A LITTLE GUIDE FROM TRACE'S GARDEN

Living with Wildlife

Our animals are part of our families. The wild creatures around us have lives of their own, too. With a little care, our homes and gardens can make room for both. These reflections from Trace's garden invite us to prevent conflict and treat animals with compassion, dignity and respect.



Harmony & nature

The Rams Horn Secret Tea Garden is a Certified National Wildlife Federation sanctuary. Trace's poison-free, organic garden offers water, shelter and plants for wildlife: a reprieve from the concrete hustle of city life.

A wildlife-friendly garden begins with suitable native plants, shelter, a place to raise young and a clean water source. Let plants provide natural food for birds, pollinators and other small visitors. Keep feeding areas clean and place habitat features away from pets.

Inside: Caring for pets - garden insects - fleas - humane coexistence - where to find help.

EVERYDAY PRECAUTIONS

Pets & wildlife

Pets & wildlife: preventing conflicts

Birds of prey, coyotes, snakes, traffic and other dogs can put pets at risk. Kindness to wildlife and care for our companions belong together. Coyotes can be active in daylight as well as at dusk and night.

1. Accompany dogs outdoors and keep them on a short leash. Keep cats, rabbits and other small pets indoors or in a secure, fully enclosed space.

2. Supervise pets even in a fenced garden. A fence alone is not a guarantee of safety; ask a qualified professional about appropriate enclosures and barriers.

3. Feed pets indoors. Secure rubbish, compost and pet food; clear fallen fruit and spilled birdseed that can attract wildlife close to the house.

4. Keep a respectful distance from wild animals. Never feed coyotes or allow pets to approach them. Watch where you step around pots, vegetation and sheltered spaces.

5. If an animal seems injured or ill, contact a permitted wildlife rehabilitator for instructions. Keep people and pets away rather than trying to catch or treat it yourself.

Further guidance: California Department of Fish and Wildlife - coyotes.

SMALL CHANGES, SHARED SPACES

A kinder home & garden

Garden insects & a poison-free approach

Many insects belong in a healthy garden. Observe and identify a visitor before deciding that it needs controlling. Give pollinators and beneficial insects room to thrive.

Avoid routine spraying and keep poisons out of the food chain. Start with barriers, good housekeeping and advice from a qualified garden professional. Household detergents and homemade chemical mixtures are not automatically safe for plants, pets or wildlife.

Fleas & caring for the home

Regular cleaning works alongside veterinary care. Vacuum carpets, upholstery, cracks and the places where pets rest; empty the vacuum safely. Wash pet bedding regularly according to its care instructions. Suitable carpets can be steam cleaned.

Use a flea comb and ask your veterinarian about treatment appropriate to your pet's species, age and health. Follow product labels: never apply a dog-only treatment to a cat, or improvise remedies with household chemicals.

Rodents, gophers & our wild neighbours

Gophers, squirrels, opossums and other small creatures have a place in the ecosystem. Where possible, protect a particular planting or space instead of trying to remove wildlife from the whole garden.

Prevent unwanted entry by storing food securely and inspecting access points. Before sealing an opening, make sure no animal or dependent young will be trapped inside. A qualified humane-exclusion professional can help.

Avoid rodent poisons, which can harm predators and other animals that eat poisoned prey. Do not pour ammonia into burrows or attempt trapping and relocation without guidance from the appropriate local wildlife authority.

RESOURCES & A LITTLE KINDNESS

Keep learning. Keep caring.

When a wild animal needs help

An animal with an injury, unusual weakness or severe hair loss may need professional help. Observe from a distance, keep pets away and contact a wildlife rehabilitator. Do not feed, medicate or handle the animal unless the rehabilitator tells you to.

Wildlife Care of SoCal and California Wildlife Center are among the organisations in our community. Check their current service areas and intake instructions before travelling.

National Wildlife Federation

The National Wildlife Federation has wound down its catalogue and online shop. Its habitat guidance, publications and conservation work continue. Explore the current resources below to help wildlife where you live.

NWF habitat guidance

NWF catalogue update

UC IPM: fleas

EPA: fleas and ticks

Wildlife Care of SoCal

California Wildlife Center

Poison Free Malibu

All animals exist for their own reasons and have a place in the world. Learn to appreciate them, protect the companions in your care and seek ways to coexist. Let us thrive together. In Joy, TAJ ART INC.

"Welcome, welcome little stranger, Fear no harm, and fear no danger; We are glad to see you here, For you sing 'Sweet Spring is near.' Now the white snow melts away; Now the flowers blossom gay; Come dear bird and build your nest, For we love our robin best."
Louisa May Alcott