



Co-Existing with Coyotes in Lincolnwood

Recently, the Village has received numerous complaints of coyote sightings. The following information is provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and University of Illinois Extension to provide residents of Illinois with information about how to coexist with Illinois' wildlife, especially in urban areas. For additional information, please visit the IDNR and U of I Extension website at: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/directory_show.cfm?species=coyote.

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 of 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:

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

Persons with general questions may contact the Lincolnwood Police Department at 847-673-2167.