



What should I do if I see a coyote?

If the coyote is seen near your house, encourage the coyote to keep moving by shouting and gesturing aggressively at it. Remove all attractants around your property: accessible garbage and compost, pet food left outside, rat and mice habitat (birdseed fallen from feeders often attracts rodents).

What should I do if a coyote approaches me?

If a coyote approaches, appear as large and threatening as possible. Make aggressive gestures (moving arms and legs), shout in a low voice, and throw rocks, sticks or objects. Never run; coyotes, like most canids, like to chase moving objects. Coyotes are naturally timid animals and will flee when confronted with aggression.

What should I do if the coyote keeps approaching me?

Continue to exaggerate the techniques listed above. Do not turn away or run. Maintain eye contact and move slowly toward a building or area of increased activity.

I've seen coyotes moving through my yard a lot recently. Why?

Regular coyote presence in your backyard is a result of a nearby food source. The coyote may be finding a meal in your yard, your neighbour's, or at a house down or across the street. Intentionally or not, someone in your neighbourhood may be feeding coyotes. Talking with your neighbours about identifying and removing the following coyote attractants will reduce the potential for coyotes to enter your backyard:

- Pet food stored or fed outside
- Accessible garbage bins and composts
- Fruit fallen from trees left to rot on the ground
- Rat or mouse habitat (wood piles, long grass, birdseed)

Although the majority of a coyote's diet consists of rodents, they also enjoy fruit, berries, birds, eggs, fish, crustaceans, and small pets. Even a poorly maintained bird feeder will attract rats, mice, coyotes and foxes. Never feed coyotes; fed coyotes lose their natural fear of people and can become more aggressive toward people.

How can I discourage coyotes from using my backyard?

It is crucial to understand that if one yard on your block is providing coyotes with a regular food source, there will be coyotes active throughout the neighbourhood. Get your neighbours on board to remove all attractants for coyotes in the neighbourhood. Attractants for coyotes include accessible garbage and compost, pet food left outside, rat and mice habitat (birdseed fallen from feeders often attracts rodents).

It is of equal importance to recognize that an indifferent attitude toward coyotes has a similar effect to feeding. Consider the following from a coyote's perspective:

1. Out of 20 visual encounters with people around houses, 1 resulted in a steak supper watched by the resident, 1 resulted in a compost and mouse meal watched by the resident, 16 encounters were met with indifference and 2 encounters were negative experiences in which the residents chased the coyote off the property and down the lane.
2. Out of 20 visual encounters with people around houses, 1 resulted in a fed roast chicken dinner and 19 experiences resulted in the coyote being scared off the property and block. Despite the free meal it is not likely that the coyote will return to the hostile area.

If a coyote is in your yard make the animal aware it is not welcome. Coyotes have been scared off properties by people waving hockey sticks or brooms at them, people throwing stones, balls or tins at them, people clanging pots and pans in their direction, or with home-made coyote deterrents suggested in this package.

A 2 m high fence that is buried at least 15 cm below ground will prevent coyotes from entering your yard. Other options include installing motion-detecting lights or strobe lights.

How can I keep my cat safe?

The only way to ensure your cat is safe from coyotes is to keep it indoors. The more time your cat spends outdoors the greater the risk it faces, not only from coyotes, but also from raccoons, cars, domestic dogs, leukemia, parasites, feline AIDS, and other diseases. Indoor cats live longer and healthier lives than outdoor cats.

You can give your cat time outdoors by building an enclosed cat run.

Help prevent coyotes from using your backyards and neighbourhoods by removing attractants: accessible garbage and compost, pet food left outside, and rat and mice habitat.

How can I keep my dog safe?

Coyotes sometimes prey upon small dogs. Small dogs have even been taken directly off the leash. You can ensure your pet's safety by supervising it at all times when outside. Allow your dog off-leash only in enclosed areas. If you

encounter a coyote while walking your dog, gather your dog in your arms. If this is not possible, keep it on a short leash as you move toward an area with increased activity. Shout, wave your arms, or throw objects at the coyote.

Large dogs rarely come into conflict with coyotes. Incidents generally occur during the late winter and early spring when coyotes mate and are more territorial. Do not let your dog play or interact with coyotes.

Some other precautionary measures that can be taken include:

1. Keep a whistle handy while walking your dog. The whistle may not scare the coyote directly (coyotes hear the same sirens, car alarms, and horns as we do), but it will alert other pedestrians in the area of your need for help.
2. Walk your dog in areas of high pedestrian traffic such as busy streets, jogging and park trails. Walk during times of increased activity such as during daylight hours, around schools at arrival, dismissal, break or lunch periods, along transit routes as the work day begins or ends, and around parks when sporting events (e.g. soccer practice) are being held.
3. Walk your dog with friends and family.
4. Avoid walking along abandoned properties or densely vegetated areas.
5. Make sure your dog is ahead of you and within sight at all times while walking.

Any dog that is off leash in a leash free zone in Toronto should have an immediate recall response to eliminate potential conflict with coyotes, dogs, and people.

How can I prepare my child for potential coyote encounters?

Education is the key to preparedness. Children should be taught how to behave around coyotes. Teach children to **Be Big** (stand up and raise your arms in the air), **Be Mean** (sound angry, stomp your feet, and throw something at the coyote), **Be Loud** (yelling "Go Away Coyote" so people nearby will come help), and **Never Run**.

Why should I not feed coyotes?

A Fed Coyote is a Dead Coyote

Coyotes that are intentionally fed by people invariably lose some or all of their fear of humans and develop aggressive behaviour, having to be destroyed. It is crucial that the coyote in your neighbourhood is prevented from showing aggression towards people. In addition, human food does not meet the animal's seasonal nutritional needs. There is plenty of natural food around for wildlife in the city.

If you suspect a neighbour is feeding coyotes, please contact Toronto Animal Services at (416) 338-PAWS (7297).

What should I do if I find an injured or sick coyote, or an abandoned pup?

People often see coyote pups and other wildlife babies alone in the spring. Before the animal is approached, it should first be observed for at least 24 hours to ensure the parent is not returning to take care of its young. Once you are certain it is orphaned contact Toronto Animal Services at (416) 338-PAWS (7297) or the nearest wildlife rehabilitation centre.

Do not attempt to handle an adult coyote. Injured wild animals are frightened and in pain. In addition, adult coyotes are extremely difficult to catch so long as they have use of all four limbs. Instead, call Toronto Animal Services.

What You Can Do

Never feed coyotes. When wild animals are fed they lose their natural fear of people and may become more aggressive. Feeding wild animals puts the animal, yourself, and your neighbours at risk.

If a coyote approaches you, **be as big, mean and loud as you can**

Throw objects at the coyote. If the coyote continues to approach, do not run but retain eye contact with the coyote, pick-up small pets or children, and move slowly toward an area of increased activity.

Coyotes have been scared off properties by people waving brooms and hockey sticks, throwing baskets, tennis balls and other objects, spraying vinegar through a super-soaker, clanging pots, pans and garbage lids together, and shouting in a low voice. The “Can Clanger” and the “Coyote Shaker” have worked well with children. Children are less likely to panic and more likely to act effectively (aggressively) when focusing their energy and fear through a physical object.

Cleaning up around your house and yard is the best way you can help prevent any human-coyote conflict.

Common attractants for coyotes (and mice, rats, raccoons, skunks, and bears) include: accessible garbage, compost, pet food, and yard fruit. Coyotes will also prey on cats and small dogs. To ensure your cats safety keep it indoors or within an enclosed outdoor cat run. Keep small dogs on a leash and within sight while walking.

A 2 m high fence that is buried at least 15 cm below ground will prevent coyotes from entering your yard. Other options include installing motion-detecting lights or strobe lights.

Home-Made Coyote Deterrents

The Can Clanger

Materials:

- Five or six empty tin cans
- A piece of strong string or rope
- A can opener

Instructions:

1. Remove the labels from the tins
2. Make a small hole in each tin with the can opener
3. Thread the string through the tins
4. Tie the two ends of the string together

Using the Can Clanger:

Use the can clanger whenever a coyote is using your yard to feed or rest. This teaches the coyote to avoid areas of human activity.

Walk toward the coyote, appearing as aggressive as possible. Shake or throw the can clanger at the coyote while shouting in a deep low voice. Several adults appear more threatening than one. Each adult should carry a different deterrent (e.g. hockey stick, broom, can clanger, basketball) and use it to chase the coyote from the area.

Don't stop at your property line. A coyote in your neighbour's yard is the same thing as one in your own.

The Coyote Shaker

Materials:

- Pop or juice can
- About 40 pennies
- Aluminum foil
- Duct tape

Instructions:

1. Place the pennies in the can
2. Cover the opening with tape
3. Cut a piece of foil and tape it around the can

Using the Shaker

Shake the tin at the coyote while slowly moving towards an area of increased activity. The shaker scares the approaching coyote in three ways, through:

1. Aggressive hand motion
2. Loud noise
3. Reflective light

The shaker easily fits in a pocket or bag.

Air horn

Air horns can be purchased from large hardware/tire retail stores for about \$20.00. These are also a very effective at chasing away coyotes.