

VACANT HOME GUIDE

NEIGHBORHOOD COYOTE PROGRAM



**A GUIDE TO MINIMIZING
COYOTE ACTIVITY WHILE
YOU ARE AWAY**



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

MAKING YOUR YARD LESS ATTRACTIVE



Deterrents will be more effective when used in combination with **removing coyote attractants** from neighborhoods. We recommend the following:

- Remove all food and water sources from your yard. This may include birdbaths, birdfeeders, fallen fruit, leftover food stuck to barbecue grills, and other trash.
- Birdfeeders should be placed indoors when property is vacant.
- All trash should be contained in trash containers and stored indoors with secure lids. Trash should not be stored outdoors when property is vacant.
- Secure compost and/or store indoors.
- Trim vegetation and mow tall grass.
- Remove brush to eliminate cover for coyotes and their prey.
- Seal openings under porches, decks, sheds and crawl spaces.
- Keep doors and windows securely shut to avoid any rodents from entering the home.
- Drain and keep dry any pools and/or spas.
- Make sure irrigation systems do not cause puddles or water pooling to prevent from becoming a water source to coyotes.

Neighborhood Coyote Program

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Yard Audit

The following Yard Audit serves as a checklist to help identify coyote attractants on your property. Review each item and complete the recommended actions, as needed.

	No Action Required	Adjustments Required	Recommended Action
Food			Never intentionally feed a coyote. Never hand-feed or intentionally feed a coyote.
Pet Food			Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
Water Sources			Remove water attractants, such as pet water bowls.
Bird Feeders			Remove bird feeders or clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.
Fallen Fruit			Clean up fallen fruits around trees.
Compost			Do not include meat or dairy among compost contents unless the area is fully enclosed.
BBQ Grills			Clean up food around BBQ grills after each use.
Trash			Secure trash containers with locking lids and place curbside on pickup day. Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors.
Lanscaping			Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places for rodents and coyotes and potential denning sites.
Structures			Restrict access under decks and sheds, around wood piles, or any other structure that can provide cover or denning sites for coyotes or their prey.
Fencing*			Enclose property with six-foot fence with additional extension or roller top to deter coyotes. Ensure that there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground six inches or is fitted with a mesh apron to deter coyotes from digging underneath. *Must comply with local municipal code
Pets			Never leave pets unattended outside. Never allow pets to "play" with coyotes. Fully enclose outdoor pet kennels. Walk pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length.



HOW TO DETER COYOTES FROM YOUR PROPERTY

As a reminder, deterrents are only one tool in the coyote mitigation toolbox and should be used in conjunction with attractant removal in order to prevent coyote encounters. There are three main categories of deterrents:

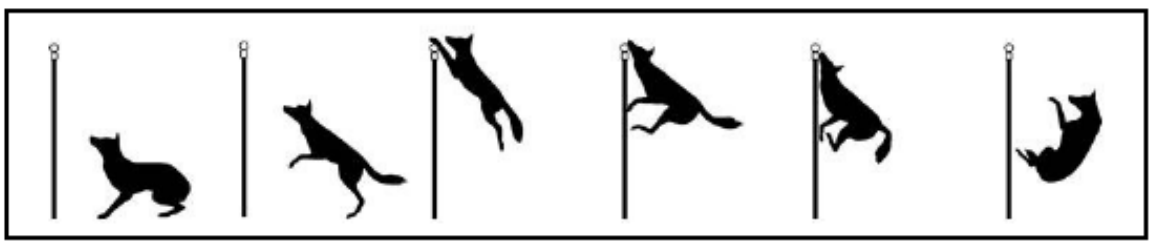
Light: Coyotes do not like bright or flashing light, especially at night. Consider using motion detector lighting, strobe lighting, and blinking holiday lights (during the holiday season).

Sound: Coyotes are wary of loud noises. Air horns, the rattling of coins/keys, yelling, and loud clapping can each help deter coyotes when nearby.

Scent: Coyotes are deterred by strong scents, too. Scent-based deterrents include ammonia or vinegar soaked rags, pepper spray, chili pepper, and wolf urine. Place these near trash cans and crawl spaces to prevent coyote activity.

Of these three deterrents, **motion detector lighting** is the most relevant and useful to vacant properties.

KEEP COYOTES OUT



Coyotes are extremely intelligent and adaptable. Keeping them out of your yard can be difficult, especially while away from your property. Eliminating attractants and utilizing exclusion techniques can minimize their access and eventually reduce their population.

- Fencing alone is often not enough to prevent coyotes from entering your yard, but there are ways to minimize access. If your municipal code allows, please consider:
 - Installing a predator apron to prevent coyotes from digging under fences.
 - Installing coyote rollers on top of fences to prevent coyotes from jumping over (as pictured above).
 - Using motion detector sprinklers to ward off coyotes that may enter your yard.

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR VACANT HOMES:

- **Install motion activated lighting:** Well-lit areas might deter coyotes and other individuals from entering the premises.
- **Install video cameras:** Cameras can record perpetrators and any damage if it occurs.
- **Install alarms:** Security alarm systems can help alert local authorities if there is a break-in.
- **Keep everything securely shut:** Keep all doors and windows securely shut and locked.
- **Notify a trusted neighbor:** They will be able to observe the property and report any unusual activity.
- **Turn off all electrical appliances**
- **Shut off the main water valve** to avoid water leakage.
- **Keep your yard well-maintained** to avoid the appearance of a vacant property.
- **Test smoke alarms** and verify that they are in working condition.
- **Make sure windows and blinds/curtains are closed** so that no one may look inside.
- **Arrange all mail to be forwarded or use a P.O. Box.**





WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A VACANT PROPERTY

A vacant property is a property that is unoccupied for an extended period of time.

Signs a property is vacant:

- Overgrown weeds and/or dead grass, plants, etc.
- Piled newspapers
- Overflowing mail box
- Peeling paint
- No curtains/blinds in windows
- Lack of activity
- Lack of automobiles
- Notices on the front door

What to do:

- Contact property owner (if known)
- Contact your City's Code Enforcement and report a violation

Report a code violation:

- [To the City of Arcadia](#)
- [To the City of San Marino](#)



Code Violations

KNOW YOUR CITY'S CODE VIOLATIONS Arcadia and San Marino

For more information, see [Ordinance No. 2346](#) of Arcadia City Code
and [Article 18 of San Marino City Code](#)

Failure to Register Unoccupied Residence

- Residents must register all unoccupied residences.
- Unoccupied = vacant for at least 30 days
- Must provide a reliable contact for potential issues that may arise while owner is away.

Failure to Maintain Pools and Spas

- Pools and spas must be kept in working order.
- Water must remain clear and free of pollutants or drained and kept dry.
- Pools and spas may serve as attractants to vermin, coyotes, and other wildlife.

Overgrown Weeds, Dead Vegetation, and Unkempt Lawns

- May serve as refuge for coyotes and other wildlife (including animals that attract coyotes, such as vermin and cats).
- Pose a fire hazard, especially during dry conditions.

Poorly Maintained Windows, House Paint, Trim, Garage Doors, Wood Siding, and other Housing Deterioration

- Without consistent maintenance, properties may deteriorate overtime, weakening the structure, making it more accessible to coyotes and other wildlife.

Unoccupied Buildings Left Open or Unlocked or Otherwise Unsecured

- Properties that are easily accessible may attract vermin, coyotes, and other wildlife.

Contact Us

The Neighborhood Coyote Program



REPORT COYOTE SIGHTINGS:



626-278-8039



COYOTES@SGVCOG.ORG



www.SGVCOG.ORG/COYOTES

Additional Resources:

- For more information on coyotes in California, visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife: wildlife.ca.gov



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