



# Naperville

Dear Resident: Due to the increased concern over the number of coyote encounters in several subdivisions, Naperville Animal Control has compiled the following deterrent techniques and hazing examples for residents to enact. It should be noted that the number of coyotes has increased dramatically during the past 30 years. Illinois Department of Natural Resources biologists estimate there are more than 30,000 coyotes in Illinois. They have adapted well to living in urban and suburban settings within the Chicago metropolitan area. Trapping is not a long-term solution for coyotes. Research shows that once coyotes are removed, others quickly replace them.

Report sick or injured wildlife to Naperville Animal Control at 630-420-6178 or leave a message for inquiries regarding coyote behavior.



Naperville Animal Control  
1340 Aurora Av.  
Naperville IL 60540

Hours: Monday-Friday 7am-7pm  
Saturday-Sunday 9am-5pm

Phone #: 6304206178 ♦ Webpage: [www.naperville.il.us/animalcontrol.aspx](http://www.naperville.il.us/animalcontrol.aspx) ♦ Email: [animalcontrol@naperville.il.us](mailto:animalcontrol@naperville.il.us)

**How to Haze for Effective Reshaping of Coyote Behavior:**  
**Encourage neighbors to follow these techniques**

**Coyote Deterrent Methods for Your Home and Yard:**

- Do not feed wildlife; they can become habituated to humans and their homes.
- Limit food sources for coyotes; keep all garbage containers closed and inaccessible, be sure grills and barbeques are kept clean, don't leave your pet's food outside, avoid overflowing bird feeders, clean up after fruit bearing trees, and thin out, trim, and clear away shrubbery and ground cover vegetation.
- Don't leave pets outside unattended.
- Discourage coyotes from building dens next to or under your home: seal crawl spaces or decks, concrete slabs, porches, and sheds with welded wire: keep garage doors closed.
- Use motion sensor lights for front, back or side yards.

**General Considerations: *Coexistence is not a passive undertaking.***

- Hazing must be more exaggerated, aggressive and consistent when first beginning a program of hazing, as coyotes "learn" it will take less effort to maintain and get an appropriate response.
  - It is extremely common for coyotes not to respond to hazing techniques early in the process. They do not have the relevant context to respond in the manner desired (to leave) with no history of hazing.
- Techniques and tools can be used in the same manner for one animal or multiple animals. Usually there is a dominant animal in a group who will respond, and others will follow its lead. **DO NOT ignore, turn back on, and avoid hazing just because there are multiple animals instead of a single individual.**
- The coyote must be aware of where the potential threat is coming from and identify the person involved.
- Coyotes can and do recognize individual people and animals in their territories. They can learn to avoid or to harass specific individuals in response to behavior of the person and/or pet.
- Certain levels of hazing must always be maintained so that future generations of coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits related to habituation to people.
- Human behavior must change to support hazing and continued identification and if necessary removal of possible attractants.

- Coyotes are skittish by nature; habituated behavior is learned and reinforced by human behavior. Coyotes as a rule DO NOT act aggressively towards aggressive people.

**Potential Tools for Hazing and Examples of Proper Hazing:**

Hazing is not intended to do damage to animals, humans or property. Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical; coyotes can habituate to individual items, sounds, actions.

- Noisemakers: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, "shaker" cans, pots, pie pans
- Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls.
- Other: hoses, water guns with vinegar water, spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, bear repellent, walking sticks

Hazing must continue to happen until the animal has responded and definitely removed itself from the situation. Expect slower responses initially, response will be faster the more often the coyote experiences hazing.

- The coyote needs to associate the harassing behavior with the person doing the hazing. Do not haze from inside a building, behind vegetation or anywhere that a coyote cannot directly see you. The goal is to get the animal to focus on the hazer as the source of harassment/potential danger.
- Don't change your actions to avoid approaching a coyote(s). You **MUST** address the coyote and make sure it changes ITS actions while continuing on your desired path of action. (Possible exception if you are walking a dog that becomes aggressive towards the coyote. Avoid approaching, just stop and haze from current location).

**Common coyote initial responses:**

- Coyote will freeze and/or look at hazer without leaving. Hazing response: increase level of hazing, add sounds, stamp feet, throw things, approach or run towards animal.
- Coyote will run short distance away and stop, looking back and/or returning. Hazing response: **DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL SURE ITS GONE**, increase level of hazing, add sounds, stamp feet, throw things, approach or run towards animal.