

## Coyote Tip Sheet

Coyotes are becoming increasingly common in cities. Even in densely populated areas, coyotes maintain an avoidance of humans and potential for human-coyote interaction is low. To maintain a safe distance, homeowners are instructed to limit availability of food on their property and haze individual coyotes in the case of direct encounters. These techniques are outlined below. If followed by residents, the likelihood of coyote-human interactions or pet attacks is low and coexistence is possible.

### Steps to Avoid Coyote-Human Conflict

#### 1. Do not feed coyotes

Unintentional and intentional feeding are the leading causes of coyote habituation - when a coyote becomes uncharacteristically comfortable around humans. Refrain from directly feeding coyotes and avoid leaving garbage outside for long periods of time. Outdoor bird feeders may also be an attractant because they draw in small rodents serving as a food source for coyotes.



#### 2. Monitor Pets

Coyotes are not naturally inclined to approach homes or areas with pets. However, if there are limited food sources in a region, coyotes may see pets as potential prey. Always leash your pets and monitor them when outside, even in your backyard. Domesticated cats should be kept inside.

#### 3. Hazing

It is recommended that if you encounter a coyote directly, do not run away. Shouting, Waving, and throwing items are forms of hazing and will instill fear in the animal, preventing the likelihood of future attacks. During pupping season (May) negative behavior patterns in coyotes are more likely. At this time, it may be beneficial to carry a noise-maker to shake in the case of an encounter. However, if a coyote is noticed, but avoiding your presence, do not seek out an encounter or hazing opportunity.

#### 4. Report Aggressive Coyotes

Unprovoked barking, hackle raising, snarling, and growling are all signs of aggressive coyotes. If you notice these behavior patterns, report this to city officials.

For further information view Chicago's Coexistence Plan:

[https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFfiles/CACC\\_Coyote\\_Management\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFfiles/CACC_Coyote_Management_FINAL.pdf)

