

# Coyotes – The Facts

they're good to have around...

## Why Care about Coyotes?

Coyotes play a vital role in our neighborhoods by feeding on rodents and regulating the numbers of smaller predators, such as foxes, raccoons, and skunks through competitive exclusion or killing. They are not considered a disease threat.



**Fact: Research has shown that killing coyotes does not solve problems – it can actually encourage larger numbers in subsequent years. Many experts believe and many urban communities have found, that the best approach is to learn to live safely alongside urban wildlife. We coexist with many other creatures in our neighborhoods – raccoons, foxes, possums, skunks. Coyotes also play an important role in this ecosystem.**

## What We Do Influences Coyote Behavior

Most often conflicts result from people providing coyotes (and other wild animals) with food.

Whether intentional or unintentional, wildlife feeding must be stopped immediately, since this is most often the source of a coyote's bold behavior.

**Coyotes must keep their natural fear of people. See the reverse for things we can all do to keep coyotes wary of us - protecting both our safety and their lives.**



## What We Can Do



Feeding coyotes & other wildlife does not help the animals. Coyotes become comfortable approaching people, who misunderstand this behavior as “aggressive” and a threat. Don’t feed them!

## In the Home & Neighborhood

Coyotes are drawn to neighborhoods for three reasons: food, water, and shelter.

The following steps can help prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home.

- **Tightly secure garbage cans with bungee cords or rope. Store trash bins inside enclosed structures. Put garbage out the morning of pickup, not the night before.**
- **When composting, use well-secured bins. Don’t add pet waste, meat, dairy, or eggs.**
- Pick ripe fruit off trees and from the ground.
- Keep bird feeders from overflowing.
- Fence vegetable gardens or use a greenhouse.
- Eliminate artificial water sources and ponds.
- Install motion-activated outdoor lighting.
- Install motion-activated sprinkler systems.
- Fence your property or yard.
- Clear bushes and dense weeds where coyotes may find cover and small animals to feed upon.
- Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds.

## In Natural Areas, Parks and Preserves

- **Don’t leave food scraps in parks or nature preserves.**
- **Never feed or attempt to “tame” a coyote.**
- **Keep dogs on leashes in parks and preserves.**
- Don’t turn your back or run from a coyote.
- If followed or approached wave arms, make noise. Be “Big, Bad and Loud.”
- If necessary, throw sticks or small stones (to scare, not injure).
- If walking in coyote areas, carry a deterrent such as a whistle or walking stick.
- Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning or feeding/hiding pups (April-August).

Thank you for sharing this important info with your friends, neighbors, children. It’s up to all of us!