

coyote encounters

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Coyotes will generally run from people unless they have learned to expect food. Never feed a Coyote!



Keep your dog leashed and keep walking away if you see a coyote.



Almost all unleashed dogs will chase coyotes and cause an incident too far away to control.



A coyote that feels threatened attempts to "message" a dog to leave his space.

Although coyotes prefer to stick to the shadows, it is not unusual to see one out during the daytime, on park trails, or on the streets. They like grassy fields where they can hunt for rodents, and they like woodsy areas where they can take refuge. At times they may pass through our backyards. These are within the range of normal coyote behavior. Most of the time, a coyote is minding his own business, and if he sees you, he will flee.

eliminate chance encounters

Coyotes are opportunistic eaters – they eat what they happen to find. You will be inviting them into your yard if coyotes find a food source there, including pet food or small pets. Always supervise small dogs and keep your cats indoors. If a coyote does come into your yard, simply open the door and bang pots to scare it off. If you want the coyote to remember, you're going to have to make the event memorable for him: make a real scene!

surprise encounters

Most often yelling or stamping your foot is enough to make the coyote hurry away. Tossing a small stone in the coyote's direction – but not to injure it – will encourage the coyote to leave.

If the coyote ignores you and holds its ground, it could be an indication that there is a den with pups around. It is especially important not to confront a coyote in this case. Like all parents, the coyote will defend its young against your dog. Back out of the area and calmly leave without forcing a confrontation.

If you have a dog with you, the situation changes: coyotes see dogs as competitors over territory and resources. Whereas a coyote will not approach a human, a coyote may actually approach a dog. Stronger scare tactics, listed in the box above, can work if a coyote approaches your dog.

hazing a coyote

Take these steps only if a coyote is decisively approaching your dog or following you too closely. Don't run. Remember that during pupping season (March - August) parents **MUST** defend their young and you and your dog are threats.

Be as **OFFENSIVE** as possible.

1. Slap a newspaper on your thigh loudly and dramatically.
2. Walk decisively towards the coyote.
3. Fix your gaze on the coyote's eyes – so that he'll know it's no mistake that it's him you are targeting.
4. Angrily raise your voice and shout "Scat!" "Shoo!" "Off With You!"
5. Be sure to force the coyote to move back – to prove you've won.

Visit coyotecoexistence.com for more information about living with coyotes.

hazing

Intelligent animals like Coyotes become habituated or conditioned to human contact. Hazing is the term used when the intention is to discourage an animal from making this contact – to shoo them away. Coyotes read body language; loud noises, surprise and aggressive eye contact are all ways to haze them off.

If a situation becomes potentially adversarial, don't run, as this might incite a chase. It's important to impress him that you're able to not only defend yourself, but can threaten him. It's all about bluffing – your bluff must be bigger than his.