

Our (Not So) New Neighbors

Living With Coyotes In Our Town

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Know Thy Neighbor.....



- Not new to the area!
- 25 to 30 pounds
- Very fast runners
- NOT nocturnal
- Omnivores
 - Small rodents/deer/fruit
 - Rabbits/birds/raccoons/grass
 - Rarely eat pets
- Live both in groups and solitary
 - Groups consist of roughly 5 or 6 coyotes
- Very intelligent
- Territorial

What makes a coyote tick?

- Mating
 - Dec thru March
 - Very territorial
 - Time when unleashed larger dogs are a threat to them
 - Males protect their females/territory from other coyotes
 - Female coyotes can adjust their own litter size!
 - Depends on food availability and number of other coyotes

What makes a coyote tick?

- Pup-Rearing
 - April thru August
 - Only use den for raising pups; don't "live" in dens or nests
 - Litter of anywhere from 4 to 7 pups
 - By end of summer, pups hunt on their own
 - If den is threatened, will move den and pups

How can we get rid of them?

■ We can't!

- Over the last 100 years, man has been trying to get rid of, or at least vastly reduce, the number of coyotes.
- Over that last 100 years, the number of coyotes have increased and their range has spread.

But why not? Other places have!

- Things are not always what they seem...
- Attempts at “eliminating” coyotes have failed.
- Two main elimination strategies are:
 - Trapping (Relocation)
 - Killing

Trapping/Killing

- Trap/Relocate
 - Coyotes WILL try to find their way back
 - When ones vacates a territory, another takes its place
 - If, for some reason, another coyote doesn't, females in area will increase litter size to fill void.
- Killing
 - Again, coyotes will "breed to fill" vacancies
 - USDA kills 80,000 coyotes a year

Trapping/Killing Cont.

- However, number of coyotes they've killed over the years has increased, but total mean population stays the same!
- Usually in territory, one female coyote breeds
- However, if too many coyotes are removed, then ALL females breed

How to handle coyote encounters...

- For kids (but also works for adults)
- Be S.M.A.R.T.
 - Stop/no sudden moves
 - Make yourself look big
 - "Announce" by making noise
 - Retreat by backing away
 - Tell adult

Coyote Hazing

- Coyotes have to be “taught” to not come near us and/or our homes/property
- They will actually learn this after only a couple of times and will actually teach other coyotes where to avoid (but also where to go!)

Coyote Hazing

- Must have a “connection” with the coyote
 - Must associate people with sound/action they don't like
- Put yourself between coyote and child
- MUST haze until coyote leaves area!
 - Raise arms, yell, throw things at coyote.
- Vary methods of hazing
 - Everyone must haze! Can't be just residents and not police and vice versa

Coyote Hazing Cont.

- Usually 2 to 3 times per coyote/family, they get the message
- Make sure coyote has an escape route.
 - Don't corner them!
- Don't try to haze a sick or injured coyote
- Call police if you need help, are unsure of something, etc.

Other things that help.....

- Take away food sources:
 - Don't leave pet food outdoors
 - Close up your garbage
 - No water dishes left outside
 - Don't compost meat and fish
 - Rake up/clean up around bird feeders
- Don't let pets (especially small pets) run around unattended.
- Don't leave small children in the yard unattended.

Just so you know:

- Many (but not all) stories of “coyote attacks” are exaggerated by the news media/word of mouth.
- Coyotes are actually very skittish; VERY RARELY will attack people.
- Information from coyote expert Lyndsey White-Dasher.
- Any questions, feel free to give me a ring!