

If you take a trip to Los Cerritos Wetlands, you might be surprised to see an artificial cat or dog model staring back at you! These lifelike models are in the wetlands as part of an ongoing research project.



Sarah Heimbach is a second-year graduate student in Dr. Ted Stankowich's Mammal Lab at California State University, Long Beach. She is interested in the behavioral ecology of urban wildlife. Her focus right now is on urban coyotes. Specifically, she is investigating coyote interactions with domestic pets. To accomplish this, she is using realistic pet models and recording coyote interactions with the models using motion-activated wildlife cameras. The pictures on this page are video stills taken from experimental stations at Los Cerritos Wetlands.

Sarah hopes that her research will help her to educate the public. She also has plans for developing protective tools that people can use to deter coyote attacks on domestic pets. Her ultimate goal is to help alleviate human-wildlife conflict and reduce injuries to domestic pets. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to her at:

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