

**DESCRIPTION:** The coyote is a medium-sized member of the dog family that includes wolves and foxes. With pointed ears, a slender muzzle, and a drooping bushy tail, the coyote often resembles a German Shepherd or collie. Coyotes are usually a grayish brown with reddish tinges behind the ears and around the face but coloration can vary from a silver-gray to black. The tail usually has a black tip. Eyes are yellow, rather than brown like many domestic dogs. Most adults weigh between 25-35 pounds, with a few larger individuals weighing up to 42 pounds.

**SIGHTINGS:** Coyotes are not nocturnal animals; they can and are seen during the day and evenings. Increased sightings of Coyotes occur late winter into early spring when breeding season begins, then again in the fall when the young start to disperse from their dens. It is recommended to use extra caution when allowing your pets outside during these times. Dogs should always be leashed when walked, and no pet should be outside unattended. While Coyotes are not actively seeking out pets as a food source, they are seen as competition for territory and prey.

Table 1. Frequency of Food Items in the Diets of Coyotes in Cook County, Illinois.\*

Diet Item	Occurrence
Small rodents	42%
White-tailed deer	22%
Fruit	23%
Eastern cottontail	18%
Bird species	13%
Raccoon	8%
Grass	6%
Invertebrates	4%
Human-associated	2%
Muskrat	1%
Domestic cat	1%
Unknown	1%

\* Based on the contents of 1,429 scats collected during 2000-2002. Some scats contained multiple items; therefore, the percentages exceed 100%. See Morey 2004.

## Contact Info

### Address

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 Naperville Animal Control  
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### Telephone

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### Fax

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[www.naperville.il.us/animalcontrol.aspx](http://www.naperville.il.us/animalcontrol.aspx)

### Office hours

Monday-Friday 7a.m.-7p.m.

Saturday-Sunday 9a.m.-5p.m.



# COYOTES



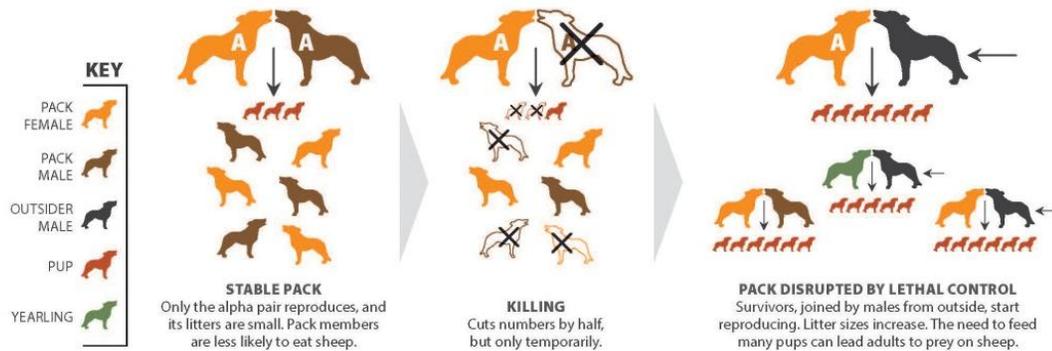
# AMONG



# US

## Why **KILLING** Doesn't Work

Shoot or poison coyotes and you will have just as many again within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring sooner, and litter sizes will grow.



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[humanesociety.org/coyotes](http://humanesociety.org/coyotes)

## 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).

## 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 barbecues 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.

