



Managing Neighborhood Coyotes

Residents can use this guidance to avoid coyote interactions before they happen

Coyotes are an important part of the natural food chain but problems can arise when coyotes and humans live close together and coyotes no longer fear people. The promise of food and water lures coyotes into our neighborhoods and creates conflict.

Coyotes are gray or brown-colored, tend to be under 30 lbs, and can be seen hunting both day and night.

Your property

- Trim and clear brush and dense vegetation from around your house and near the ground that could provide hiding places for coyotes and habitat for rats and mice.
- Pick up fallen fruit, which attracts coyotes and their prey including rats, mice, and birds
- Secure your garbage and recycle bin lids. Coyotes have a keen sense of smell. Strong garbage odors and food left outdoors are attractive to coyotes, as well as other wildlife.
- 6' fencing, secured below ground level, including a 1 1/2 foot overhang slanted outward from the yard can help to prevent coyotes from scaling a fence or digging under it. Wooden stockade and chain link fencing are easily climbed by coyotes.
- Small children shouldn't play outside unsupervised.

Walking your pets

- Keep your pets on a fixed-length leash when walking them. Retractable leashes allow dogs to travel an unsafe distance away from you.
- Take note if your pets seem nervous and frightened when outside. They may have encountered or smelled a coyote nearby.

Your pets at home

- Never leave pet food or water outside. Pet food and bird feeders directly attract coyotes and animals that coyotes eat.
- Poultry or hobby livestock should be secured in sturdy cages or pens every night.
- Pets should be brought in at night.

Make Coyotes Uncomfortable

- Use loud noises to scare coyotes away (e.g., an air horn, a referee whistle, or shaking a can with marbles/coins inside). Tolerating their presence encourages coyotes (and other wildlife) to remain nearby and lose their fear of humans.
- Install strategically placed motion detector lights outside to deter coyotes from your home. They tend to shy away from lighted areas.
- Stray dogs or cats can compete for food with coyotes and may be eaten themselves. Call your local Animal Control to report abandoned animals.

Photo courtesy of Jitze Couperus



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