



### KEEP JAVELINA WILD!

People have often inadvertently created conflicts with javelina by building homes in javelina habitat and providing food, water and shelter that attract javelina into their yards. Continued contact with non-threatening humans can make javelina bold and uninhibited about being in residential areas. The only real solution is to remove or block access to the attractants. If everyone in your neighborhood does this, javelina will no longer find the area an attractive place to live, and they will move on.

### RESOURCES

For more information about preventing conflicts with wildlife, see the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Living with Wildlife Web pages at [azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife](http://azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife) or call the Department at:

- Flagstaff (928) 774-5045
- Kingman (928) 692-7730
- Mesa (480) 981-9400
- Phoenix (602) 942-3000
- Pinetop (928) 367-4281
- Tucson (520) 628-5376
- Yuma (928) 342-0091

### REMOVAL, THE LAST RESORT

Javelina removal is only a short-term solution and has serious drawbacks:

- Capturing javelina is dangerous. Shooting with immobilizing darts can put people at risk, and trapping is very time-consuming and seldom successful.
- If the attractants remain, other javelina will move in to fill the vacancy.
- Javelina are herd animals that depend on social contact with family members for feeding, bedding, play and protection from predators. A javelina that is moved and then released into another established herd's territory is rarely accepted into the group. The chance of survival of relocated javelina is low.
- If aggressive javelina are removed, they must be destroyed. They cannot be relocated because of the continued risk to human safety.

*Removal is a last resort to be used when a threat to human safety exists.*

### KNOW THE LAW

Homeowners have a legal right to use all reasonable measures to protect their property from damage by wildlife, but those measures shall not include capturing, injuring or unlawful killing of big-game animals. Javelina are classified as big-game animals in Arizona and are protected by state law. If you do not want javelina in your yard, it is your responsibility to keep them out.



[azgfd.gov](http://azgfd.gov)

Arizona Game and Fish Department  
(602) 942-3000

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# LIVING WITH JAVELINA



## WHAT ARE JAVELINA?

Javelina are in the peccary family. Peccaries are a group of hoofed mammals originating from South America. Javelina are common in much of central and southern Arizona, including the outskirts of the Phoenix area, most of Tucson and occasionally as far north as Flagstaff. Javelina form herds of two to more than 20 animals.



## JAVELINA TRAITS AND BEHAVIORS

- Weigh 40-60 pounds
- Stand about 19 inches tall
- Have very poor eyesight and may appear to be charging when actually trying to escape
- Have a keen sense of smell
- Travel in washes and areas with dense vegetation
- Will roll in water and mud to cool off
- Have a scent gland on the back and use scents to identify animals from different herds
- Are most active at night, but also may be active during the day when it's cold

## WHAT ATTRACTS JAVELINA?

Javelina primarily eat plants, such as cacti, succulent bulbs, tubers, beans and seeds; they also eat insects and dig for grubs. Garbage sometimes provides an easy, but unhealthy meal. Javelina need drinking water and seek cool, moist soil for loafing. Therefore, javelina can scatter garbage and cause significant damage to landscaping and drip irrigation systems while searching for food, drinking water or cool mud.

Javelina like to sleep in caves and dense thickets. They seem to consider the crawl spaces under homes to be acceptable cave substitutes and sometimes damage mobile home skirts and dig around foundations.

## ARE JAVELINA DANGEROUS?

Wild javelina usually avoid encounters with people. In neighborhoods near wild open space, javelina sometimes take advantage of the food, water and shelter in people's yards. Javelina are capable of defending themselves and could be dangerous if cornered and frightened, but attacks on people are rare and almost always associated with deliberate feeding. Arizona law makes intentionally or recklessly feeding wildlife in Maricopa or Pima County illegal with a fine of up to \$300. This law does not apply to feeding birds and tree squirrels.

## TIPS FOR LIVING IN JAVELINA COUNTRY

- Never feed javelina!
- Feed pets indoors or immediately remove leftover food.
- Securely store all garbage.
- Keep birdseed and water off the ground and out of reach of javelina.
- Landscape with natural vegetation, instead of ornamental plants that javelina enjoy eating. Plant toxic bulbs, such as iris and narcissus, instead of tasty bulbs like tulips.
- Use poultry wire at or just below the soil surface to protect plant beds from digging.
- Fence your yard or garden. A 4-foot-high wall around the patio and bird-feeding area is effective.
- Pick up fruit as soon as it drops from the tree.
- Trim plants that could provide hiding cover.
- Securely close all openings to spaces under buildings and mobile homes.
- Don't leave dogs tied up where javelina can get to them, and keep dogs on a leash when outdoors. Javelina view dogs as a threat and will defend themselves.



## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A JAVELINA?

While many people enjoy seeing javelina and other wildlife in their neighborhoods, sometimes the pleasure of these encounters is marred by property damage or fear of a bite.

- Scare off animals by making loud noises, throwing small rocks in their direction, or spraying with water from a garden hose or large squirt gun filled with diluted ammonia (10% ammonia and 90% water).
- If the animal is confined, open a gate, have all people leave the area and allow it to leave on its own.
- If you see javelina while walking your dog (always on leash), avoid going near the javelina and quickly take your dog in a different direction.
- If a javelina is acting in an aggressive manner toward people, is contained and cannot leave on its own or be let out easily, or is in human possession, please call your local Arizona Game and Fish Department regional office during weekday business hours. After hours and weekends, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department radio dispatcher at (602) 789-3201.

## KEEP JAVELINA OUT WITH FENCING

If you don't ever want javelina in your yard, and you don't want to install a 4-foot wall, an electric fence is very effective (be sure to check local ordinances). It is inexpensive and does not injure the animals.



Electric fencing can also be used to exclude javelina from certain parts of an unfenced yard, such as the garden or bird-feeding area. A single strand of wire 8 to 10 inches above the ground is effective. Most home improvement and hardware stores can provide you with the information and equipment needed to install an electric fence.