



NEWS RELEASE
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A Dry Summer Means More Wildlife Encounters

Los Angeles, CA – The Los Angeles Department of Animal Services has a Wildlife Division to aid residents in rectifying problems and some of the uneasiness that many people may face with wildlife. This program allows a Department representative to provide on-site evaluations, education on methods of exclusion, deterrents and discouragement of wildlife forays into our city neighborhoods. It is not the intention of the Department of Animal Services to remove wildlife from residential areas. Rather, the ultimate goal of the Department is to educate the public and foster a relationship between wildlife and the community, in which the two can live together and coexist in peace. This is a multi-tiered program designed to help neighborhoods better deal with wildlife issues, and further lessen contact with these animals by investigating changes in both human and wildlife behavior.

A dry summer means more wildlife forays by both predators and prey species around our homes, seeking access to water and food. City of Los Angeles residents should minimize odors and the availability of food rewards throughout their property. Guidelines to avoid negative encounters with wildlife include:

- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Remove or thin down dense brush that provides cover for wildlife where an encounter is likely.
- Trim trees 5 feet from the roof eaves or band trees to prevent access.
- Don't allow creeping vines or ivy type plants to grow on the wall of your home up to the roof.
- Put out garbage on the day of pick-up, not the night before. Store refuse in a sturdy building or place in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Do not leave pet food out outside when your pet is not there to eat it, especially at night.
- Pick up fallen fruit from your property daily.
- Remove sources of water when possible, especially in dry climates. Standing water in birdbaths and fountains should be drained at night. Pet water dishes should be brought in when your pet is indoors.
- Hang bird feeders out of reach and avoid ground feeding of birds & squirrels. Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- Keep barbeques clean and grease free.



- Cover compost piles that may attract wildlife. Do not put meat, fish or other pungent vegetable or fruit scraps in compost piles. Add lime to reduce odors and accelerate decomposition.
- Never feed predatory wildlife. It is against the law under L.A.M.C. 53.06.5 Feeding of Non-domesticated Mammalian Predators (Badgers, Bobcats, Bears, Coyotes, Mountain lions, Opossums, Raccoons, Skunks, etc.)
- Never feed Big Game animals. It is prohibited under CCR §251.3. Prohibition Against Feeding Big Game Mammals (Deer)
- Install motion-sensitive lighting and sprinklers around the periphery of your home.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, etc. Chicken wire will not protect the animals. Use at least 16 or 18 gauge welded wire. Bring the animals indoors at night if possible.
- Landscape your yard with deer-resistant plants.
- Repair damaged fencing; enclose gardens with 6-8 foot fencing when possible (A variance may be needed for fences over six feet.)
- Be sure to seal holes and spaces around your home to prevent entry.
- Consider using commercially prepared deer repellents (available at garden supply stores.)
- Scare away wildlife such as coyotes away whenever they are observed.
- Never approach wildlife as the consequences of approaching or feeding wildlife can be serious. You are responsible for your own safety as well as the safety of wildlife.
- Remember, although most predatory animals come at night, encounters with coyotes and some other predators can happen at any time.

Wildlife first hand non-emergency sightings and issues can be reported to Los Angeles Animal Services at (323) 225-WILD (9453). For more tips about wildlife, please visit: <http://www.laanimalservices.com/about-animals/wildlife>.

About Los Angeles Animal Services

Los Angeles Animal Services is one of the largest municipal shelter systems in the United States with six shelters serving approximately 60,000 animals annually and responding to 20,000 emergency calls involving an animal or person in danger each year. Visit us on the web at <http://www.laanimalservices.com>.

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