Your Wild Neighbors: Coexisting with Coyotes

San Francisco is habitat for more than 800,000 people, as well as native plants, birds, and animals. You may see or hear your neighbor, the coyote. Learning about our urban coyote prevents conflicts and helps us to live in harmony.

Facts About Coyotes

- Coyotes weigh 18–35lbs in the west.

- Coyotes are common in cities and towns across North America, with coexistence the widely accepted management strategy.

- Coyotes may live alone, in pairs (they mate for life), or in family groups and may be seen during the day or night.

- Coyotes are omnivores, eating rabbits and rodents, fruit, vegetation, insects, and carrion. They provide free and non-toxic rodent control, and are nature's "cleanup crew," removing carrion and keeping our natural communities in balance.

Keeping Coyotes at a Distance

Wild territory is shrinking, forcing wildlife to live closer to people. The following steps can help prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home:

- **Don't feed or attempt to tame a coyote!**

- Don't feed wildlife in city parks. It's illegal, harmful, and can attract coyotes.

- Clean community areas after events.

- Never leave or store pet food outside.

- Tightly secure garbage cans. Store trash inside and put the garbage out on pickup day.

Note: Trapping and relocating wildlife is illegal in California. In addition, killing doesn't work since other coyotes will quickly fill vacancies often within weeks.

- When composting, use well-secured bins. Don't add meat, dairy, or eggs. Remove fallen fruit from the ground.

- If a coyote frequents your yard, consider installing motion-activated lights and/or sprinkler system, (e.g. *Scarecrow™*), a nighttime animal deterrent, (e.g. *Nite Guard™* or *Predator Guard™*), or adding reflective mylar and/or rolling pvc top to your fence, (e.g., *Coyote Roller™*).

- Trim under bushes so that a coyote can't find easy shelter. Close off crawl spaces under porches and sheds.

- Remove water sources, especially in times of drought.

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