

Do's

- Consider making your dog or cat an indoor pet when living in an area that is known to be occupied by coyotes.
- Accompany your dog in well-lighted areas at night for comfort walks.
- Keep your dog on a leash whenever you take him/her off your own property.
- Keep all outdoor trashcan lids securely fastened to the trashcan receptacle.
- Improve yard fencing to coyote resistant standards.
- Pick fruit when it ripens, and don't leave rotting fruit on the ground.
- Eliminate ivy and other thick ground covers, which may attract rats, which can attract coyotes.
- Flashing lights, tape-recorded human noises, scattered mothballs, and ammonia soaked rags strategically placed may deter coyotes from entering an area.
- Haze coyotes if they are near or come into yard. Wave your arms and yell.

Don'ts

- Don't leave pet food outdoors, especially at night.
- Don't allow pets to roam from home unaccompanied. Dog (especially small dogs) should not be left outside unattended, should never be chained and should always be kept on a leash in public areas.
- Don't leave water bowls for pets outdoors.
- Don't leave garbage containers open.
- Don't attempt to contact or "tame" coyotes.
- DON'T feed or provide water for coyotes or other wild life. This practice abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds, snakes, and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.
- DON'T put trash cans out the night before scheduled pick-up. Put them out in the morning. This will give coyotes less time to scavenge, and they won't have the cover of darkness. Coyotes are mainly active at night or twilight.
- DON'T turn away or run because the animal may view it as an opportunity to chase.

Coyote Awareness



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Identifying Features

Coyotes are often mistaken for small to medium sized domestic dogs. They have a long, bushy black-tipped tail, pointed ears and a narrow pointed face. Their fur varies in color, from light brown to grayish. The fur on their belly is usually white. A coyote usually weighs between 15 to 30 pounds. They stand 18-25 inches tall and are 4 feet in length.

Coyotes in urban areas

Coyotes generally avoid humans, even when their home range encompasses largely urban or suburban habitat. However, the presence of a free buffet in the form of pet food, compost, or trash can lure coyotes into yards and create the impression that these places are bountiful feeding areas. Without the lure of food or other attractants, their visits will be brief and rare. But a coyote who finds food in one yard may learn to search for food in others.

Diet

Coyotes are omnivores, which mean they will eat or try to eat just about anything. Cactus fruit, mesquite beans, flowers, insects, rodents, lizards, rabbits, birds, and snakes make up some of their dietary choices.

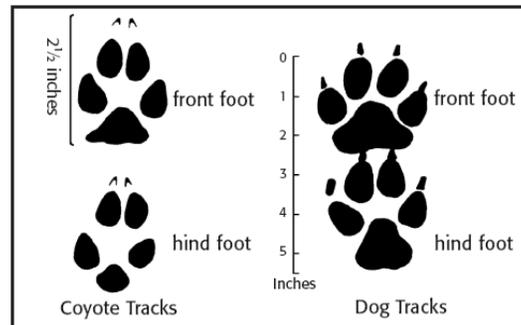
Disease

Coyotes are susceptible to many of the same ailments as domestic dogs.

-Distemper: contagious, incurable, often fatal, multisystemic viral disease that affects respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems.

-Mange: caused by a small mite which burrows into the skin, causing an irritation. Extremely contagious, affecting 70% of the coyote population.

-Rabies: transmitted by an animal bite that inoculates the virus into wounds. Any coyote bite or scratch should receive prompt local treatment by thorough cleansing of the wound with copious amounts of soap and water; this local treatment will significantly reduce the risk of rabies. Anyone who may have been exposed to rabies should always contact local health authorities immediately for advice and treatment.



Coyote tracks average 2 1/2 inches long. The hind print is smaller than the front one. The inner toes are smaller than the outer two. Coyotes have great stamina. They are good runners and swimmers.

Hazing

Hazing is a method that makes an animal move out of an area or discourages an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of human and deter them from backyards and play spaces.

The simplest method of hazing a coyote involves being loud and large:

Stand tall, wave your arms, and yell at the coyote, approaching him if necessary, until he runs away.

If a coyote has not been hazed before, he may not immediately run away when you yell at him. You may need to walk towards the coyote and increase the intensity of your hazing, but maintain a safe distance of at least 30 feet.

The coyote may turn away, but then stop after a distance and look at you. It is important to continue to go after the coyote until he completely leaves the area. You may need to use direct tactics, such as noisemakers, stomping your feet, or spraying the coyote with a hose, to get him to leave.

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical so that coyotes don't get used to single stimulus devices, sounds, and actions.

