

Living with Urban Coyotes

Coyotes are common throughout North America, including many large cities, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York. Coyotes learn and adapt quickly to new environments, because they are able to eat a diverse diet allowing them to take advantage of food almost anywhere. You may encounter coyotes in your neighborhood; use the following tips to help reduce conflicts with urban coyotes.



Coyote Biology and Ecology

- About the size of a medium dog, weighing 20- 35 pounds.
- Tend to be tawny gray in color with long legs and a long bushy tail.
- Can live alone, in pairs or in family groups of 3-12 coyotes.
- Rear pups in dens from March to July. They are also commonly protective of den sites especially from dogs.
- Diet is diverse and they will eat what is available (pet food, animals, trash, scavenge dead animals, fruit from neighborhood trees)



Things that can Lead to Coyotes Becoming Habituated

- Obtaining food resources from people, by intentionally or unintentionally feeding them
- Nearly daily interactions with people that are rarely negative and sometimes positive
- Cover in yards that allow coyotes to stay in areas that people are commonly using

Help Reduce Coyote Conflicts

Take action to minimize conflicts with coyotes; do not feed - intentionally or unintentionally (through backyard fruits, trash, pet food), remove thick vegetation where animals secretly take cover, and use scare (hazing) techniques to maintain coyotes' fear of humans in urban neighborhoods.

Implement hazing techniques in your neighborhood to help maintain coyote's fear of humans

Sightings of coyotes are often not a threat and can be a good opportunity to haze them. Create an aversion response by scaring coyotes away when they come into the presence of humans. For example, scare coyotes when they come into your yard, visit the playground when children are playing, or are walking through neighborhoods when people are around. Coyotes can be active anytime, day or night, always be ready to haze. The goal of coyote hazing is to reshape a coyote's behavior to avoid human contact.



For more information visit our Nature Neighbor page: go.nps.gov/natureneighbor

To request a program for your community about coexisting with wildlife,

e-mail: NatureNeighbor@NPS.gov

How to Haze Coyotes

1. Make eye contact with the coyote (if coyote is not injured, begin to haze)
 - Do not haze from behind a bush or inside the house.
2. Be LOUD, Be AGGRESSIVE, Be EXAGGERATED
 - Raise your arms/jacket above your head
 - Clap and yell – **GO AWAY COYOTE!**
 - Stomp your feet
3. Step toward the coyote while being LOUD and AGGRESSIVE.
4. Make noise with hazing tools: metal coffee cans filled with coins to shake, air horns, loud whistles, bells, and pots.
5. Throw something toward the coyote (may have to throw multiple items, so **be prepared**)
 - Metal cans with coins can make a lot of noise when thrown (preferred)
 - Pinecones or water bottles are also great to throw
6. **Do not** approach coyote closer than 20ft.
 - **Stop**, continue to yell and throw hazing items at coyote. If it does not respond to hazing, slowly back away.

Coyotes will often stop and look. If so, continue hazing until coyote walks, trots, or runs away.

****Do not actively haze coyotes if they are injured or are in their natural habitat, unless they approach you. Always provide an escape route for coyotes when hazing. Never corner a wild coyote.**

REDUCE COYOTE CONFLICTS AT HOME

Monitor pets while outside even in a fenced yard.

Use hazing techniques and suggestions below to deter coyotes from your yard.

REMOVE FOOD RESOURCES

- Pick up fallen fruits, feed pets inside, and remove bird feeders
- Close up compost piles and secure trash cans.
- Keep pets inside or in secure dog runs (including rabbits, turtles,

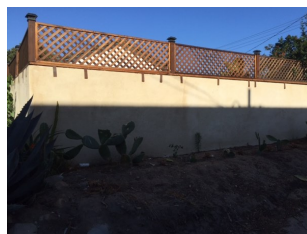


REPELLENTS (must be combined with removing food resources)

- Noise devices, sprinklers, scent rags
- Move repellents around yard, once a week to prevent habituation.

EXCLUSION TECHNIQUES - Secure fencing

- Bury fence line or add angled skirt on the outside to prevent digging.
- Extend fence height to 7-8 feet, or add a deterrent to 6 foot fences to reduce access. Try rollers on top of fence, or bird spikes to discourage coyotes from jumping over.



Extended fence height.



Coyote fence rollers.

YARD MODIFICATIONS

- Remove coyote hiding spots by clearing thick vegetation from your yard and trim plants 2-3 feet off the ground.
- Seal up under decks and houses to prevent hiding and denning locations.
- Use motion detector sprinklers, lights, and noise devices to help frighten coyotes.

Walking Dogs

- Walk dog close to you, on a 6 foot leash.
- Be aware of your surrounding and don't let cell phones distract you.
- Walk with two people or more, if possible.
- Walk one dog at a time.
- Walk during the day. Pick up small dog if coyote approaches.
- Be prepared for coyote interaction and carry hazing tools. (such as umbrella, air horn and homemade items)
- Avoid areas where there are known coyote dens.