

## RISKS OF UNSUPERVISED OUTDOOR PETS



Pet dogs and cats that belong to an owner but are allowed outside without supervision can encounter hazards of outdoor city life. Exposure to danger can happen if the pet is allowed outside for a few minutes, overnight or longer.

Smaller animals, like cats and dogs, may be seen as prey by coyotes. In the City of Torrance, a majority of deceased cats taken by coyotes and recovered by Animal Control Officers do not have identification like a collar or a microchip. These cats may be feral or community cats that are permanently outdoors with no owner. If larger animals are left outside a coyote may attack because it perceives it as a competitor or threat to its resources.

### Are there risks for animals if left outdoors without supervision?

Yes. Any time an owner leaves a pet outdoors alone, the pet's health and safety are jeopardized. Potential dangers include:

- Accidentally injured or killed by a car or other moving vehicle.
- Consuming harmful substances (antifreeze, rodent poison or eating plants toxic to animals).
- Contracting disease or illness from other animals that can potentially affect humans (distemper, rabies, fungal or bacterial infections).
- Transmitting parasites to each other and humans (toxoplasmosis or worms).
- Being attacked by a predator (coyotes, racoons, other cats and dogs).
- Being taken by another person.

### Did You Know?

Cats that roam outdoors freely live a significantly shorter lifespan when compared to indoor cats. [A university veterinary study](#) revealed:

- Outdoor cats generally live 2-5 years.
- Indoor cats can live 10-20 years.
- Vehicles accidents are the number 1 cause of death for cats.

[Learn More About Safeguarding Your Pets](#)

### Report Sick, Injured, Deceased Animals

- Torrance Animal Control: (310) 618-3850

### Report Coyote Activity

- Web: [www.TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes)
- 24-Hour Hotline: (310) 618-3898
- Mobile App: myTorranceCA

### View Weekly Coyote Activity Report

Report Aggressive Coyote Behavior to People

Call 9-1-1

Learn. Prevent. Report



For coyote education resources and resident action plans, visit:

[TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes](http://TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes)