

## Humane Wildlife Deterrent & Safety Checklist

Gregory Randall, Urban Wildlife Ecologist & Humane Education Conflict Resolution Specialist

- o 18 gallon or larger storage tote to hold deterrent items at home.
- o Waist pack or satchel to carry deterrents in while walking and hiking.
- o Police or Storm Whistle with breakaway necklace.
- o Bull Horn or Air Horn.
- o 2 pans to bang together. (at home)
- o Coyote shaker can (Aluminum can with some washers inside to shake and scare a coyote, etc.)
- o Tennis balls to throw.
- o Umbrella to pop open and waive around. Towards animal open and close repeatedly to make a flapping wings sound.
- o **Coyote Dazzler:** (How to make: You will need Nylon construction String, a tennis ball, rivet tool (or just knot the string), key ring, Mylar Holographic tape or \*Irri-Tape. Cut a 2 foot piece strong nylon construction string and rivet or attach by threading through a tennis ball and knotting on another side, attach the other end of the string to a key ring to hold on to, attach 2, 3 foot strips of Mylar holographic pattern tape to the tennis ball. Swing item over your head in circles to produce a frightening noise and display in the presence of coyotes to scare them off. Picture attached)



- o ScareCrow motion sprinkler (check internet or Orchards Supply Hardware)
- o Coyote Roller or roll guard fence deterrent (check internet)
- o Critter Gitter motion deterrent (check internet)
- o Squirrel Evictor (check internet)
- Attraction source abatement checklist
- o Vegetation (Reduce density, remove dead foliage)
- o Brush piles (remove or enclose)
- o Wood piles (remove or enclose)
- o Compost piles (remove or enclose)
- o Bushes and Hedges (create 1 foot clearance of space from the ground up to reduce hiding places) Trees, in general (trim 3 to 5 feet from roof eaves, 10 feet from chimneys, band and baffle trees with sheet metal or aluminum to impede climbing animals)
- o Fruit trees (remove ripened and fallen fruit daily, many predators such as coyotes eat a wide variety of fruit)
- o Vegetable garden (enclose in greenhouse for full exclusion or by 16 gauge garden wire 4 feet high to impede browsing)
- o Pet food (remove bowls and plates from your yard after food is consumed, do not leave any pet food outside from sundown to sun up. Store all food items inside of your home or garage in wildlife resistant bins if needed)
- o Wildlife (Do not feed, entice, encourage, attempt to pet or allow your own pets to play with or pursue at any time.)

### Pets and other animal's checklist:

- o Pets (vaccinate against rabies and other disease, license and microchip)
- o Dogs (Keep dogs on leashes not exceeding 6 feet in length while on walks. In regards to conflict with wildlife or free roaming dogs, No one under the age of 18 is supposed to be under the control of any dog on a walk, that said most people are not aware or follow that, so it is recommended that children do not walk dogs that have a total body weight which exceeds more than half that of the child walking it should conflict happen the overall strength of the animals pulling on the child could cause a variety of injuries to that child. Dogs in general, and

especially less than 20 pounds should not be left unattended outside of a home in areas where urban wildlife may frequent, and domestic dogs may not be allowed outside in yards, which are not enclosed by a fence that would prevent the dog access to public areas even on the property of the owner. Never walk dogs off trails in park hiking areas, do not allow dogs to browse dense vegetation in forest like habitat)

o Cats (should be maintained inside your home. Alternatively, pets outside can be maintained in a structure such as a Catio or pet run that is enclosed on all 6 sides with a minimum 16 gauge welded wire mesh. Water and shelter is required when outside along with adequate exercise area for the pet)

o If you place small pets like rabbits, birds, or others of similar type outside your dwelling, it may invite urban predators to investigate, and this includes birds of prey or snakes. consider protective enclosure options or better yet to maintain indoors.

#### **Pets and other animal's checklist continued:**

o Strays feeding: Feeding of any stray animal invites wildlife forays. While it may not be unlawful to feed a stray domestic animal, it is illegal to maintain by feeding more than 3 of any type domestic animal, and if done off your own property, the act equates to creating a public nuisance and littering. If you feed a stray domestic pet for a month on your property, it can also be held against you in court proceedings as your pet(s) should legal issues arise in regards to said animal(s)

o Wildlife feeding (It is illegal to feed wildlife even if accidental/unintentional. The fines are as high as \$1,000.00 and 6 Months in Jail - L.A.M.C. 53.06.5 Feeding of Non-Domesticated Mammalian Predators Prohibited)

o Farm animals (Livestock and poultry should be confined when possible in solid barn like structures from dusk to dawn to reduce the chance of a negative encounter with wildlife)

o Animal waste outside (Remove as soon as possible daily. Animal excrement often has matter within it that attracts wild predators)

#### **Children & Wildlife Safety Checklist:**

o Check the yard for the presence of wildlife prior allowing children to go out and play.

o Check outdoor children's toys and play structures frequently as they could harbor random animals, reptiles, or arachnids, etc.

o It is recommended that children change clothing before going outside to play after recent consumption a meal as the odor of food may have been absorbed clothing worn. Do not allow children to play outside while in possession of food items that could attract a stray or wild animal.

o Instruct children to never approach, attempt to pet, feed, or summon wildlife.

o Provide children with deterrent item access when outside such as whistles with breakaway necklace to be used in emergencies. Best still to never leave children unattended outside regardless of age.

o Children should never run or present themselves in a semi-prone or prone position in the presence of predatory wildlife.

o Clothing worn by children while playing outside should be brightly colored, avoid colors that mimic that of prey species such as deer.

o In the event of wildlife confrontation, children should be taught to make themselves appear larger by waving their arms in the air, clap, stomp feet and call out "There is a Coyote here" or name of the animal type present. They should be taught to move decisively and deliberately towards a other people, entrance to home, populated area. Movement should be stepping away from the wild animal while facing it as much as possible and avoid crossing one foot over the other to reduce the likelihood of tripping. Strategic placement of several umbrellas in the yard for children to access can allow them to open the umbrella facing away from them and towards the wild predator make them appear large and menacing, which is a most effective wildlife frightening tactic. The proviso for scare tactics is to not use these methods when it comes to skunks for obvious reasons. It is best to give skunks a wide berth and slowly move away from them or remain motionless until they move off.

o Practice wildlife safety with children, as you would a fire, earthquake drill; read to children about urban wildlife as this is a subject not often examined, and awareness is key to reduce fear, a little fear keeps us from making unsafe choices, a lot of fear makes us helpless.

## **Wildlife and Safety**

- **Keep your pets indoors if possible since coyotes may be active at any time of day or night. Confine very small pets that you cannot keep indoors to 6 sided covered enclosures constructed of a heavy gauge wire mesh. Coyotes can break through chicken wire.**
- **Walk your dog on a leash at all times, no longer than 6 feet and keep close. If your yard does not have a fence, keep your pet close to you while outside.**
- **Pick fruit from trees when ripened and remove all fallen fruit. Cut low hanging branches to prevent the coyotes feeding from trees.**
- **Trim and thin ground-level shrubbery. Create a 1 foot clearance of space below hedges and bushes to reduce animal hiding places.**
- **Vegetable gardens should be protected with heavy duty garden fences or greenhouse.**
- **Check with your local plant nursery to see what type of deterrent products are available. If you have access to the Internet, you may find some items on-line.**
- **Close off crawl spaces under your home, porches, decks, and sheds. Coyotes use such areas for resting and raising young.**
- **Clean and store barbecue grills after use.**
- **Avoid having open wood, brush, and compost piles.**
- **Do not allow pets to roam from home.**
- **Do not feed wildlife. It is illegal to feed predatory mammals in the City of Los Angeles (L.A.M.C. Sec. 53.06.5). Report violations of people observed to be feeding wild mammals.**
- **Do not leave pet food or water bowls outside if your pet is not outdoors.**
- **Put all trash bags inside the trash cans and keep lids securely fastened. Place trash cans and bins inside sheds, garages or other enclosed structures. Do not set your trash out until the day of pick-up to reduce attracting predators.**
- **Do not attempt to pet or otherwise make physical contact with wildlife. Coyotes are wild animals and should be treated as such.**
- **Never leave small children unattended outdoors.**
- **Share this information with your neighbors, as your efforts may be futile if someone is providing food or shelter for wildlife.**