

Living with Coyotes.

In pioneer days, coyotes (*Canis latrans*) were restricted primarily to the sagebrush lands, brushy mountains, and open prairies of the American West. Today, coyotes have taken advantage of human presence to expand their ranges into urban and suburban communities. The very open spaces that make communities so livable also provide coyotes habitat and shelter, while the near-by neighborhoods provide opportunities for food and water. As a result, human-coyote encounters do occur. There are ways to manage these encounters so that coyotes and humans can peacefully co-exist.

Coyotes play in important role in our ecosystem.

Predation is an essential component of biodiversity. As predators, coyotes serve a valuable function in keeping prey populations, such as rodents, in check and keeping local ecosystems healthy.



Killing is not a solution.

Killing or having a coyote trapped and removed is a short-term solution. Coyotes are transient creatures so removing one means that new coyotes are likely to replace the previous animal by moving into the area. Comparatively, implementing methods like those listed in this brochure have been shown to help shape coyote behavior and lessen risks of conflict.

Friends of Animals

Wildlife Law Program

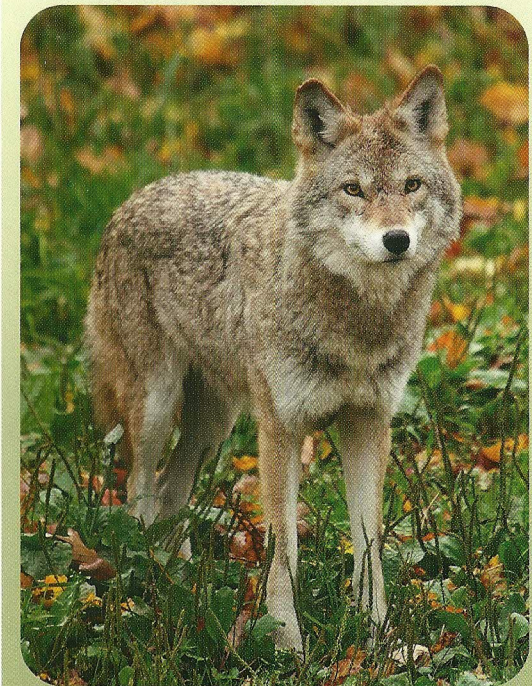
P.O. Box 102041

Denver, Colorado 80250-2041

For more information:

720-949-7791

Friendsofanimals.org



Living With Coyotes

Friends of Animals 

**Non-lethal, Non-invasive Practices
for Managing Human
Encounters with Coyotes**

Managing Human Encounters with Coyotes

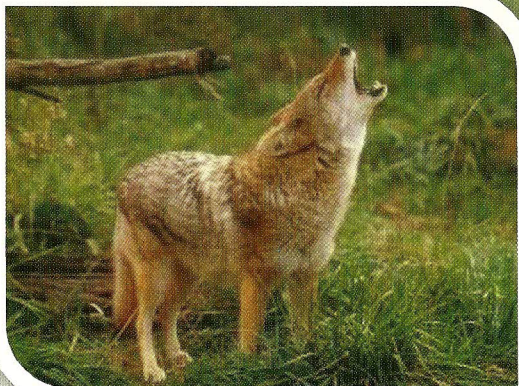
Prevention is the best strategy for minimizing encounters and conflicts with coyotes. Use the following management strategies around your homes to prevent conflicts with coyotes.

Treat Coyotes as Wild Animals, Not as Potential Pets.

Although coyotes are generally timid and will run away if challenged. They understandably will, however, become aggressive to protect themselves or their pups if they feel threatened.

Never Feed Coyotes.

Coyotes that are fed directly or indirectly by people often become accustomed and habituated to the presence of humans and increasingly lose their instinctual fear of humans. The availability of an unnatural food source could lead coyotes to develop territorial inclinations that may in turn cause the coyote to demonstrate bold and aggressive behavior.



Don't Give Coyotes Access To Garbage.

Keep garbage can lids on tight by securing them with rope, chain, bungee cords, or weights; utilize clamps or other mechanisms that hold lids on tight; and/or keep your cans in a shed or a garage.

Remove Sources of Water.

It is important to remove or cover artificial sources of water (fish ponds, pools, etc.) to prevent coyotes from looking to these as water sources.

Frightening Devices.

Install motion-sensitive lighting or, in rural areas, electronic devices like the Electronic Guard or Radio Activated Guard alarm (that produces noise and light based coyote behavior) around your property.

Prevent Access To Fruit And Compost.

Keep fruit trees fenced, or pick up fruit that falls to the ground. Keep compost piles within a fenced area or securely covered. Cover new compost material with soil or lime to prevent it from smelling.

Feed Your Pets Indoors.

Your dog and/or cat's pet food will attract coyotes. If you must feed your pets outside, do so in the morning or at midday, and pick up food, water bowls, leftovers, and spilled food well before dark every day.

Keep Areas Around Bird Feeders Clean. Prevent the buildup of food surrounding feeders as coyotes will eat bird food and are attracted to the many birds and rodents that come to the feeders.

Keep Your Landscape Well-Manicured.

Prevent coyotes from using your property for resting and raising their pups by trimming trees and shrubs above ground level and clearing out weedy and shrubby areas. Additionally, the buildup of backyard debris, wood piles, and weedy areas can attract prey animals that coyotes rely upon for food.

Protect Your Pets.

You should keep your cats and dogs indoors, especially between the hours from dusk to dawn when coyotes generally hunt. Coyotes are opportunistic feeders, and view your small to mid-size dog or cat as easy prey. If pets are left outside at night in an unprotected area, they may be killed by coyotes. Once a coyote finds easy prey it will continually hunt in that area.

Build a Coyote-Proof Fence.

A 5-foot woven-wire fence with extenders facing outward at the top of each post should prevent coyotes from climbing over the fence. Coyotes are also excellent diggers, and an effective fence needs to extend at least 8 inches below the surface, or have a galvanized-wire apron that extends out from the fence at least 15 inches.

Educate Others! Notify your friends, neighbors, and family of any encounters you have had with coyotes so that they can be on alert for the safety of themselves, their children, and their pets. If it is a serious situation, contact your local police or wildlife control center.