

RELOCATING COYOTES



In California, coyotes are not an invasive species. Fossil evidence from the La Brea Tar Pits reveals that coyotes called Los Angeles home long before the Ice Age.

Can the City trap and relocate coyotes?

No. Under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 465.5, it is **illegal to trap and relocate coyotes in California**. Any coyote that is trapped must either be released on-site or humanely euthanized.

Relocating animals to wilderness areas or other locations can cause serious problems:

1. **Disease transmission.** Moving a coyote — especially a sick one — can introduce new diseases to animals already living in the destination area. Once a new disease enters a local food chain, it can destabilize the entire ecosystem.
2. **Disruption of the food chain.** Displacing animals from their home environment can negatively impact the delicate ecological balance.
3. **Low survivability.** Relocated animals frequently face injury or death when introduced to an unfamiliar area where they must compete with established wildlife.
4. **Coyotes can return.** Coyotes are known for their speed and stamina. The coyote may travel hundreds of miles back to their home range and pack.

Do coyotes provide any benefit to cities in the South Bay?

- **Rodent and disease control.** Coyotes provide natural pest control by preying on small mammals such as rodents. **A single coyote can consume well over 1,000 rodents per year.** Rats and mice can transmit disease to both pets and humans. Small mammals like gophers can cause significant property damage to open grassy areas such as parks, school grounds, and golf courses.
- **Removal of deceased animals.** Coyotes are scavengers that feed on animal remains that would otherwise decompose slowly, helping to keep the environment clean.
- **Improved bird diversity.** **Cats and other small predators are a leading cause of bird mortality.** By keeping populations of feral cats and other small predators in check, coyotes indirectly help urban bird populations thrive.

Conflict can occur when coyotes become habituated to the presence of people and associate people with food. To avoid attracting coyotes and encouraging nuisance coyote behavior, conduct the **At-Home Coyote Prevention Checklist**.

FEEDING WILDLIFE IS A CRIME

Under **L.A. County Code §10.84.010**, it is a misdemeanor to feed mammalian predators like coyotes. Violators can face fines of up to **\$1,000** or six months in jail. Some residents mistakenly believe feeding coyotes "protects" pets by keeping the coyotes full. In reality, it habituates them to humans, making them bolder and more dangerous.

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For coyote education resources and resident action plans, visit:

TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes



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