



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

Press Release

Springtime Coyote Pups May Mean Increased Human Interaction

For Immediate Release

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Springtime is in full gear in the hills, which means the wildlife residents are all busy mating and rearing their young. Coyotes are no exception – they generally breed in February or March and have litters of up to nine pups in April or May. With extra mouths to feed, coyote parents need to find more food sources. Fortunately, coyotes are scavengers and are very resourceful – they can eat almost anything, including small mammals (such as rabbits and rodents), snakes, fruits and vegetables, birds. However, that also means that some coyotes can sometimes stray into suburban and urban neighborhoods to eat trash or even small pets. By the time the pups are about six months old their mother is training them to search for food, and they sometimes hunt together in a family group. But if food sources are deliberately, or even accidentally, provided by people these young coyote learn to associate human neighborhoods with food and may develop a reliance on these unnatural food sources, increasing their interactions with humans and reducing their natural fear of humans. The best way to avoid human-coyote interactions is to prevent them by keeping coyotes wild by reducing their reliance on human food sources. How can you help? Do not feed coyotes, directly or indirectly – this includes making sure that any outside garbage is secured. Do not feed your pets outdoors, and do not leave pet food outdoors unattended, especially at night. Do not allow pets to roam free outside, and make sure to keep your dog on a leash during walks. And finally, make sure that fencing around your yard is intact and secure – a six-foot high fence is recommended, as is burying the bottom six inches of the fence underground to prevent digging underneath it.

Ecologist Shannon Lucas with the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority reminds us, ***“Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem by helping to keep local populations of rodents and other small mammals under control.”***

Informative Links:

California Department of Fish and Game

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faqs_notice/fs_wscoyote.html

Habitat Authority

www.HabitatAuthority.org

A Joint Powers Agency created pursuant to California Government Code §6500 *et seq.*
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