

HEAR COYOTES LATELY?

Coyotes are vocal creatures. It's no wonder the coyote's scientific name, *Canis latrans*, translates to barking dog in Latin.

Summer is an especially vocal time for coyotes. The reason is simple. Pups born in spring are now adolescents. Learning how to howl, yip and bark in their own distinctive pack's style is an essential part of growing up coyote. Adolescents also roam further from their home range at this time. Coyotes howl, yip, bark and vocalize to communicate with each other. The elder pack members may call out to the adolescent coyotes, 'it's time to come home'.

[Listen to a coyote howl](#)

Researchers have identified at least a dozen different vocalizations coyotes use to communicate. The intention can be playful toward pack members, defensive to preserve their home territory, a call for help, or simply to reunite with pack-mates after time away.

Hearing coyotes howl, bark or yip from a distance is not cause for alarm. Vocalizations are normal coyote behavior. Aggressive behavior, like growling, showing teeth, tail between its legs, and fur standing on its back, are better indicators of a coyote whose lost its fear of people.

Did You Know?

- **It is normal coyote behavior to vocalize during daylight hours.** Coyotes can yip, howl or vocalize any time of day or night.
- **People overestimate the number of coyotes they hear.** One or two coyotes can sound like six or more. This auditory illusion, called the Beau Geste effect, enables one coyote's sound like it's coming from different directions. One coyote can quickly change pitch and frequency of their howl. It can also intersperse howls with barks, yips and yaps all in one breath. This benefits coyotes as they establish and defend territory.

Report Sick, Injured, Deceased Animals

- Torrance Animal Control: (310) 618-3850

Report Coyote Activity

- Web: www.TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes
- 24-Hour Hotline: (310) 618-3898
- Mobile App: **myTorranceCA**
- Report Aggressive Coyote Behavior to People: **9-1-1**

[View Weekly Coyote Activity Report](#)

Do coyotes howl after they kill an animal?

This is highly unlikely. Howling would attract attention to the coyote's hard-fought meal. It would be in the best interest of the coyote to remain quiet as it consumes its prey.

Learn. Prevent. Report.



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For coyote education resources and resident action plans, visit:

TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes