

# Coexisting with Javelina

## How to Turn a Neighborhood Foe into a Neighborhood Friend



Javelina are not pigs, but collared peccaries that originate from South America. They live in our urban environment, using desert washes as a “wildlife highway.” Javelina typically travel in herds for protection and to defend their territory, and with the right precautions, don’t have to be dangerous. It’s important to coexist with javelina. After all, they lived in the desert first!

- **Do not feed javelina!** Javelina will become regular visitors and lose their fear of people, creating problems for the neighborhood, injuries to people and pets, and often leading to the death of javelina.
- **Eliminate food sources.** Pick up fruit or nuts as soon as it drops from trees and clean up spilled bird seed. Feed pets inside or remove uneaten pet food between feeding. Remove quail blocks and bird seed. Javelina will move where food is available.
- **Place a large mat underneath birdfeeders** to keep young javelina from ingesting sand and gravel. Tucson Wildlife Center recently had two young javelina come into the hospital with severe intestinal blockage from eating seed, sand and gravel. This can be fatal.
- **Walk pets on leashes.** If you come across a javelina while walking your dog, walk quickly in the opposite direction. Javelina view dogs as coyotes, which are threats. Never let your dog provoke a javelina.
- **Build a fence or short wall** (over 3 feet tall) to protect plants and your yard using rebar. Make sure the rebar is 1-2 feet in the ground. Use hardware cloth between rebar or fence posts.
- **Make shelter or yard uncomfortable** with noise or bright light. Safe and humane deterrents include using motion-activated sprinklers, flashing lights and ultrasound repellents.
- **Landscape with natural vegetation** that javelina generally do not like, such as daffodils, basil, rosemary, pansies and petunias. Their favorites are cacti, succulents, bulbs and tubers, and any plant with fruits/nuts.
- **Adjust watering times** and do not let pools of water develop in plant wells.
- **Make sure garbage is in a sealed bag**, the can lid is on tight and put it out just before trash collection. You can also secure garbage cans with locking lids and attaching them to a fence or wall. Clean out odors.
- **Don’t use poisons.** When poisons are used to eliminate rodents, raptors and large mammals will often die from secondary poisoning when the carcasses are eaten.
- **Do not kill or hurt javelina.** They are protected by state laws and subject to hunting regulations.
- **Never corner a javelina.** This can cause them to become dangerous. Make sure the javelina has an escape route and it will flee on its own.

**For wildlife help or emergencies, call Tucson Wildlife Center at 520-290-WILD (9453)**

Tucson Wildlife Center is dedicated to the rescue, emergency medical care and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife before return to the wild, while promoting education, habitat protection and peaceful coexistence with wildlife. Visit us online at [www.TucsonWildlife.com](http://www.TucsonWildlife.com).