



Many residents have expressed concerns about coyote sightings and the consequences of predator animals within the urban environment. Several residents have lost their pets to these skilled hunters because they were not aware of recent coyote activity in the area. Contrary to popular belief, these animals do not require open space or "wild areas" to survive. In fact, most coyotes within the urban setting are the offspring of generations of coyotes who lived and flourished in urban areas.

Though these animals are far from domesticated, they are very comfortable living in close proximity to human beings. They have little fear of humans and are frequently seen trotting along within a few feet of joggers, bikers, and horseback riders. While not normally a danger to human beings, coyotes will display defensive behaviors if threatened or cornered; therefore, it is important to leave a comfortable distance between you and a coyote.

Small pets can easily become coyote prey. Cats and small dogs should not be allowed outside alone, even in a fence yard. Though coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise, they can be observed at all hours of the day and will not pass up an opportunity for an easy meal. If you do encounter a coyote that behaves aggressively, you have probably gotten too close to its prey or its family. Increase the comfort zone between you and the coyote. Eradication and/or relocation of the urban coyote is not effective. These programs actually provide a vacuum in nature, causing these animals to have even larger litters.

Many steps can be taken to protect you and your property from coyotes and other wildlife:

Fence off animal enclosures (fully if possible)

Keep cats and small dogs indoors or in the close presence of an adult

Store trash in covered heavy-duty containers

Eliminate all sources of food, water and shelter

Do not feed pets outdoors