



COYOTE MYTHS

The presence of coyotes in urban areas like the South Bay can bring about more questions than a science-based understanding of the elusive canine.

WHAT ARE COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT COYOTES?

COYOTES ARE AN INVASIVE SPECIES IN LOS ANGELES.

INCORRECT. Coyotes have made Los Angeles their home since before the Ice Age. Their extraordinary ability to adapt to changing conditions, such as food availability, helped them survive the Ice Age.

[Fact: Coyotes are the 3rd most common large mammal fossil found in the La Brea Tar Pits.](#)

COYOTES OFTEN ATTACK HUMANS. While it is true that coyotes have attacked people, it is a *rare occurrence and highly unlikely*. In California, between 1977 and 2015, there were 165 reported coyote attacks on humans ([Baker 2017](#)). Of those attacked, 73% sustained an injury. To put this in perspective, domestic dogs bite 4.5 million people each year ([The Centers for Disease Control](#)). Of those bit, 25% require medical treatment. Even though the risk of a coyote attack on people is low, it's important to practice safe measures to avoid being attacked. If you see a coyote, keep a safe distance and haze it.

COYOTE STALKED ME AND MY DOG. The answer varies case-by-case. Coyotes are curious canines. They may be intrigued by your dog because dogs come in different shapes and sizes. A coyote's curiosity and playfulness may quickly turn defensive or aggressive. Never allow a dog to engage in playful behavior with a coyote.

COYOTES ARE NOCTURNAL.

INCORRECT. Coyotes hunt and forage day or night. In cities, they may prefer nighttime because there are fewer cars and people to interact with and disturb their activities. If you see a coyote in daytime, it is considered normal coyote behavior.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DISPEL MYTHS?

Understanding coyote behavior is key to reducing potential conflict. Discerning reality versus fiction can help guide better decisions to safeguard your pets and family.

PRACTICE WILDLIFE SMART SAFETY MEASURES TO REDUCE YOUR RISK OF COYOTE CONFLICT.

- Supervise pet(s) and small children.
- Leash dogs while out for a walk on a leash shorter than 6 feet.
- Dispose of food waste properly.
- Never feed, touch, or allow your pet to play with a coyote.

Visit our website for a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#), articles about safeguarding your family and pets, as well as a place to report coyote encounters.

[View Weekly Coyote Activity Report](#)
Learn. Prevent. Report.

For coyote education resources and resident action plans, visit:
TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes



SCAN ME