

LESS FOOD → FEWER COYOTES



The Science of Litter Size

Coyote populations are not fixed; they fluctuate based on available resources. Food abundance is the primary factor—in years with plentiful food, more females breed, and litter sizes can nearly double.

- **Urban Average:** Typical litters range from **4 to 7 pups**.
- **The Urban Food Effect:** If food is abundant, a single litter can reach up to **11 pups**.

How Humans Contribute to Larger Coyote Populations?

A recent study in Los Angeles County revealed that **65% of an urban coyotes diet** is supplied by humans. This includes:

- **Unsecured Trash & Compost:** Human food like leftovers, scraps, and food waste are a delicious meal for a coyote.
- **Fallen Fruit/Vegetables:** Coyotes also eat plants when available.
- **Domestic Pets:** Cat remains were found in 20% of urban coyote scat samples. Coyotes have also been known to take dogs smaller than 30 pounds.

Action Steps for Residents

Reducing food sources is the most effective way to decrease number of coyotes. February and March are ideal times to maximize these prevention measures:

- **Clean Up:** Harvest ripe vegetables and pick up fallen fruit.
- **Pet Safety:** Never leave pet food outdoors and keep pets supervised when outside.
- **Do not Feed Wildlife:** It disrupts their natural behavior, teaching them to be more dependent on people, and leads to an unnatural overpopulation.

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.

To prevent unintentional food access to coyotes, print and complete the **At-Home Coyote Prevention Checklist**.

**FEEDING
WILDLIFE
IS A CRIME**

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For coyote education resources and resident action plans, visit:

TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes



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