

Guidelines for Discouraging Neighborhood Coyotes

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact.

However, Coyotes who have adapted to urban and suburban environments may realize there are few real threats and may approach people or visit yards even when people are present. These coyotes have lost their fear of humans, probably due to the availability of food that they have become accustomed to feeding upon in your neighborhood. These bold coyotes should not be tolerated or enticed but instead given the clear message that they are not welcome.

Here is list of tools that homeowners can use to effectively discourage coyotes.

- Hazing
- "Go away coyote!"
- Dog-walking tactics
- With-in your yard tactics

Coyote Hazing: Hazing is a method that makes use of deterrents, such as loud sounds, to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from backyards and play spaces.

Use a variety of different hazing tools so that coyotes don't get used to redundant or single stimulus devices or sounds.

Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote is a simple yet effective deterrent.

Noisemakers: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, "shaker" cans full of marbles, pots, lid or pie pans banged together.

Objects: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls or rubber balls.

Other: hoses, water guns or spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray or repellents.

"Go away coyote!": The simplest method of hazing a coyote involves being loud and large.

Stand tall, wave your arms, and yell at the coyote, approaching him if necessary, until he runs away.

If a coyote has not been hazed before, he may not immediately run away when you yell at him. If this happens, you may need to walk towards the coyote and increase the intensity of your hazing.

The coyote may run away, but then stop and look back at you. It is important to haze the coyote until he completely leaves the area. Use different tactics (see above) if necessary to get him to leave.

Dog-walking tools: There are several tools that you can carry with you while walking your dog that can be used to repel coyotes. These include: Homemade noisemakers, Whistle or small air horn (you can purchase small air horn "necklaces"), Squirt guns, Pepper spray Sticks or other objects to throw towards (but not at) the coyote

In your yard: Remember, keeping pets and pet food inside while securely containerizing your garbage is the best way to keep coyotes out of your yard. If you do encounter coyotes, all of the above methods can be used in your yard at home.

Important things to remember: Never run away from a coyote! The coyote may not leave at first, but if you approach him closer and/or increase the intensity of your hazing, he will run away for good after a couple times.

To report an aggressive coyote or for more assistance call Animal Control at 732-855-0600 ext. 2034

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