

Living With Coyotes in Our Communities

1) Biology of Coyotes

Adult Males

45-55" long with tail

25-40 lbs

5-10 sq. mile range

Boundaries are typically roads, train tracks, and bodies of water.

Mating occurs typically in Jan, Feb, or March. 5-7 pups are born around April or early May, and mom and dad both help with the responsibilities of pup development.

It takes about 2 months for the pups to be

weaned, all the while the adult male does the hunting and food gathering for mom and the pups. After 2 months the pups begin to play and learn social and survival skills with mom and dad. Each day the pups get bigger and bigger and the amount of food the family needs is ever increasing. By the time fall comes, the young pups are fully prepared & ready for survival on their own. They may or may not venture off and start their own family at that time.

2) Conflict Issues & Fears/ Anxiety

Coyotes will attack for any one of a number of reasons. They may feel threatened, they may feel they are competing with domestic dogs for territory or mating, or they may be seeking a meal. We typically only hear about the most aggressive coyote stories, which are still very, very, rare. It's a good idea to supervise all small children and pets when they go outside. Coyotes are highly adaptive and do well in rural and urban settings.

If you encounter a coyote, they don't like human confrontation, and you should make every effort to scare or fend off the coyote by opening your arms, looking bigger, and using loud vocal or generated noises. If the coyote has any encounters with humans or pets, try to look at and identify any specific visual traits of the offending animal. It may be necessary to track and watch for this same animal and have it professionally removed from the community. If the coyote has any physical contact with a human, rabies treatment protocol is strongly advised after consulting with a physician. If the offending animal can be captured with 100% certainty, the animal can receive expedited rabies testing so the victim will have that piece of mind of the coyotes status. Besides rabies, coyotes can be affected by other conditions that humans should also make every effort to avoid.

3) Environmental Influences That Relate to Coyote Activity & Numbers

Expansion and development can be hard on the echo system and nature. Coyotes are highly intelligent animals that adjust well to a rapidly changing environment.

We can minimize the attractive nature of our property to coyotes by vegetation modification, limiting available food sources, and being aware of our surroundings.

Coyotes are much easier to manage when addressing at the first sign of them, vs after they have had a conflict with a pet or individual.

4) How to Cohabitate/ Live with Coyotes

We won't see a world free of coyotes, so it's best if we find a way to coexist with them. Keeping a close eye on pets and family, removing attractive attractions, and limiting easy food sources for coyotes are all a great start. If we have longer grass, and overgrown vegetation we will have an abundance of mice and rabbits, which make up a huge portion of the coyote daily diet.

We should limit unnatural easy food sources, such as exposed compost piles, bird feeders dropping seeds, and unsecured garbage. The food chain starts small, but when the smaller animals move in, it's just a matter of time before the natural predators also frequent the same area

5) Stories/ Citizen Questions

6) Conclusion/ End of Presentation