

Coyote Tip Sheet

Coyotes are becoming increasingly common in cities across the U.S. Even in densely populated areas, coyotes maintain an avoidance of humans and the potential for interaction is low. To maintain a safe distance, homeowners are instructed to limit availability of food on their property and haze individual coyotes in cases of direct encounters. The techniques outlined below are meant to influence coexistence and, if followed by residents, the likelihood of negative interactions between coyotes and humans/pets is unlikely.

Steps to Avoid Coyote-Human Conflict

1. Do not feed coyotes

Unintentional/intentional feeding is the leading cause of coyote habituation (when a coyote becomes uncharacteristically comfortable around humans). Refrain from directly feeding coyotes and avoid leaving garbage outside for long periods of time. Outdoor wildlife feeders are also attractants since they draw in small rodents serving as a primary food source for coyotes.



2. Monitor Pets

It is always useful to monitor your pets closely, both on your property and in public spaces, to avoid interactions between coyotes and pets. Coyotes are less likely to approach an animal if in the company of a person. Always leash your pets and monitor them when outside - even in your backyard. Domesticated cats should be kept inside.

3. Hazing

It is recommended that if you encounter a coyote directly, do not run away. Shouting, Waving, and throwing items are forms of hazing meant to instill fear and prevent aggressive behavior in coyotes. During breeding and pupping seasons (March-August) coyotes are more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior. It may be beneficial to carry a noise-maker to shake in the case of an encounter if there have been a series of coyote sightings in your neighborhood. However, if a coyote is noticed and is non-threatening/avoiding your presence, do not seek out an encounter or hazing opportunity.

4. Report Aggressive Coyotes

Unprovoked barking, hackle raising, snarling, growling, and lunging are signs of aggressive coyote behavior. If you notice a coyote exhibiting these signs, file a complaint with [CHI 311](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFiles/CoyotePlan_ChicagoAPR-10-2020.pdf).

For further information view Chicago's Coexistence Plan:

https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFiles/CoyotePlan_ChicagoAPR-10-2020.pdf

