

How to Avoid Coyote Conflicts in Your Neighborhood

While coyotes are found throughout the West, they are extremely adaptable and can thrive in urban areas, including yours. From downtown Denver to the smallest suburb, coyotes are not new to residential communities. They can and will be found in any neighborhood that provides their basic needs — food, water, shelter and space.

Coyotes range in size from 20 to 50 lbs. They may travel alone or in groups. Coyotes typically eat rodents, rabbits and fruit, but they will eat small pets if the opportunity exists. They have their pups in dens - a hidden cavity that can be under rocks, stumps, ground or even porches. Coyote attacks on humans are very rare and can often be attributed to people feeding them. Adults should teach children to never approach any wildlife.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) wants to help you avoid conflicts with coyotes in your neighborhood. Please read and use the tips below.

Your Home & Coyotes

- Never feed coyotes!
- Remove attractants from your yard, including pet food, water sources, bird feeders and fallen fruit.
- Secure trash in a container with a locking lid or put trash out on the morning of pick up.
- Fully enclose gardens and compost piles.
- Trim up vegetation to reduce hiding places.
- Deter coyotes from entering your yard with a 6-foot privacy fence.
- Work with your neighbors to discourage coyotes in your entire community.
- If you meet a coyote, make it feel unwelcome by yelling, throwing rocks and sticks at it, spraying it with a hose or a vinegar-filled water gun, or banging pots and pans.

Your Pet & Coyotes

- Keep pets on a 6-foot leash when walking.
- Never allow your pets to “play” with a coyote.
- Pick up small pets if confronted by a coyote.
- Do what you can to discourage a coyote’s approach— yell, stomp your feet, throw rocks or sticks at it.
- Always supervise your pet when outside, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Never leave cats or dogs outside after dark.
- If you must leave your pet outside, secure it in a fully enclosed kennel.

If a Coyote Approaches you

- Be as big and loud as possible.
- Wave your arms, clap and throw objects at the coyote.
- Shout in a loud and authoritative voice.
- Do not run or turn your back on the coyote.

- Face the coyote and back away slowly.

Did you Know?

- Coyotes are active year-round and become more visible during their breeding season, which occurs from February through March.
- Coyotes can be seen throughout the day, but are especially active at dawn and dusk.
- Coyotes are highly adaptable and can live and den in parks and yards.
- Coyotes may perceive other animals, including pets, as a threat, competition, or food.
- Coyotes keep watch near their dens to keep threats away from their young.
- Coyotes are curious and are known to stare at humans. They sometimes follow humans out of natural curiosity or to keep them away from their pups.

You can learn more on the web at www.wildlife.state.co.us. For further questions, or to report people feeding coyotes, contact the Denver DOW office at 303.291.7227.