



## Co-Existing with Coyotes in Lincolnwood

Coyotes are a permanent fixture in Illinois' rural, suburban, and urban areas. Seeing a coyote cross a field, backyard, golf course, road, etc. does not necessarily constitute a problem or a dangerous situation for humans or domestic animals. Coyote population reduction (removing some or all the coyotes in an area) is usually unrealistic and always temporary. Removal of coyotes also requires time, effort, and funding.

### Deterring Coyotes

Though coyotes are valuable in decreasing the rodent population, their presence in residential areas can be minimized by removing things that attract them to places they are not wanted. Coyotes can become a nuisance when they have easy access to food, such as bird food or garbage: **Do not encourage coyotes by feeding them!**

- Keep pet food and watering dishes inside, especially at night.
- Do not allow spillage to accumulate outside bird feeders.
- Keep grills and barbecues clean. Even the smallest food scraps may attract coyotes or foxes.
- Do not keep garbage cans outside, if possible.
- Use wire to keep animals from gaining access underneath decks.
- Small dogs and cats should be kept on short leashes when walking; Stay with your pets while outside, especially during the evening and early morning. Fences do not guarantee your pet's safety.
- Coyotes are creatures of habit. If you encounter a coyote the same place and same time while walking your pet, you may want to change your path/time of your walk.



### Coyote "Hazing"

Equally important in deterring coyotes is helping to teach them where they are not welcome through a process called "hazing". Hazing is a term for actions such as making loud noises toward coyotes to change their behaviors and re-establish their natural fear of humans. If you encounter a coyote in a place where they are not welcome, practice these techniques to send the message to the coyote that you are dominant and the coyote must leave.

Techniques include:

- Make eye contact and yell at the coyote(s)
- Wave your arms and make yourself appear as large as possible
- Use a noisemaker or a whistle Stomp your feet
- Clap your hands
- Run toward the coyote to scare it off
- Act threatening
- Spray a hose toward the coyote(s)



Hazing does not include weapons! Be persistent and keep hazing until the coyote leaves. Because they may have become accustomed to humans, coyotes may not immediately leave, but following through is important for hazing to be effective.

### Factors Leading to Conflicts with Coyotes

The important factors leading to coyote/human conflicts include:

1. An attractive, resource-rich suburban environment that provides sources of food, shelter and water to attract coyotes
2. Human acceptance or indifference to coyote presence
3. Lack of understanding of coyote ecology and behavior, particularly when coyote habituation progresses to aggressive behavior toward humans
4. Intentional feeding
5. Cessation of predator management programs to selectively remove problem coyotes

### When Should I be Concerned?

A list of signs indicating an increase in threat from coyotes is presented below. It is important to note, however, that coyotes are highly variable in their behavior and this sequence may not always be predictive.

Coyote behavior / activity	CONCERN	Responses
Rarely or occasionally seen at night, more rarely during dusk and dawn	LOW	Limit food sources (garbage, pets feeding, wildlife feeding) Supervise pets and don't let them run free
Occasionally seen during the day Frequently seen at night Free-ranging pets occasionally disappear	CONCERN	Use hazing, negative stimuli (shouting, chasing, throwing objects)
Frequently seen during the day Stalking or attacking pets Fleeing from people		Consider removal program in conjunction with education; prohibit/limit feeding of wildlife; supervise pets; use negative stimuli
Approaching people aggressively Growling, barking when hazed (rather than running) Following children Preying on pets in yards	HIGH	Initiate removal program in conjunction with education; prohibit/limit feeding of wildlife; supervise pets; use negative stimuli



### Relevant Illinois Laws

In Illinois, coyotes are protected as a furbearer. Coyotes in urban areas that become problems may be removed if a Nuisance Wildlife Permit is issued by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources District Wildlife Biologist. Section 6-3-9 (L) of the Lincolnwood Village Code states that **“No person shall hunt, trap or pursue wildlife at any time.”**

### Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact the Lincolnwood Police Department at 847-673-2167.

