

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions: Living with Wildlife NEVER LEAVE PETS UNATTENDED IN A YARD

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What preventive measures can I take to coexist with wildlife safely?

- The wildlife in our area is looking for food, shelter, and water. Deny access to those things. Be proactive. Feeding birds, for example, draws rodents and rabbits (seeds). Small animals attract snakes, large animals and owls.
 - Never leave pets, especially small to medium-size pets, unattended in the yard.
 - Always walk your dogs on a leash and keep the leash to 6 feet or less (Maricopa County law).
 - Feed your domestic animals inside. Remove uneaten pet food in between feedings.
 - Clear piles of wood or other materials in your yard that might be enticing for animals to make a "shelter".
 - Cleanup after outdoor parties, ensuring no food particles are left for wildlife. Remember, rodents draw other animals.
 - Avoid using seed birdfeeder. Birds draw larger predators and the seeds draw rodents, drawing larger predators.
 - Never toss food in the washes or on the golf courses. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, feeding wildlife causes more harm than good as it teaches animals to rely on people rather than learning to hunt on their own and draws animals closer to residences which bring larger predators to the same area.
- Prune your plants up and away from the ground. Snakes often wrap around the base of plants to get water.
- Block the area under your gate with mesh to prevent rodents and snakes from passing under the gate.
- Eliminate rodents around your home and fill in any rodent holes in your yard.
- Keep your fences and walls in good repair and consider a foam fill between the open seams/joints.
- Take caution when driving and walking around anywhere in the community.
- Teach your children not to pass through washes or shortcuts.

What do wild animals, owls and rattlesnakes eat and what can I do to stop that food chain?

Consider selecting plants for your yard that do not attract wildlife.

- **Javelina** eat prickly pear cactus, mesquite beans, berries, tubers, bulbs, roots, flowers and gourds (pumpkins).
- **Coyotes** most common prey is small rodents, deer and rabbits. Do not feed the rabbits in your yard or outside your fence. Coyotes are opportunistic and will eat grass, fruits, berries, watermelon, cactus fruit, mesquite beans, pet food and scattered seeds from bird feeders.
- **Bobcats** are basically carnivores, but will eat fallen fruit, bird seed and pet food. Their main diet is rabbits, but they eat rodents, birds, bats and adult deer. Do not leave small dogs unsupervised in your yard.
- **Burros** primarily eat native grasses, forbs, and woody plants like mesquite, palo verde, and ironwood. They are also known to browse on shrubs and desert plants.
- **Rabbits** are herbivores. During the warmer seasons, rabbits eat weeds, grasses, clover, wildflowers and flower and vegetable plants. In cooler times, they eat twigs, bark, buds and green plants. Remember, rabbits attract larger animals.
- **Great Horned Owls** eat rabbits, rats and mice. They will hunt any animal they can overtake, such as rodents, midsized mammals, various birds and reptiles. People should take care about leaving cats and small dogs outside unsupervised.
- **Mountain Lions** eat deer, javelina, rodents, rabbits, coyotes, dogs and cats. They are "shy," but dangerous. Never run from a mountain lion.
- **Snakes** eat rodents and other small mammals. They will eat lizards and birds. Bird nests and eggs in your yards might attract snakes to your yard.

How do I handle a wildlife encounter?

- All residents should learn about our wildlife BEFORE an encounter. Go to <https://www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/>.
- For information on Burros in Anthem go to: <https://www.anthemcouncil.com/DocumentCenter/View/1344/Wild-Burro-Safety> or <https://anthemcouncil.com/DocumentCenter/View/1307/Burros-in-Anthem>
- Don't approach or try to handle a snake or any other wildlife. Ensure the wild animal has a safe exit from your yard.
- Call 911 for any snake bite or other wildlife attack and follow the 911 operator's instructions.
- Contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department to report a mountain lion in your yard or frequenting a wash at 602-942-3000. For all other wildlife questions or concerns, contact Arizona Game and Fish Department at 602-942-3000 or visit their website at <https://www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/>.
- It is your responsibility to know the laws of self-defense if attacked or threatened with the attack. The HOA has no authority to issue legal advice. Owners should research Arizona law, the Arizona Game and Fish Department website at <https://www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/> and the ACCCA CC&R Exhibit C, Initial Use Restrictions, paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) for additional information.