



Coyote Dangers

Coyotes are naturally curious animals, but are quite timid and will usually run away if challenged. **However, any wild animal will protect itself or its young if provoked.** If a coyote loses its natural fear of humans, (usually as a result of people feeding them), they have the potential to pose a serious threat.

Small children and pets are particularly vulnerable to attacks, although adults are also at risk. Outdoor pets (cats and small dogs) serve as potential prey, whereas a large dog may be attacked if viewed by coyotes as a possible competitor. Some coyotes learn to kill smaller livestock, such as sheep, goats, calves and poultry. Larger animals are almost always consumed as carrion.

Coyotes are active mainly during the nighttime, but they can be moving at any time during the day. Most sightings of coyotes occur during the hours close to sunrise and sunset.

Coyotes may also carry diseases, viruses, and parasites, such as rabies and distemper. Some of these diseases can be fatal to humans and other animals.

See tips inside this brochure on what to do if a coyote approaches you and/or your pet.



Urban
Wildlife
Series

Living with Urban Wildlife

COYOTES

COYOTE FACTS



Coyotes can be found as lone individuals, in pairs, or even run in packs similar to wolves. They are generally monogamous, selecting a lifelong mate. Typically, only the dominant pair will breed and produce one litter of four to eight pups in early spring. Both parents care for their young, and their offspring often remain with them to form a small pack.

Coyotes are usually nocturnal feeders and will hunt small mammals such as mice, rabbits, deer, ground squirrels and even small pets. However, they are opportunists and scavengers, and will also eat whatever food is seasonally abundant, such as garbage, fruits, vegetables, birds, toads, frogs, snakes and insects.

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are a member of the dog family. *Canis latrans* means “barking dog.” This highly adaptive species was originally considered native only to the western two-thirds of the United States, but landscape alterations and the elimination of large predators have enabled it to expand its range throughout North America. With its thick, dense fur, a coyote can appear larger than it truly is.

There is a wide variation in the coyote’s color, but generally their upper body is yellowish gray, and the fur covering the throat and belly is white to cream color. Typically, they are about the size and shape of a medium-sized German Shepard, with the females being slightly smaller than the males. The adult weight averages between 20 to 55 pounds.

REPORTING RESOURCES

To report a sick, injured or potentially dangerous coyote, contact any of the following agencies:

Pittsfield Dept. of Utilities & Municipal Services
(734) 822-3105 www.pittsfield-mi.gov

Pittsfield Dept. of Public Safety
(734) 822-4911 (Non-Emergency No.)

Humane Society of Huron Valley
(734) 661-3512 (Cruelty and Rescue Hotline)

Friends of Wildlife
(284) 672-9615 (Coyote Expert)

MI Dept. of Natural Resources
(248) 359-9040 Southfield Ops. Center
(800) 292-7800 Hotline & After Hours www.michigan.gov/dnr

USDA MI Wildlife Services
Toll Free: 1-(866) 4USDAWS www.aphis.usda.gov

www.pittsfield-mi.gov



Pittsfield Charter Township

6201 W. Michigan Avenue | Ann Arbor, MI 48108
www.pittsfield-mi.gov | info@pittsfield-mi.gov



If Coyotes Approach

Coyotes rarely attack humans.

Bites from snakes, rodents, and domestic dogs are a far greater possibility than coyote bites, according to public health authorities. However, coyotes that are fed become accustomed to people and present a human safety risk. People should never intentionally feed or attempt to tame coyotes. It is in the best interest of both coyotes and humans if coyotes retain their instinctive fear of people.

The following important points can help minimize potential dangers and conflicts with coyotes:

- Never approach, touch, feed or try to tame a coyote
- Show you are dominant by keeping eye contact with the animal
- Yell or make loud noises with whistles, blaring music, or pots and pans
- Encourage coyotes to leave by spraying with a hose, throwing sticks or rocks near them, or shaking a can filled with pennies or pebbles
- Don't stimulate a coyote's chase instinct by running
- Pick up small pets and leave the area
- Protect small children so they won't panic and run

Remember, the human is dominant and must act that way.

KNOW THE LAW

It is your responsibility to know the laws. Coyotes can only be captured or killed by someone with a proper license from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), or in defense of yourself or another person. Check your local laws and ordinances regarding the use of firearms and animal traps.

COYOTE FACTS

Did you know...



Coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding their young. However, their presence in a community does not demand that they be hunted or removed. Relocating a problem coyote is not an option as it only moves the problem to someone else's neighborhood. Rather, if you see a coyote, report it to your local authority for safe and proper handling and removal.

It is generally not normal for coyotes to attack humans; it is a learned response to human feeding or indifference.



A unified neighborhood effort is crucial to keep coyotes away from your home and yard!

COYOTE FACTS

Coyotes pups are born in "dens," which in urban areas can be storm drains, under storage sheds, in holes dug in vacant lots, parks or golf courses, or any other dark, dry place. At a month old, pups can eat meat and easily move about. So, as food needs increase during pup rearing, human conflicts can become more common.



Discouraging Coyotes

Coyotes are found throughout Michigan and have dispersed into southern Michigan without assistance from the MDNR. Coyotes are found in rural to urban areas and are quite common but extremely good at remaining unnoticed by humans, even while living in close proximity. Their presence in subdivisions and urban or suburban areas, while surprising to many folks, is a result of increasing populations (both coyote and human) and encroachment of human environments into their natural habitat (from development of rural areas).

These precautions can help discourage coyotes from venturing onto your property:

- Eliminate all outside food sources, if possible, especially pet foods. Feed pets indoors or remove uneaten food from outside between feedings
- Use tight-lid garbage cans and only place the container out the morning of pick-up-day
- Clear out wood and brush piles; these are prime habitat for rats and mice that may attract coyotes, and can also be good hiding and resting places for coyotes
- Do not allow pets to roam free when coyotes are present. Keep pets indoors and/or on a leash, and always accompany them outside, especially at night.
- Install outdoor lighting with motion sensors

**Coyote Hunting Season ~ Statewide
July 15 – April 15**

A small Game Hunting License is required
(*See below)

**Coyote Trapping Season ~ Statewide
Oct. 15 – March 1**

(NOTE: Non-lethal cable restraints may be used from Jan. 1 through March 1, to take fox and coyotes, however, restrictions apply.)

For more information...

Visit the MDNR website at: www.michigan.gov/dnr and click on the "Hunting & Trapping" link.

*A coyote may be taken on by a property owner or designee all year if they are doing or about to do damage on private property. A license or written permit is not needed.