

Wildlife Damage Control

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Coyote Roller Information

With increasing urbanization and the resultant encroachment on wild areas, more and more property owners are discovering the negative side of wildlife. Coyotes in particular are becoming an increasing problem. Coyote predation on cats and dogs have caused many people to look for a way to protect their pets and small children. Regrettably, traditional control techniques such as hunting and trapping are often not feasible due to liability, personal preferences or legal restrictions. Of course, there is always the fear, not always a rational fear, of a public relations fiasco that traditional methods might harm non-targets. WCO's could consider fencing. But the problem is that coyotes have been known to get over fences 6 feet tall. To build a fence tall enough to stop coyotes is both cost prohibitive and a potential eye sore. Barbed and/or electric fences are both dangerous and sometimes forbidden by local zoning laws. Plus these devices add to a sense of being under siege which few homeowners wish to feel.

This is where the Coyote Roller comes in. The origin of this device has its own interesting history. I will let the device's creator say it in his own words. "About eight years ago, at 8:30 am, a coyote climbed over our 5 foot high, wrought iron fence and tried to get our sleeping cat. Somehow the cat escaped into the house through an open sliding door. The noise of the coyote banging into the door and the cat screeching startled me. When I looked up, I saw a very healthy looking coyote peering through the open door, about to continue his pursuit inside the house. I yelled and charged at him, and he turned and was back over the fence in a couple of seconds. I knew I would have to do something, but electrified fencing and barbed wire were not options. As I thought about the physics of a coyote going over a fence, I remembered how many of the pet dogs I've owned always had to gain a foothold at the top of the enclosure, to get over it. The idea of mounting a series of rollers on the top of the fence came to me - to prevent animals from gaining that foothold. I made some rollers out of ABS pipe and fabricated some home made brackets. The system was fairly crude and bulky looking, but three nights later I heard the coyotes try to get over the fence and into the yard. I had tied strings on each roller so I could verify that they had been activated, and to see which way they had rotated. I had also sprinkled some soil on the concrete inside the yard, to see the footprints of any animals getting in. No footprints, and the rollers had rotated outwardly, as expected."

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"While the original rollers were effective, their looks bothered my wife, and I wanted to come up with something more permanent. So, I researched the weight, height and top speed of coyotes in order to develop design parameters. Even then, I had to guess at - over what distance a coyote could attain its top speed of 40 mph, so I could estimate its vertical acceleration, when scaling a fence. The resulting performance requirements led me to use aluminum tubing and design a low inertia axle and bracket system. Still homemade, this roller system was strong, effective and aesthetically pleasing. And it stayed in place, without any coyote problems, until it was replaced last year by our commercial version, The Coyote Roller. The Coyote Roller came into being about a year ago, after I responded to a local radio talk show (The Dr. Dog Show), where people were describing the coyote invasion problems they were having. It became apparent that a commercial version might have some market potential in areas where trapping, electrified or barbed wire fencing were inappropriate. To me, this is another tool. The more tools, the better."

Essentially, the Coyote Roller works by preventing them from being able to get the foothold necessary to hoist themselves over a tall fence. (Note, coyotes can clear 5 foot tall fences without having to touch the fence at all.) The idea is so simple you almost have to wonder why you didn't think of it yourself. The Coyote Roller is made of aluminum materials and is constructed so finely that it only takes two ounces of pressure to cause it to spin. This means that even medium to large birds can't stand on the device without causing it to spin.

Several advantages are immediately obvious with this device. First, it requires no electricity or power source to operate. Second it doesn't need any maintenance. While a relatively new product and hasn't been tested around the country yet, its construction certainly suggests a low maintenance device. Third, it can be installed on an existing fence. You just need to tell the company what kind of fence you are going to install it on and they will include the appropriate brackets with your order. Fortunately, installation doesn't require any special tools. Your normal Phillips head screwdriver will do the trick. It is also relatively harmless to humans and pets. While there is the chance that someone or something could get pinched by the device, it would be a rare event. One should also consider that the coyote could get injured from falling while trying to jump the fence. Nevertheless, the coyote roller is certainly less directly injurious than other options. One final benefit to mention is that the device not only can keep coyotes out of a yard, it can also keep your wandering dog inside the yard. In all fairness to the coyotes, sometimes, pet dogs get killed because they wander out into coyote territory.

Downside of the product is the cost. It can get a bit pricey especially if you haven't constructed the fence yet. Another downside of this device lies in its limited application. You can only use it when the animal is climbing over something to enter the property. If the client doesn't have a secure fence, the device will be circumvented. I asked the inventor about the device's effectiveness in bad weather such as freezing rain and snow. He noted that the Roller hadn't been thoroughly tested in all types of weather yet. They are looking for a place to do testing. However, he has had some personal experience with the effect of cold weather on the roller. He says, " The Rollers installed at my place have been frozen, after being wetted by rainfall, twice. They were stiffer, but would have kept out a coyote without any problem; although, the birds in the video probably could have landed on them. My own feeling is that if they were subjected to prolonged

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freezing rain conditions, they could lose their ability to rotate. I'm not sure if the ice buildup on them, under those conditions, would, in itself, keep coyotes out."

I made some calls to get the opinions of those not financially involved with the device. Their comments were generally positive. Terry Cox of Wildlife Services says that he has never seen the device in action except to see a bird land one and spin off. He sees no reason why the device couldn't work. He also concurs that the device must be installed on a fence that is at least 6 feet high as coyotes can clear 5 foot fences. If anyone would hear of negative comments about the device he would as he is a call in talk show host.

Perhaps the Coyote Roller is a tool that can help you protect your property from coyotes.

For a Price Quote

Tell use 1. The linear feet of fence you wish to install the product on. (warning the fence should be a minimum of 5 feet high (preferably 6) and secure to the ground to prevent coyotes passing underneath the device).

2. the type of fence you are wishing to install the product on. Is it wood, is it chain-link. If chain link what kind of chain link?

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