

Coexisting with Coyotes



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•DON'T LET COYOTES INTIMIDATE YOU - Don't hesitate to scare or threaten coyotes with loud noises and bright lights. Don't hesitate to pick up small objects, such as a tennis ball or a rock, and throw it at the coyote. If a water hose is close at hand, spray the coyote with it. Even if you love to see coyotes do not let them know it. It is important to keep them fearful of humans.

•NEVER LEAVE SMALL CHILDREN UNATTENDED- Attacks on people are rare, much more rare than dog attacks on people, but small children may mistake the coyote for a dog and approach it.



From coast to coast coyotes have become a fact of life in urban America. Following the steps outlined in this brochure can help us coexist with them. You can also help to educate your neighbors by passing this informational brochure along. For more information about urban coyotes, please visit the city's website at www.roswellgov.com.

•SUPERVISE ALL PETS CLOSELY - Keep your pets indoors from dusk until dawn. Follow Roswell's leash law. The City requires you to keep your dogs and cats on a leash and under your control when outside. If you must leave your pet outside alone, make sure it is in a secured fenced area.

•REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS & OUTSIDE PET FOOD CONTAINERS - Coyotes prey upon small mammals that are attracted to bird seed and pet food.

•PROVIDE SECURE SHELTERS - If you have poultry, pet rabbits or other outside pets, it is important to provide a safe and secure shelter for them.

•FENCE YOUR YARD - High fences (6-foot) flush to the ground or dug below grade level (6-inches) discourage coyotes from entering yards.

•CLOSE OFF CRAWL SPACES - Coyotes use such areas for resting and raising their young.

•CUT BACK BRUSH - These areas attract the coyotes' prey and also provide cover for coyotes.

Simple Ways to Coexist with Coyotes

Coyotes reside in virtually every urban area across the United States. They live in Manhattan, downtown Chicago and even Beverly Hills, so it should come as no surprise with our wooded and natural areas that the City of Roswell has urban coyotes in our midst. They are attracted to city life because of easy access to food, water, and shelter and because their chief predator, the wolf, has been eliminated. Development has also played a role in the increase of urban coyotes. As trees are torn down for development, coyotes cling to whatever woodland areas they can find. Here in Georgia coyotes live in all 159 counties.

Biologists believe coyotes have always lived in and near urban areas but they have gone unnoticed because they are nocturnal, usually searching for food between midnight and dawn, and they are afraid of people. The pups are taught to be wary of humans as part of their upbringing, but coyotes are beginning to lose their fear of human beings after living in such close proximity, and sightings are now being reported all over the United States.

Is it a Dog or a Coyote?

Coyotes are sometimes mistaken for German Shepherds. They have long thin legs, a tapered muzzle and long pointed ears. Their fur color ranges from a dull yellow to gray. Males weigh approximately 25 to 40 pounds while females are smaller. The peak of their breeding season is late February to early March and litters usually consist of five to seven pups.

The Coyote Diet

Coyotes are scavengers and opportunists which is one of the reasons they survive so well in urban settings. Their diet consists of mammals like deer, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, mice and when the opportunity presents itself cats and small dogs. They will also eat birds, insects, berries and other fruit. An urban coyote's diet also often includes pet food and trash.



Minimize the Risks - Coexisting with Coyotes

Urban coyotes are here to stay. Trapping and removing them does not prevent them from re-habitation in metropolitan areas. Coyotes are territorial and even if one family is removed a new pack will move into the area and establish it as their territory. As long as there is a ready food supply available, urban coyotes will be in our midst.

However there are steps that you can take to prevent coyote encounters.

•DO NOT FEED COYOTES! Problems occur when people begin to feed coyotes either deliberately or inadvertently. This can lead to coyotes losing their fear of people. Coyotes that rely on natural food sources remain scared of human beings.

•SECURE YOUR GARBAGE- Keep your garbage in tough plastic containers with tight fitting lids. Take trash out the morning pickup is scheduled. Keep compost piles in containers designed to contain but vent the material.