

Coyotes in Desert Shores

As Las Vegas has grown, coyotes have become a frequent visitor to some communities, especially those with master plans involving water and golf courses. One of the primary reasons coyotes visit human communities is because someone is feeding them. This can be done purposely or unintentionally, but it usually is the driving issue when it comes to the presence of coyotes.

Another primary reason coyotes visit residential areas is the artificial habitat developers have created. Communities centered on golf courses, with the vegetation and water used in the design, attract the prey species that then attract the predatory species like coyotes and foxes. This is especially true of communities located on the outskirts of town where the neighborhoods and amenities about the wide open desert. Due to its location along Vegas Wash and adjacent to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Lake Las Vegas will always attract coyotes, foxes and other predators.

In short, the very things that make life enjoyable for you also make life enjoyable for them, but there are some things area residents can do to minimize the chance of an unpleasant interaction with coyotes.

1) First and foremost, don't feed them. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

- "A person shall not intentionally keep, harbor or in any way care for, maintain, lodge or feed on private property, a bat, skunk, raccoon, fox or coyote." NAC 441A.445
- Clean up pet food after feeding domestic animals
- Cover garbage cans with a well-fitting lid
- Discard food waste in the garbage and not on the ground or in the desert
- Keep in mind that if you are feeding other wildlife -- birds, rabbits, etc -- you are feeding coyotes

2) Coyotes will eat cats and small dogs

- Follow leash laws, but don't use an extending leash. Keep them close.
- Don't let pet cats wander the neighborhood. That is tantamount to ringing the dinner bell.

- Don't let small dogs out at dawn and dusk, and always stay close at hand.

3) Make them uncomfortable

- Haze them but don't corner them
- A garden hose works wonders
- Use a sound making device like a referee's whistle or a horn-in-a-can product
- Holler at them while waving your arms and make yourself look big
- Give them room to escape

4) Modify the habitat by trimming or clearing vegetation

- Eliminate hiding places for prey species
- Eliminate hiding places for coyotes, foxes and other predators.

Simply seeing coyotes is not cause for alarm, but should a coyote demonstrate aggressive behavior toward a human being, then a call may be warranted. Coyote attacks on humans are very rare, and are usually the result of people feeding them.

Perhaps the publications found at these links will be of some help.

[http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/public_documents/Wildlife Education/Publications/2010_Coyote.pdf](http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/public_documents/Wildlife_Education/Publications/2010_Coyote.pdf)

[http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/public_documents/Wildlife Education/Publications/urbanwild.pdf](http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/public_documents/Wildlife_Education/Publications/urbanwild.pdf)