Fast Facts

General Appearance
dog-like, gray or cinnamon coat,
long thin legs, pointed ears, long
bushy tails tipped with black

Territory
wide open fields or suburban areas with easy access to open
garbage cans and pet food

Diet
carnivorous diet consisting of rodents, small mammals, pet
food (when left outside), occasionally birds, insects, and fallen fruit

Lifestyle
mostly nocturnal

Lifespan
6-8 years

Size
25-40 pounds

Rabies Vector Species
yes

SBWCN cares for
approximately
5-10 per year, mostly juveniles

Reasons why coyotes come into our care:

- Car strikes
- Poison
- Emaciation
- Orphaned
- Mange
- Parasites

Living in Harmony

- Do not leave pet food outside
- Keep cats indoors
- Do not let your pets out unsupervised after dark
- Make sure your trash cans have tight lids and that the cans are secured in some way as not to be toppled
- Pick up fallen fruit. Try to pick ripe fruit off trees
- Do not leave windows or sliding doors without screens open and unattended. Close garage doors
- Never intentionally feed a wild animal!

Feeding wildlife increases human encounters, which endangers animals and harms the ecosystem.
If you see a coyote in your yard:
- Do not approach or try to befriend
- Bring small children and pets inside
- Make sure the coyote has an escape route by opening gates
- Make loud noises
- Spray water towards the coyote

If you see a coyote approaching you:
- DO NOT RUN or turn your back
- Pick up small children and pets
- Make loud noises
- Raise your arms to look big
- Calmly back away

If a coyote needs help...
- Since coyotes have the potential to spread rabies, call the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network and we will send a rescuer who is rabies vaccinated to rescue the coyote:
  Helpline: (805) 681-1080
- You can also call Santa Barbara County Animal Services: (805) 681-5285
- Or Santa Barbara City Animal Control if you’re in the city of SB: (805) 963-1513

Why not trap and relocate?
- Live-trapping and relocation is inhumane
  Animals are introduced into areas that are unfamiliar to them so they do not know where food or water sources are. Other animals in the area may have diseases to which the introduced animal has never been exposed, and the introduced animal may be killed by another coyote if they are in another's territory. Animals often injure themselves when they are trapped.
- Trapping is only a temporary solution
  The reasons animals are visiting your property must be addressed before they stop visiting.
- Traps often do not catch the intended targets
  Other animals, even pets, are just as likely to enter traps set for coyotes. Adult coyotes are often too wily for traps.