfm?species=coyote