

LEARN TO LIVE WITH YOUR WILD COYOTE NEIGHBORS

Coyotes are perhaps the most misunderstood wild animal in the greater Chicago area. As the area's largest occurring predator, coyotes are valuable in decreasing the rodent population, yet they are feared by many people. *What should you do if you see a coyote in your neighborhood?* The truth is that coyotes are normally much more afraid of humans than we are of them. There are some basic things you can do to ensure that you and your neighborhood coyotes live together without conflict. The following information, provided by Illinois Department of Natural Resources, is intended to educate residents about coyotes and the steps you can take to discourage them from frequenting residential areas.

How to deter coyotes:

- DO feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meal outside.
- DO clear brush and dense weeds from around property. This deprives rodents of shelter and reduces protective cover for coyotes.
- DO use trash barrels equipped with tight clamping devices on the lids, which will prevent spills should they be tipped over by large animals.
- DO NOT feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife. This practice abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds, snakes and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.

How to protect pets:

- Keep small pets (cats, rabbits, small dogs) indoors. Don't allow them to run freely at any time. They are easy prey. Some coyotes hunt cats in residential areas.
- As an extra precaution, pick up your small dog if you see a coyote nearby.
- Dogs should be brought inside after dark and never allowed to run loose. **This is especially important during mating season, which is February through April.**

What to do if you encounter a coyote:

- If you encounter a coyote, shout, clap or throw something in its direction (not directly at the coyote). Acting aggressively helps re-instill a fear of humans in coyotes and encourages them to stay away from residential areas.
- Contact local police for sick, threatening or injured animals only.

For additional information visit: <http://urbancoyotereseach.com/>

