

Coyote



Herbert Lange

Coyotes are naturally secretive creatures, but they are opportunistic hunters. If food is available in your neighborhood you may see them, day or night. Coyotes primarily feed on small rodents and rabbits, and are an important member of the food chain because of this tendency, but coyotes will eat anything they can find, including fruit, vegetables and insects. Their presence can be unnerving or frightening for people unused to coyotes, but generally they are more afraid of you than you are of them. In some cases, they may attack and kill small pets, although coyote attacks on humans are exceptionally rare. There are numerous ways to manage the presence of coyotes in your area.

Do Not Feed Wildlife

- Do not store pet food out of doors, and keep pet food bowls inside when not in use.
- Do not keep trash out of doors, or keep it secure with tight-fitting lids.
- Do not provide food and water for other wildlife. Rodents are attracted to bird seed, and they are a coyote's natural prey. Coyotes will also eat bird seed, fruit, and compost for an easy meal.

Protect Your Pets

- Keep cats indoors and watch dogs when outdoors. Only leave pets unattended when they are secure in a kennel with a covered top.

Discourage Coyotes

- Clear brush and undergrowth in your yard that can provide cover for coyotes or habitat for important coyote prey species.
- Scare tactics can be used if you see a coyote in your yard or while out walking. Yell and make loud noises, shake or throw pop cans filled with coins, throw a ball, shoe, sticks or other object in the direction of the coyote and/or spray the coyote with water. You can also buy ultrasonic dog repellents or pocket-sized air horns.
- Fencing 6–7 feet high and buried approximately 1 foot deep can help keep all but the most determined coyotes out of an area.
- Pick up all fallen fruit from fruit trees, keep compost secure, and make sure trash cans are tightly lidded and secure. Never leave loose trash outside.



Cook County, IL
Coyote Project

Quick Facts

- Coyotes are omnivores that will eat anything edible. In the above photo, for example, a coyote caught a squirrel at a bird feeder.
- Urban coyotes tend to use what natural green space is available, including parks and cemeteries.
- Urban coyotes are usually more nocturnal (active at night) than their rural relatives, but may be active during the day if they are feeding pups or weren't successful in hunting the night before.
- Trapping and hunting of coyotes is legal year-round on your property without a DNR license. Many municipalities have regulations about the discharge of firearms. Please check with your local government to ensure adherence to local ordinances.
- Lethal removal is recommended for coyotes that display aggressive behavior towards humans.



For more information, visit our webpage:

dnr.wi.gov

WM-567 2014

Urban Wildlife Factsheet: Coyote