

# DANGERS OF FEEDING COYOTES

A resident may believe feeding coyotes will satisfy their hunger, so they don't eat pets in the neighborhood. This is a mistaken belief that actually increases risk for pets and people.

While feeding wildlife may seem harmless, it is illegal and dangerous for both the animal and the environment. Feeding coyotes, whether intentional or accidental, can lead to conflict with people and pets.

## WHY IS FEEDING WILDLIFE, SPECIFICALLY COYOTES, A BAD IDEA?

- 1) **It is illegal to feed wild animals in Los Angeles County.** It can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.
- 2) **Increases visits.** When an animal associates an area, like a park or home, with food they visit often or live nearby.
- 3) **It can lead to abnormal or aggressive behavior around people or pets.** Animals may assume a person or pet is a threat to their food and attack.
- 4) **Wildlife can lose their fear of people.** Instead, the animal learns to associate people with a meal. It sees a person, it follows because food is nearby.
- 5) **It can lead to an increase in population size.** Feeding community cats may help the cats produce more litters of cats without a home. These outdoor cats are hunted by coyotes. Feeding cats also feeds coyotes, which in turn increases the coyote population.
- 6) **It can harm the animal.** Human food is not meant to be consumed by animals. Human food does not provide adequate nutrition. The animal may accidentally eat food packaging and get sick.

### PREVENT ACCIDENTALLY FEEDING COYOTES

- ✓ Conduct the [At-Home Coyote Prevention Checklist](#)
- ✓ Bring trash bins to the curb the morning of trash day
- ✓ Make sure to securely close trash bins. Don't overfill trash
- ✓ Keep pet food indoors
- ✓ Don't litter

### IF YOU SUSPECT SOMEONE IS FEEDING COYOTES

- ✓ Call the 24-Hour Hotline (310) 618-3898
- ✓ Submit a report on the website: [TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes](https://TorranceCA.Gov/Coyotes)
- ✓ Call the Coyote Management office: (310) 618-2945

[View Weekly Coyote Activity Report](#)  
Learn. Prevent. Report.

For coyote education resources and resident action plans, visit:

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



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