

# COEXISTING WITH COYOTES

## A HAZING FIELD GUIDE



Here are a few tips for keeping coyotes at a safe distance, which will allow you to live peacefully and comfortably with these canids.

### WHAT IS "HAZING"?

Hazing is the act of scaring a coyote away from you, your house, and your yard. Coyotes are naturally cautious around humans and hazing allows individuals to reinforce this wariness through the use of exaggerated sounds, motions, and the items found in your hazing kit.

Hazing can also be relatively passive and non-confrontational. Coyotes often venture closer to populated areas due to the presence of food and potential denning areas. Individuals can discourage coyotes from moving into developed areas by securing trash, not feeding pets outside, and thinning vegetation to prevent denning.

### HAZING KIT

Each hazing kit contains several items that, when used properly, can effectively deter coyotes and allow for peaceful coexistence with local wildlife. Whistles, bells, and shaker cans, along with your own voice, serve as powerful deterrents and should be used until the coyote leaves the area. Hazing is most effective when several senses are targeted so the use of scare tape can be beneficial as well. Scare tape can be draped across porches and railings or hung from rooftops and bird feeders; the flashing of the holographic ribbon in the sunlight serves to deter wildlife.



WHISTLE



CAN



SCARE TAPE



BELL

### HAZING TIPS

- **Make eye contact with the coyote.** Use your hazing tools until the coyote moves away. If the coyote hesitates or does not leave the area, slowly advance towards the coyote with your hazing tools until the coyote retreats.
- **Varied hazing is most effective.** Mix it up! Use different tools (and different people) each time you haze the coyote so the animal has a negative experience with a variety of items and people.
- **Don't haze if the coyote is a safe distance away!** Coyotes have adapted to urban and suburban environments and are often seen during the day and at night. Coyotes are extremely beneficial to the ecosystem so if a coyote isn't bothering you, let them be!
- **Don't haze if you think the coyote may be sick or injured!** Call a wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control.



### WOLF CONSERVATION CENTER

The Wolf Conservation Center is a not-for-profit organization focused on promoting wolf conservation by teaching about wolves, their relationship to the environment, and the human role in protecting their future.

# COEXISTING WITH COYOTES

## HISTORY OF EASTERN COYOTES



Eastern coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are resilient canids that have colonized the northeast United States. These canids, while larger than their Western coyote relatives, are smaller than wolves and play a crucial role in northeast ecosystems.

### EASTERN COYOTE DESCRIPTION

Eastern coyotes are 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, grey. A coyote's tail is fluffy and is usually carried pointing straight down. When observed from behind, a black spot (precaudal gland) can be seen just below the base of the tail. Coyote ears are large and pointy.

### DIET

While coyotes are classified as carnivores, they actually eat omnivorous diets including a wide variety of animal and plant materials. Annually, their diet includes white-tailed deer, rabbits, small mammals such as mice and voles, raccoons, groundhogs, birds, insects and plant materials.

Their diet shifts with seasonal availability of foods. For example, during the summer, coyotes feed upon berries and insects. During early fall they eat more insects and small mammals. Small mammals remain an important prey of choice during late fall and winter. As winter becomes harder and small mammal populations decline, coyotes turn toward their largest prey - white-tailed deer. Deer killed by vehicles and other causes (carrion) can be an important food source for coyotes. Coyotes infrequently kill healthy adult deer. In late spring, coyotes switch to fawns, as it is common to find evidence of fawn hair and bones in scats (fecal material).

### COMMUNICATION

Like wolves, coyotes communicate by scent-marking, body language, and vocalization. Scat and urine are deposited in prominent spots along trails to mark territories. When coyotes howl, it often sounds like many individuals, but it is really just a few. Perhaps this is due to echoes off hillsides or the reverberation of the resonant voices through the woods, or simply the hyperactive chorus of yips, yip-howls and yee-haws. It is not uncommon for residents in suburban neighborhoods to awaken to the sound of coyotes howling in a nearby woodlot-a sound formerly associated only with faraway wilderness. For some, this sound is invigorating and a pleasant reminder of nearby wildlife, while others find it eerie and nerve-wracking.

### HABITAT

Eastern coyote habitat includes a variety of natural and human-altered environments, including forests and fields, wetlands, suburban areas, and even cities. Commonly believed to live only in the more rural or wild landscapes, coyotes have readily adapted to living close to people.

### ACTIVITY

Coyotes are not strictly nocturnal. They may be observed moving about during the day, yet tend to be more active after sunset and at night.

### FAMILY LIFE

Eastern coyotes mate for life. While they do not form highly organized packs like wolves, adult coyotes display similar behavior by forming family units of closely related individuals. Adult males and females are the core of the family group. Often, the family group will include young of the year, and may occasionally include yearling coyotes from previous litters. Other coyotes live outside of packs as solitary transients and float between resident coyote families, biding their time until a vacant territory opens.