

IT'S COYOTE DENNING SEASON



It's a common misconception that coyotes den year-round. Dens are used by coyotes between March and June. Coyotes prepare for the arrival of pups by revisiting old den sites or excavating new ones. Once the pups are born, they are reared in the den and the surrounding area. The pack typically has two or three dens within their territory.

What is a den?

Dens are critically important for coyotes as they provide a safe space to birth and rear pups. A den site is a temporary shelter hidden by natural cover. It provides protection from predators, weather, and human activity. Only the nursing female and pups stay in the den. Dens are temporary — pups outgrow them by summer.

Where are coyote dens found?

In cities, coyotes den in areas with protective cover to shield their pups from potential predators and inclement weather. Coyotes avoid building dens in high-traffic areas, busy roads, and clear open spaces with no cover. Dens can be found in areas including:

- Trees with exposed roots or overgrown brush
- Hillsides or green spaces
- Man-made structures, like brush piles, culverts, storm drains, or abandoned homes
- Areas with a nearby water source.

What do I do if I find a den?

1. **Avoid the den.** Do not let pets go into the den area. Do not poke sticks into the den or try to move coyotes out. Coyotes can act aggressively to protect their pups during mating and pupping season.
2. **Remove potential food sources.** If there is not enough food and water in the area, coyotes will move their pups to a more suitable environment.

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**.

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