

Coyote Safety Tips

The San Mateo County CCD Public Safety Office receives multiple calls about coyote sightings and encounters at Cañada College campus. Our surrounding communities have also reported receiving the same type of reports. Public Safety wants the college community to become educated about these animals as well as the dos and don'ts when encountering a coyote. First, to clear up a myth... **Coyotes are definitely NOT new to the area and have existed in our neighborhoods for some time.**



What should I do if a coyote approaches me?

There are occasions when coyotes need to be reminded that they should keep their distance from people. In the unlikely event that a coyote approaches you (or if you have an encounter within 50 feet and the coyote does not move away on its own accord) here are some things you can do:

- Frighten coyotes with loud noises.
- Fear of humans is important for coyote survival.
- Keep garbage in a tightly sealed container.
- In your yard, remove pet food, fallen fruit and spilled seed beneath bird feeders.
- Use yard lights or motion detectors to frighten them away.
- Try to walk your dogs at times other than dawn and dusk, when coyotes are most active. Stay with your pets while outdoors, unless pets are in a secured, covered kennel.
- Do not allow pets to run loose. Keep pets on a leash.

What should I do if I see a coyote on campus?

Coyotes are usually skittish around humans and typically try to avoid people whenever possible. If you encounter a coyote:

- Never feed coyotes or leave food outside. Secure trash cans and keep bird feeders out of reach.
- Never attempt to tame a coyote.
- **Do not turn your back** on a coyote or run away from a coyote.
- If approached, make loud noises and make yourself look big. If this fails, throw rocks or other objects.
- Always keep yourself between the coyote and small children.
- Don't feed other animals that coyotes prey upon. This includes birds, cats, and squirrels.
- Notify Campus Public Safety of the coyote sighting.

Other Tips for Coyote Safety

Hazing

- Officials suggest "hazing" coyotes to keep them afraid of humans. It includes:
 - Stand tall; do not run away or turn your back if the coyote continues to approach.
 - Yell, use a whistle or an air horn to scare them away.
 - More aggressive hazing may include throwing small objects at a coyote to scare, not injure the coyote.
 - Hazing works best when it is done consistently, over time.

Although attacks on humans are extremely rare, parents need to speak to their children about what to do if they encounter a coyote. Trapping and moving coyotes is prohibited by state law.

How can I protect my dog?

- The best way to reduce the likelihood of interacting with coyotes is to keep your dog on a short leash and avoid extension leashes.

What is their normal behavior?

Coyotes will usually avoid close human contact. Typically they are timid animals with a natural fear of humans. Coyotes can be active at any time of the day or night. They are most visible and vocal during breeding and pupping season, which typically runs from early spring through fall. In urban areas coyotes may not be as quick to run in the presence of people, but they are likely to keep their distance in a human encounter. Coyotes are members of the canine family and can be reactive in different ways to the presence of dogs.

What do they eat?

Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores who rely on natural sources of food, but they will scavenge from trash or composting bins if the cans are not secure. In the Presidio, the coyote's primary natural food sources are gophers and other rodents. They also eat fruit and vegetation.

IF YOU SEE ANY COYOTES ON CAMPUS BEHAVING IN A WAY THAT MAKES YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY, CALL 9-9-1-1 (on-campus phone) IMMEDIATELY.

Cañada College Public Safety Contact Information

24/7 Phone: 650-306-3420

Location: Building 9, Room 151

Chief Public Safety Officer: Brian Tupper, 650-306-3445