

Wildlife Deterrents

South Coast Region



DISCLAIMER: No deterrent is 100% effective. To lower risk of human-wildlife conflict, apply several methods in combination consistently and over time. Every animal is an individual and will show varying levels of habituation to deterrents. Not all deterrents are effective for every wildlife species. Local city and county ordinances should be considered prior to utilizing any deterrent. In addition, CDFW cannot attest to efficacy for each deterrent provided below - listing a deterrent does not constitute an endorsement.

Deterrents		 Coyote	 Mountain Lion	 Black Bear	 Bobcat	 Mule Deer	 Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum
SIGHT	Fladry Flagging (electric/non-electric)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Flashing/Strobe Lights (motion-activated)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Garden/Plant Exclusion Fencing	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
	Property Exclusion Fencing, (buried, >6-10 ft tall, with overhang)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Shaking open an empty trash bag	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SOUND	Air Horns	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Alarms (motion-activated)/Whistles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bang Objects (usually something metal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Clapping/Yelling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Radios (music/talkshows)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Shaker Bottles & Cans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOUCH	Electric Fencing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Fence Exclusion Devices or "Rollers"	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
	Hose or Toy Gun (spray nozzle)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Small projectiles thrown towards animal's rump (rocks, branches, tennis balls)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	"Unwelcome Mats" (electric/non-electric)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
SMELL/TASTE	Water Sprinklers or Jets (motion-activated)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Ammonia-Soaked Rags/Sponges	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Commercially Available Sprays	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
COMBINATION	Guard Dog/Trained Livestock Guardian Dog	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Bear Spray	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Walking Stick/Trekking pole (protection or frightening device)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗