

Urban Coyote



Habitat Modification

In areas where coyotes most likely traverse, modifications to the environment may help steer them away from direct encounters with humans.

Food:

The #1 most effective way to prevent coyote attacks in your neighborhood is to eliminate wildlife feeding!

Coyotes are attracted to neighborhoods by human-associated food.

- *Example:* pet food, unsecured compost or trash, fallen fruit in yards, etc.

Never hand-feed (or) intentionally feed a coyote.

Coyotes fed in residential neighborhoods can lose their fear of people, leading coyotes to associate humans with food.

- Thus resulting in negative interactions among coyotes, people & pets.

To Do:



Pet Food:

- Never feed pets outdoors.
- Store all pet food securely indoors.



Bird Feeders:

- Clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prey upon.



Fallen Fruit:

- Clean-up fallen fruit around trees.



Trash:

- Keep garbage stored securely.
- Place curbside the morning of pickup.
- Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors.



BBQ Grills:

- Clean up food around grills after use.



Compost:

- Do not include meat or dairy among compost contents (unless fully enclosed).



Shelter:

Den:

In the spring, coyotes give birth & begin to raise their young. They concentrate their activities around their "den" in which their young are sheltered.

Coyotes may take advantage of the following spaces to act as their den:

- Under sheds & decks
- Around woodpiles
- Near structures/out buildings

These den sites can potentially bring coyotes in close contact with people & pets.

Landscaping:

Trim vegetation & remove bushes to reduce hiding places & potential denning sites.

Regularly mowing the spaces alongside trails.
- To help deter coyotes from walking & running paths.



Exclusion

Fencing:

Install a fence as a preventative measure, to deter coyotes from entering your property.

• **Height:**

- Coyotes can jump several feet, and are good climbers.
- 8-foot fence (or) a 6-foot fence with an additional extension or *roller bar* on top.
- Rollers will stop the coyote from getting a foothold if it tries to climb.

• **Gaps:**

- Ensure that there are no gaps in the fence.

• **Digging:**

- Coyotes are skilled diggers.
- The bottom of the fence should extend at least 6-inches underground (or)
- Is fitted with a mesh apron.

• **Other:**

- A covered dog-run may provide more security than a fence.

***Note:** Any changes to fence structures must follow Village ordinance.

Repellents:

Methods to deter (or) scare-off coyotes from your property:



Spray Repellents:

- Coyotes have a strong sense of smell.
- With its intense smell, ammonia acts as a coyote repellent.
 - Spray around the perimeter of your property.



Light:

- Solar LED lights (or) motion-activated yard lights.



Noises:

- Loud noises from whistles, air horns, or noisemakers.

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"Hazing"

Hazing is an activity, or series of activities, that are conducted with the intention of changing or reversing the behavior of habituated coyotes, to re-instill a fear of people.

Purpose & Goals:

Purpose of Hazing:

- "Hazing" encourages the use of discouraging actions.
 - Not the use of weapons, which would otherwise cause bodily harm to coyotes.
- The more often a coyote is hazed (by different people & in different areas), the more potentially effective hazing becomes.

Goal of Hazing:

- To reverse the habituation of coyotes to people.
 - Teaching coyotes to once again fear & avoid humans.
- Discourages coyotes from entering public areas.
- Discourages coyotes from approaching people & pets.



"Habituated":

Habituated Coyotes:

In general, coyotes are reclusive animals, avoiding human contact.

However, coyotes in urban & suburban environments may learn that neighborhoods provide easy sources of human-associated food while presenting few real threats.

This can lead to coyotes losing their fear of people, and no longer avoiding human interaction.

Results of Habituation:

Habituation can lead to increased potential for conflict.

Can be the result of either intentional or unintentional feeding.

Attacks on pets by coyotes are rare, but may indicate the presence of a habituated individual coyote.
-Especially if the incident takes place in the same vicinity.

Hazing Techniques:

The Basics:

- The goal is to scare the coyote away, NOT injure it.
- Coyotes can become desensitized to hazing techniques over time.
 - Utilize a variety of tools, sounds, and actions.

Do Not:

- Do not create conflicts that might otherwise not occur, by injuring or cornering a coyote that simply wants to escape.
 - If a coyote is not causing conflict, you should not initiate hazing efforts.
- To maintain your safety, do not get too close to the coyote.

To Do:

Generate loud noises:

- Air horn
- Whistles
- Shouting
- Pots & Pans
- Shaking a can filled with coins



Spraying water.



- Spraying wildlife repellent on property.



Shining bright lights.



Look big: wave your arms high above your head.



Throw objects at the coyote's direction (not to hit the animal).



Did You Know?

Even when coyotes are removed from an area, they are usually soon replaced by a solitary coyote looking for a territory.

Relocation is rarely effective.

In non-threatening situations, it is best to leave coyotes where they are, as removal of one animal doesn't ensure removal of coyotes from your area in general.

Physical Removal

Requirements:

Physical removal should only be considered in extreme cases.

When a coyote is a threat to the safety of residents.



Nuisance coyotes may be removed by a licensed nuisance wildlife control operator.

Holding a permit issued by the IDNR.

• **Research Study:**

- No relocated coyotes remained at their release site; despite being located in favorable coyote habitats.
- Each of them traveled in the general direction of their origin.