

Ask Clay: Wily coyotes may not care if you mark your territory

CLAY THOMPSON ([//WWW.AZCENTRAL.COM/VIEWPOINTS/CLAYTHOMPSON/](http://www.azcentral.com/viewpoints/claythompson/))

Clay Thompson (<http://www.azcentral.com/staff/10397/clay-thompson/>), The Republic | azcentral.com 7:02 a.m. MST November 20, 2016



A coyote walks through a parking lot at Mesa Community College Red Mountain Campus in Mesa. (Photo: Michael Chow/The Republic, azcentral.com)

Clay Thompson ([/viewpoints/claythompson/](http://viewpoints/claythompson/)) is off today. We reached into the "Best of Clay" archives for this column, first published Nov. 11, 2005.

Today's question:

We are having trouble with coyotes jumping the walls and getting small pets. We have been told that if you spread urine of a human male on the wall or at its outside base, it will keep them away because they can smell human urine half a mile away. True?

I don't think so. I couldn't find anything or anybody who said human urine would keep coyotes away, but I suppose you'll never know until you try it. Get all the guys in the neighborhood together, have them pee on the wall and see what happens.

However, I think the solution to your problem lies in your question. Why are the coyotes jumping the walls? To get small pets. Why not [keep the small pets inside](http://story/life/house-garden/2014/09/19/live-happily-desert-pets/15798775/) or at least don't leave them in the yard unattended, especially around dusk or dawn? If there aren't any small pets to eat, the coyotes are going to stop jumping the wall.

In a way, this reminds me of that classic question from the guy who wanted to know how to keep birds from drilling holes in his saguaro. If you're going to live in the desert with a saguaro, birds are going to drill holes in it. If you're going to leave Puff or Fido alone in the back yard, coyotes are going to eat them.

MORE: [How to live happily in the desert with your pets](http://story/life/house-garden/2014/09/19/live-happily-desert-pets/15798775/)

ASK CLAY ANYTHING

Why Google when you've got Clay Thompson, our resident guru of random knowledge? Email him your questions at clay.thompson@arizonarepublic.com (<mailto:clay.thompson@arizonarepublic.com>) and check back at [clay.azcentral.com](http://www.azcentral.com/viewpoints/claythompson/) (<http://www.azcentral.com/viewpoints/claythompson/>) for his often hilarious responses.

In addition to keeping the pets inside, you need to get rid of everything else around the place that might interest coyotes — pet food, garbage, water bowls. I like feeding the birds, but the loose seed can attract rodents that, in turn, can attract coyotes. And clear the brush and tall grass away from the base of the fence or wall so the coyotes don't have any place to hide.

Now here's an idea that may sound goofy, but I guess it's no goofier than peeing on the wall: You can buy motion-activated water sprinklers. They work on pigeons, so maybe they'd work on coyotes. I guess it depends on how much wall you'd have to cover.

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