

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coyote Sightings Prompt Safety and Prevention Reminders

The Seal Beach Police Department has received recent reports of coyote activity. We would like to take this opportunity to provide some information about this issue to help our residents and visitors understand the urban coyote. We want to emphasize the importance of reporting coyote sightings using the online portal (<http://www.longbeach.gov/acs/wildlife/coyote-report/>). Accurate and timely reporting of coyote sightings is the best way residents can assist us in addressing this issue and the appropriate course of action.

Seeing a coyote walking down a busy City street isn't as uncommon as most would think. Recent coyote activity around Seal Beach and surrounding areas gives reason for reminding residents of important safeguards to protect pet lives and property against these wild animals.

Contrary to popular belief, coyotes do not require open space to survive, and have successfully adapted to living in close proximity to humans. Coyotes are most active at dusk and dawn, and in urban environments they are more active at night. However, they can be seen at any time of day.

An Animal Control Officer will respond to coyote calls if the coyote is sick or injured, out in the daytime in areas around people, especially children, such as parks or schools or anytime there is an attack or threatening behavior towards a person or pet.

According to the U.S. Humane Society, "Coyotes are found in every state of the nation, except for Hawaii". It is important to learn techniques to compassionately co-exist with coyotes and protect yourself and your pets." The following techniques are recommended:

- Never feed coyotes or any other wildlife.
- Keep pets, especially cats and small dogs, and pet food inside. If feeding outside, feed pets during the day (no more than one hour) and remove the food bowls when finished.
- Stay close to your pet when taking them outdoors and always keep them on a leash, especially from dusk through early morning hours.
- Remove fallen fruit from the ground.

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- Bag food wastes such as meat scraps or leftover pet food.
- Keep trash in containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Use “hazing” techniques to shoo away coyotes, such as standing tall, yelling and waving arms while approaching the coyote; using a whistle, air horn, bell or other device; banging pots or pans together; stomping your feet; using a water hose, pepper spray, or throwing tennis balls or rocks at the coyote.
- Never run from a coyote.

For more detailed information and to read the Seal Beach Coyote Management plan visit our website at:

<http://www.sealbeachca.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Seal%20Beach%20Coyote%20Management%20Plan%20-%20Final.pdf>

Report coyote sightings online at <http://www.longbeach.gov/acs/wildlife/coyote-report/>.

If you need an Animal Control Officer to respond, please call Long Beach Animal Control Services at (562) 570-7387. You can also email animalcare@longbeach.gov. If the coyote is posing an imminent threat to life, call 911.

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