

# COEXISTING WITH COYOTES



An Overview of Facts and  
Coexistence Techniques



WOLF CONSERVATION CENTER  
[www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org)

# ALL ABOUT COYOTES

## QUICK SPECS

- About the size of a border collie, with males typically larger than females
- Length: 4 – 5 feet (nose to tail)
- Weight: 20 – 45 pounds
- Appearance: Fur is thick and can be variations of brown, black, and gray. Tail is fluffy, usually pointed straight down. Ears are large and pointy

Scientific name:  
*Canis latrans*

That translates to  
"barking dog."



## WHY COYOTES

Coyotes have inherent value regardless of our perception of them, but here are a few ways we benefit from having them around.

### COYOTES CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT BY SCAVENGING

Coyotes help keep environments clear of carrion (dead animals).



### COYOTES ENCOURAGE BIODIVERSITY

Coyotes control mesopredator populations, which can decimate nesting songbird numbers.



### COYOTES HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF LYME DISEASE

Coyotes prey on rodents and other small mammals, limiting the spread of Lyme and other zoonotic diseases.



### RODENT POPULATIONS ARE CONTROLLED

Rodents and rabbits are important food sources for coyotes. By preying on them, coyotes create cleaner environments for humans.



### COYOTE PACKS ARE FAMILIES

Pack alphas are the mom and dad, a monogamous pair. Pups of varying ages help the pack thrive by hunting, babysitting, and protecting the home range.



These are collectively referred to as ecosystem services.

# COEXISTENCE

It is important that we acknowledge our roles as humans in the present day behavior and ecology of coyotes. Due to habitat loss, coyotes are increasingly occupying suburban and urban environments. They also often thrive in these environments! We can peacefully coexist with them, so long as we exercise proper coexistence methods. **Do not feed coyotes:** remove accessible food sources from your yard such as spilled bird seed, fallen fruit, garbage/compost, and pet food. When coyotes approach your yard, **haze them** (i.e. make loud noises and exaggerated movements to scare them away). **Supervise your pets outdoors and keep them leashed.**

Be mindful of the time of year it is when you see a coyote. In the springtime, coyotes may have pups in their dens so they are more likely to not only be frequently out foraging, but may also "escort" you away from their den-site if you approach and they feel threatened.

Teach others about proper coexistence methods and help make our earth a more balanced and peaceful place.

## WHAT'S IN YOUR HAZING KIT?

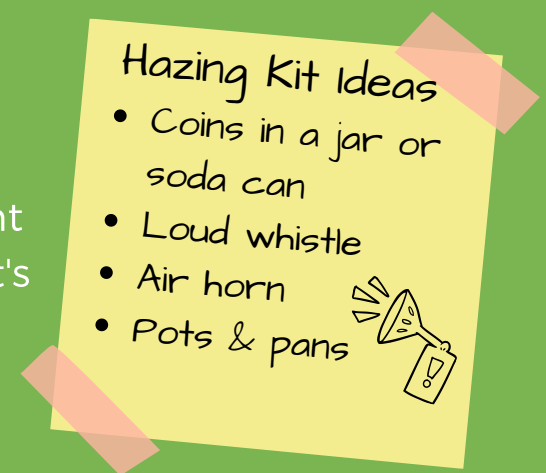
Coyotes are vital members of our ecosystem, and hazing is a crucial component of coexistence. Coyotes are naturally quite wary of humans, but over time may lose that fear if they find consistent access to food sources near humans. Therefore, it's important that we consistently haze coyotes to maintain their fear of us.

**The best thing you can do if you like coyotes:**

Keep their fear of humans intact.

**The best thing you can do if you don't like coyotes:**

Keep their fear of humans intact.



TIPS TO REMEMBER FOR:

# COYOTE ENCOUNTERS



REMEMBER: Coyotes are not inherently dangerous, but when habituated to humans or defending their dens they may feel bold enough to approach. Coyotes are naturally wary of humans, and it is up to us to keep them that way!

## S

**STOP!** Do not run, the coyote may chase. If you have a small dog with you, pick them up.

## M

Make yourself look bigger. Raise your arms, hold your jacket open above your head, wave items around. Make the coyote believe you are not worth the effort.

## A

Announce loudly: "LEAVE ME ALONE." Repeat if necessary. This will scare the coyote and will indicate to nearby people that you may need help. Make lots of noise or use noisemakers.

## R

Retreat! Back away slowly. Do not turn your back. Running may trigger a chase response.

## T

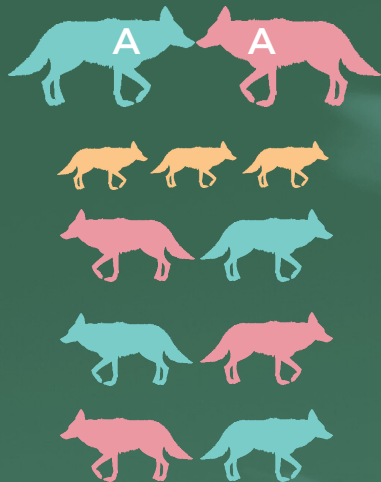
Teach. Tell your friends and neighbors about hazing coyotes and report any concerning incidents to local authorities. Learn about coyotes' natural behaviors so you know how to respond.

Adapted from City and Council of Broomfield Colorado

For more information, visit [www.nywolf.org/learn/eastern-coyote](http://www.nywolf.org/learn/eastern-coyote)

# Why Killing Coyotes Doesn't Work

Lethal removal of coyotes causes growth in the coyote population. If one or both members of the alpha pair (A) are killed, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring earlier, and litter sizes will grow. It's important to note that relocation has the same impact, and often results in a coyotes' death in the new location.

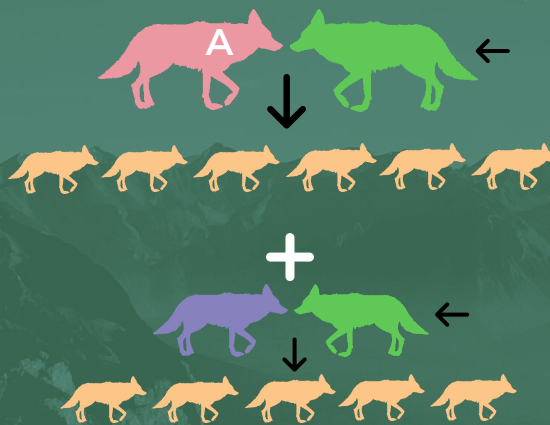


**Stable Pack:**  
The alpha pair is the only breeding pair and its litters are small. Pack members less likely to attack domestic animals.



**Killing Coyotes:**  
Reduces coyote pack numbers, but only temporarily.

**New Packs Formed by Lethal Control:**  
Survivors, joined by adult males from outside the area, start reproducing. Litter sizes increase. Number of breeding pairs increases. The need for more food can cause adults to prey on domestic animals.



**KEY**



**LETHAL REMOVAL OF COYOTES DOESN'T WORK**