

COYOTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The Coyote Family Structure

Coyotes are a highly social species. They often live together in groups and cooperate to ensure survival. A group of coyotes, also known as a pack or band, serve the following functions:

- Defend territory. Food, water and shelter are life sustaining resources found within a territory. Transient coyotes or other packs of coyotes may take over a territory if resources seem more plentiful in an area.
- Raise young. After the alpha male and female mate, they have pups in spring. Members of the pack help feed and care for the litter.
- Protect offspring from predators and other coyotes.
- Pass on generational learning. A coyote's ability to adapt to changing environments allows them to thrive in urban places like the South Bay. Coyotes learn behaviors from each other and interactions with the environment. As generations of coyotes become accustomed to city life, they learn to adapt and hunt in ways that coyotes in the wild do not.

What can be done to retrain coyotes to avoid people?

Haze or scare the coyote. Instill fear of people. Instead of quietly observing coyotes, get loud, big, or appear threatening to the coyote.

Do all coyotes live in a pack or band?

No. Once fully grown, young coyotes either remain with the pack, leave to find a new pack or become transient coyotes. These solitary coyotes don't have a defined territory. They're often younger coyotes who have left their birth pack. Their range is much larger and spans many coyote pack territories.

Most coyotes, at one point in time, belonged to a family pack. The litter of pups born in spring would be vulnerable to predators and malnourished if family members were not there to help care for them.

Did You Know:

- The average pack size is 3-7 adults and 2-7 pups or adolescents depending on the season.
- Pack size fluctuates with food availability. If food is plentiful pack size can be larger. If food is scarce, the pack size will be smaller.

What does a typical family pack look like?

The pack is comprised of:

- **One alpha male; one alpha female.** Only this pair mate to produce a litter of pups.
- **Pups and adolescent coyotes** born in spring. These young coyotes stay with the pack until they are fully grown. Family dynamics and hierarchy determines if the young coyote leaves or stays.
- **Other coyotes**, such as close relatives or lone coyotes accepted into the pack.

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

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