



COYOTE DETERRENENTS

A guide to reducing coyote presence on your property.



MAKING YOUR YARD LESS ATTRACTIVE TO COYOTES

Hazing efforts, deterrents, and repellents will be more effective on coyotes if coyote attractants are removed or excluded from residential neighborhoods first. Thus, we encourage the following:

- Never feed coyotes! Educate neighbors that are feeding.
- Remove all food and water sources from your yard. This may include pet bowls, birdbaths, fallen fruit, barbecue grill scraps, and trash.
- All trash should be contained in trash containers and stored indoors with secure lids. Trash should not be placed on the curb until the morning of pickup. Encourage your community to utilize wildlife-proof trash containers on school grounds, in parks, and in commercial areas.
- Secure compost bins.
- Keep cats indoors.
- Supervise pets and small children when outside.
- Trim vegetation and mow tall grass.
- Remove brush to eliminate cover for coyotes and their prey.
- Sweep up fallen seed from birdfeeders and bring them in at night. Coyotes will eat birdseed as well as the birds and rodents attracted by the feeder.
- Seal openings under porches, decks, sheds and crawl spaces.

A complete yard audit can be found at:
sgvcog.org/coyotematerials

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 hazing and 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.

- Install motion detection floodlights, strobe lighting, and, during the holiday season, blinking holiday lights.

Sound: Coyotes do not like loud sounds.

- Set up a speaker to play ambient human chatter during the evening when coyotes are more likely to roam the neighborhood. One option is the following YouTube video of small crowd talking ambience [youtube.com/watch?v=IJQdnHT3MCA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJQdnHT3MCA).

Scent: Coyotes do not like certain strong smells. Scent-based deterrents must be reapplied regularly and after rainy weather.

- Ammonia and vinegar are both strong scents and effective coyote deterrents. Place ammonia or vinegar soaked rags near potential den sites and food sources, such as crawl spaces and near trash/compost cans.



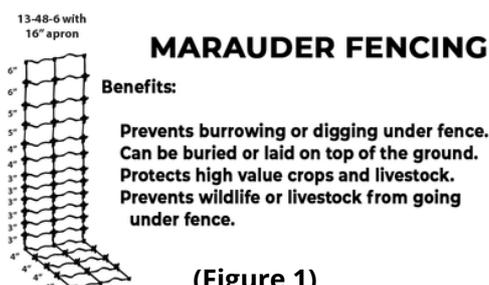
KEEPING COYOTES OUT OF YOUR YARD



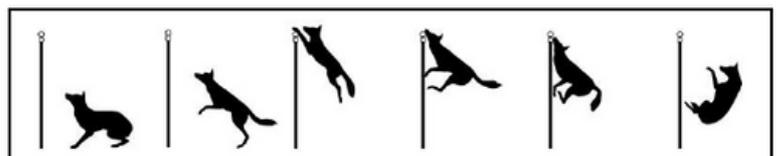
Coyotes are extremely intelligent and adaptable, so keeping them out of your yard can be difficult, especially if there is something attracting them there; however, minimizing attractants and utilizing exclusion techniques can minimize their access and eventually reduce their presence in the neighborhood. The following are additional measures to take in order to prevent coyotes from entering your yard.

- Motion detection sprinklers can help ward off coyotes that have entered your yard. We do not recommend this tactic during Summer months, though, when water is scarce.
- Fencing alone is often not sufficient at preventing coyotes from entering your yard and can be improved* upon in two ways:
 - A buried apron (marauder fencing) will prevent coyotes from digging under the fence (Figure 1).
 - Coyote rollers installed on top of fencing of at least 6ft tall will prevent coyotes from grabbing a foothold (Figure 2).

*Check your city's code before implementing these improvements to assure compliance with city code.



(Figure 1)



(Figure 2)

HAZING 101



Hazing, also known as “fear conditioning” or “scaring,” involves the immediate use of deterrents in order to ward off a coyote and prevent habituation. Habituation happens when coyotes lose their natural fear of humans, often due to feeding and the lack of reaction when a human sees a coyote.

Haze coyotes out of your yard or away from you if they approach too closely. Hazing efforts will be less effective on coyotes if attractants are not removed or if the coyote is an adult and has not been regularly hazed. Share this information with your neighbors, friends and HOA, as hazing efforts are most effective when the entire neighborhood works together. If you are removing attractants and hazing coyotes on your property, but your neighbor is not, then your efforts will be futile. **Below is a list of hazing techniques:**

- Make yourself as big as possible while waving your arms.
- Yell at the coyote with an authoritative voice while making eye contact.
- Throw rocks, sticks, or anything else you can find toward the coyote.
- Bang pots and pans together or use a noisemaking device like an air horn, whistle, or tin can full of coins.
- Never turn your back on a coyote. To deescalate and leave an encounter, back away slowly toward your home or the nearest building/vehicle.
- **Never** haze a coyote that is cornered without escape or a coyote near its den.

WHILE OUT WALKING

Coyotes are found in both urban and rural area's in California. It's a good idea to be prepared to know how to deal with coyote encounters no matter where you are.

- Be alert of your surroundings and keep children and pets nearby. Pets should be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Be familiar with the hazing techniques stated in previous section if a coyote approaches you.
- Plan activities during daylight hours when coyotes are least active. Coyotes are most active during dawn and dusk hours.
- Walk with a walking stick, especially while hiking.
- Walk with a deterrent spray (such as water, vinegar, or pepper spray).
- Carry a noise maker, such as an air horn
- Avoid potential den sites and thick vegetation.

CONTACT US

If you've seen a coyote, are aware of someone in your neighborhood feeding coyotes, or know of potential den sites, please contact the Neighborhood Coyote Program. We can also host virtual community meetings to discuss best-practices. We are available via:

- **Email:** coyotes@sgvcog.org
- **Phone:** (626) 278-8039
- **Online:** sgvcog.org/coyotes



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