

## Coyote

The Family Canidae has many members. Wolf, Coyote, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Swift Fox, Kit Fox, etc. They are an intelligent and opportunistic group. Fox species may gain access into areas that have an opening as small as 4 inches by 4 inches. Gray foxes are good climbers. Red fox are called the 'cat like canine'. Fox species musky odor has been mistaken for skunk. The coyote name is derived from the Aztec 'coyotl' = trickster. The first Americans respected the hardiness, adaptability and intelligence of the coyote.

Born March to May. Tended by both parents anywhere from 1 to 9 (average 3 to 6) pups emerge from the den at 2 to 3 weeks. The canids are independent from 4 to 6 to 9 months of age. (If they have found a birthing place under your porch, be patient. Adults will remove them within a few weeks.) See below for deterrents

Crepuscular (dusk and dawn) and nocturnal habits mostly. They are naturally wary of humans and tend to avoid them. If they feel secure, they will hunt during the day. When humans remove one animal that is occupying suitable habitat, it simply opens a position for a more resilient, wary, and adaptable individual to move in.

Territory is relative to the quality of habitat. Often several square miles are required for a coyote family. Active year around, they are opportunistic. Food items: (plant and animals). Rabbit, Rodent, Berries, Insects

To avoid conflict:

- Do not leave pet food outside.
- Secure trash can lids. Use bungees, screwtop lid cans, etc. Two companies that supply these products are [www.animalresistantcan.com](http://www.animalresistantcan.com) & [www.crittercan.org](http://www.crittercan.org)
- Do not leave pets unattended.
- For barn cats, in the open spaces put up wooden 'cat post'. Keep in mind that coyotes can jump 5 to 6 feet. [www.coyoteroller.com](http://www.coyoteroller.com)
- Ensure under the porches/sheds are secure.

If you see one of these small canids adverse conditioning is recommended to instill the fear factor. Shout, Yell, Bang pots and pans together, spray with powerful water spray.

Motion Sensor sprinklers; [petsafe-warehouse.com](http://petsafe-warehouse.com), [nixilite.com](http://nixilite.com), [scatmat.com](http://scatmat.com), [bird-x.com](http://bird-x.com), [birdbgone.com](http://birdbgone.com)

Physical and tactile deterrents: motion sensitive sprinklers (one brand name ScareCrow), Visual deterrents: lights connected to motion detectors, light reflective balloons.

Auditory deterrents: Human voices (radio on a talk station) played in the target area (the den entrance).

Taste/Smell deterrents: Urine or ammonia is disturbing. Fresh predator urine is a warning sign to prey species.

Ammonia is synthetic, but can be a useful tool; Apple cider vinegar also has potential. The scent of human sweat has had success (finally a use for those sweaty gym socks!).

The Coyote is at greater risk of contracting rabies from unvaccinated domestic dogs than the other way around. Sarcoptic mange is a common ailment with both the coyote and fox species. The mites are a common parasite. The species specific mites do not live on human hosts. Problems arise when severe infestation occurs. Secondary problems include: significant hair loss, hypothermia, sores, infection, emaciation and dehydration.

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