

Is this coyote friends with a badger? Video shows the two traveling together

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Image 1. An unlikely friendship between a coyote (left) and a badger (right) was captured in a wildlife video as they traveled together around the San Francisco Bay Area in California. Scientists have found both species benefit by hunting together. Image: Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)/Pathways for Wildlife

A surprising animal pair was spotted traveling together in the Bay Area in California. It was a coyote and a badger. They were filmed walking through a tunnel under a highway. Experts say they may have been hunting together.

The video was taken by the Peninsula Open Space Trust. The group is called POST for short. It works to protect land in Northern California for wildlife.

In the video, the coyote runs ahead. Then it looks behind it and gives a play bow. A play bow is when a coyote or dog stretches its front legs out and leans on its elbows. Dogs often do this when they play.

After bowing, the coyote in the video hops around. He is clearly waiting for the badger to follow. The badger trails not far behind. As the badger catches up, the two walk off into the tunnel.

Working Together Makes Hunting Easier

According to POST, coyotes and badgers make a great team. They both have different skills. When they work together, it makes it easier for them to hunt. They both hunt ground squirrels and prairie dogs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has previously seen pairs of coyotes and badgers. However, this is the first time the animals have been seen traveling together through a tunnel.

POST said badgers are not often caught on film. The animals are hard to spot. They spend much of their time underground.

The new video is adorable. It also provides important information on how to protect wildlife. The cameras that recorded the video help scientists find "areas of safe passage" in city areas filled with roads and highways.

Habitat Loss

Wild animals travel and move around to hunt or migrate. As humans live and build on more land, there are fewer places for wildlife to live. This is called habitat loss. Cities and roads also make it harder for animals to move between areas safely. They are often hit by cars. That is why scientists want to identify "areas of safe passage" for wildlife.



Roads are the second-biggest danger coyotes and other wild animals face, Kitty Block said. Block is the president of the Humane Society of the United States. The group focuses on protecting animals.

The government estimates that in America, around a million animals are killed by cars every day.

The biggest danger coyotes face is human hunters. Coyotes are often hunted and killed because people think they attack humans. Block said that coyotes are actually afraid of people and hunting them is unfair. The Humane Society said a coyote would only come toward you if it had been fed by a human.

"Anyone who lives with a dog recognizes that play bow," Block said. She was talking about the play bow the coyote did in the video. She said she hopes it will remind people that coyotes are similar to dogs.

"We hope this video will inspire people to treat coyotes with compassion instead of cruelty," Block said.