

COYOTE PREVENTION TIPS: HOLIDAY SEASON



The holiday season brings families together for festive meals and celebrations. But those delicious leftovers—turkey carcasses, ham bones, or greasy trash—can unintentionally attract unwanted visitors: urban coyotes and other wildlife.

In the South Bay, including Torrance, coyotes are known to roam residential neighborhoods, parks, and green spaces. Their keen sense of smell is their most powerful tool for survival, far surpassing sight or hearing. A coyote's olfactory ability is estimated to be many times stronger than a human's, allowing them to detect unsecured food from a great distance. An enticing holiday roast left in an open trash bin or compost pile can draw them in quickly—and coyotes are agile enough to leap a 6-foot fence or climb higher barriers for an easy and delicious meal.

To prevent coyote visits and keep both wildlife and your community safe during the holidays, follow these simple precautions:

1. **Secure all food waste:**

- Use locked trash bins and avoid leaving garbage outdoors overnight.
- If possible, leave meat leftovers in the fridge until the morning of trash day.
- Rinse containers to remove food odors and never place meat scraps or greasy items in unsecured areas.
- Bring pet food indoors and don't feed pets outside.

2. **Educate out-of-town guests:** Visitors from other parts of the country may be surprised to learn coyotes thrive in urban Southern California.

- Remind them (and their children or pets) to stay alert, especially at dawn, dusk, or night when coyotes are most active.
- Supervise small pets outdoors and never approach or feed a coyote.

By managing food sources responsibly, it is possible to prevent coyote visits and the potential for conflict.

DID YOU KNOW?

Family and friends from the East Coast may have experience with *canis latris*. Coyotes are found across the continental U.S., but regional differences exist.

- Eastern coyotes (common in the Northeast and parts of the Midwest/Southeast): These are often larger hybrids with some wolf ancestry, averaging 30–50 pounds. They have a wolf-like build and thicker fur to shield from snow and colder temperatures.
- Western coyotes (like those in California, including the South Bay): Typically smaller, averaging 20–30 pounds, with a leaner frame suited to varied habitats from deserts to suburbs.

[View Weekly Coyote Activity Report](#)

Learn. Prevent. Report.

For coyote education resources and resident action plans, visit:

TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes



SCAN ME