



# Coyote Hazing Guide

**Basic hazing can be performed by anyone and includes the following methods:**

- Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote. You can also shake a jacket, rake, broom, or umbrella over your head simultaneously. Stand your ground and make eye contact.
- Making loud noises with whistles, air horns, megaphones, slapping a newspaper, soda cans filled with pennies and blowing up and popping plastic bags, pots and pans.
- Throwing projectiles such as sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls or rubber balls in the coyote's DIRECTION, but AVOID HITTING the coyote.
- Squirting water from a hose, water gun, super soakers, or spray bottle (with vinegar water) and motion-activated sprinklers in the coyote's DIRECTION.

## **Tips for Effective Coyote Hazing**

- Hazing is most effective when an individual coyote is hazed by multiple people using various tools, techniques, sounds, or actions.
- The coyote being hazed must recognize that the potential threat is coming from a person. Hiding behind a bush and throwing rocks or hazing from your house or car isn't effective.
- A coyote may not respond or only run a short distance away when it is hazed for the first time. It is important to keep hazing until the coyote leaves the area. Otherwise, the coyote will learn to wait for the person to give up. Inconsistent hazing will create a coyote resistant to hazing instead of reinforcing "people are scary."
- A group of coyotes should be hazed the same way as a single coyote. A dominant coyote will respond first, and once it runs away, the others will follow.
- Hazing efforts should be exaggerated at the beginning of a hazing program, and less effort will be needed as the coyotes learn to avoid people and neighborhoods. Coyotes learn quickly, and their family members will emulate their behavior throughout the local coyote population.
- Certain levels of hazing must be maintained to prevent coyotes from learning or returning to unacceptable behaviors.
- Identifying and removing coyote attractants in conjunction with hazing will be more effective.

## **DON'Ts**

- Do not haze sick or injured coyotes. Call 311.
- Do not ignore a coyote; it creates habituation and negates the positive effects of hazing.
- Do not run from a coyote; it can initiate a chasing instinct.
- Do not corner a coyote or chase it towards traffic or another person.



# Coyote Deterrents and Repellants



**This guide is for homeowners to utilize when trying to minimize conflicts with coyotes. Dallas Animal Services encourages residents to share this information with their neighbors, friends, and homeowner's associations, as coyote management is most effective when a whole neighborhood works together.**

Hazing efforts, deterrents, and repellents will be more effective on coyotes if coyote attractants are removed or excluded from residential neighborhoods first. Thus, we encourage the following:

- Never feed coyotes! Report neighbors that are feeding to 311.
- Remove all food and water sources from your yard. This may include pet bowls, birdfeeders, fallen fruit, barbecue grills, and trash.
- All trash should be contained in trash containers and stored indoors with secure lids. Trash should not be placed on the curb until the morning of pickup. Encourage your community to utilize wildlife-proof trash containers on school grounds, in parks, and in open space areas.
- Pets should be supervised when outside and should only be left unattended when they are secured in a kennel with a covered top.
- Trim vegetation and mow tall grass; remove or thin brush and rubble piles so as to eliminate cover for coyotes and their prey.
- Avoid feeding birds. Coyotes will eat the birdseed as well as the birds and rodents attracted by the feeder.
- Secure livestock and poultry with wildlife-proof fencing with a secured top.
- Completely enclose gardens and compost piles with fencing.
- Seal-up openings under porches, decks, and sheds with welded wire that is buried at least 18 inches below the ground.
- Radios, strobe lights, sirens, or odor deterrents may help deter the presence of coyotes. Visit [BeDallas90.org/coyotes](https://BeDallas90.org/coyotes) for examples.
- Walk pets on a 6-foot leash at all times.
- Keep cats indoors. If you choose to have outdoor cats (not recommended), install cat posts and bring cats inside at night.
- Install cat posts for outside cats. Posts should be at least 7 feet tall and made out of a material that a cat can climb, with enough space on top for the cat to sit.
- Pets should not be left unattended outside unless in a kennel with a secured top.
- Close all pet doors at night to exclude coyotes, and other wildlife, from your house.
- Do not allow your pets to "play" or interact with wildlife.
- Corrals, high fencing, electric fencing, pasture selection, herders, and guard animals (llamas, donkeys, and guard dogs) may help with livestock protection.

**For more information on urban coyotes, please visit [BeDallas90.org/coyotes](https://BeDallas90.org/coyotes)**

# LIVING WITH COYOTES



**Coyotes are generally reclusive animals who prefer to avoid human contact.** However, coyotes inhabit every state in the continental US and are clever, highly adaptable creatures. For this reason, they thrive not only in the wilderness but also in urban and suburban environments.

In adapting to life (and the search for food) near people, some coyotes become more willing to venture into yards and neighborhoods. Though our coyote neighbors are important members of our local ecosystem, we can also take steps to discourage their visits to community spaces and prevent negative interactions between wildlife, pets, and people.



## PREVENTION: Please Don't Feed Wildlife!

The easiest way to keep coyotes out of your yard is to **not invite them to dinner!** Pet food and garbage left unattended outside is an easy meal opportunity. This also establishes an incentive for coyotes to explore neighboring community spaces.

## HAZING: Reshaping Established Coyote Behavior

**If you already have local coyotes visiting your neighborhood, hazing is an effective tool to re-establish a coyote's natural wariness of people.** Hazing utilizes tools, your voice, and your body to move an animal out of an undesirable location. Some coyotes may return multiple times and may even adjust to a certain sound or object, so it's important to change it up and to keep hazing until the animal has fully left the area. Here are some things you can do:

- **Use Your Body:** The simplest method of hazing is making yourself loud and large. Stand tall, wave your arms and yell at the coyote until it runs away.
- **Use Noisemakers:** Try whistles, air horns, bells, soda cans filled with pennies or rocks, foot-stomping, or pots and pans banged together.
- **Use Projectiles:** Toss sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, or rubber balls near the coyote with the goal of startling it (do not toss objects *at* the Coyote and attempt to hit or harm it).
- **Others:** Spray water hoses, water guns with vinegar water, spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, or bear repellent.
- **When Walking Your Dog:** Carry whistles or small air horns (which can be bought as necklaces), pepper spray, or pick up rocks and sticks to throw.

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## SAFETY FIRST: When to Call for Help

Coyotes are generally skittish by nature and will respond to hazing by retreating. However, if a coyote appears to be sick or injured, or has been socialized to humans, it may result in unpredictable behavior. If you suspect that a coyote is sick or injured, **contact 311 immediately** and **DO NOT interact with or attempt to haze the animal**. If the coyote is directly approaching or attacking you or your pet you can call 911. All other coyote sightings should be reported to the hotline at 469-676-9813.

[www.BeDallas90.org](http://www.BeDallas90.org)

[DASpetsupport@dallas.gov](mailto:DASpetsupport@dallas.gov)  
Lost Pets & Pet Support

[DASadopt@dallas.gov](mailto:DASadopt@dallas.gov)  
Adoptions

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## YOUR PETS: Free-Roaming Pets and Feral Cat Colonies

**Free-roaming pets, especially cats (and sometimes small dogs), may attract coyotes into neighborhoods.** Here are steps you can take to protect our furry companions:

- **Supervise Dogs:** Don't leave dogs of any size unattended outside unless your fence is "coyote-proof" (at least 8 ft tall and made of a material they cannot climb, or 6 ft tall with a protective device on top such as a "coyote roller" from [coyoteroller.com](http://coyoteroller.com)). When walking in public areas, dogs should always be on a leash and should never be allowed to interact with a coyote.
- **Keep Cats Secured:** Keep cats inside, unless they're being supervised on a harness and leash or are inside of a fully secured "catio" type enclosure.
- **Community Cat Colonies:** To protect a community cat colony, feed once daily at a set time and remove leftovers as soon as they are finished eating. Alternatively, provide the food in elevated locations where coyotes can not reach. The cats themselves can also attract coyotes as prey, so it's important to provide escape routes such as climbing structures where coyotes can't follow. Elevate safe places for the cats at least 10 - 12 ft above the ground. For more tips, visit [bedallas90.org/coyotes](http://bedallas90.org/coyotes).

## REMOVAL: Why can't coyotes be removed?

**Programs intended to remove coyotes are ineffective and inhumane.**

- Studies indicate that most urban coyotes can live in close proximity to humans for long periods of time without being noticed. It's extremely difficult to target and remove the particular coyote(s) who are problem-causing. Additionally, removing coyotes empties a "territory" and invites new coyotes to move in. If the attractants that invite coyotes into neighborhoods aren't fixed, the new coyotes will then create the same nuisance.
- Research suggests that when coyote populations are controlled aggressively, the remaining coyotes often experience a reproductive boom. Populations bounce back quickly, even when up to 70% of their numbers are removed. It is nearly impossible to eradicate coyotes from an area, which is evidenced by the failure of large-scale efforts to do so over the last 100 years.
- Though live traps are an option, the animal must then be euthanized or relocated. Relocation may seem like a humane alternative, but it is most often a death sentence for a coyote. They're territorial and occupy large home ranges. After being relocated, they will do almost anything to return to their home range and can run into roads, highways, and get into territorial disputes with other coyotes.

*\*This information is adapted from the Humane Society of the United States: [humanesociety.org/coyotes](http://humanesociety.org/coyotes)*

**The most effective solution for managing coyote conflicts is a combination of community education and awareness, preventative measures, and hazing as discussed in this document. For more information and tips, go to [bedallas90.org/coyotes](http://bedallas90.org/coyotes).**



SCAN ME

**Report neighbors who are feeding coyotes or violating other elements of Dallas City Code by calling 311 or scanning this QR code.**

**Report a coyote sighting by calling and leaving a detailed account of your sighting or scan the QR code to fill out our online form.**



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