

Coexisting With Coyotes in Mansfield



Coyote – *Canis Latrans*

The Coyote is very similar in size to a small German Shepherd and weighs an average of 25 to 40 pounds. It has long, slender legs, a bushy tail with a black tip, and large ears that are held erect. The Coyote's coat can vary, but it is usually gray or buff-colored. From a close vantage point, there is no mistaking the yellow eyes and black, round pupils. The Coyote is a strong swimmer. It characteristically runs with its tail down instead of horizontally like foxes, or up like wolves and dogs.

Always turn on a light and check yard before letting your pet outside between dusk and dawn.

Coyotes are omnivores!

Diet: Rodents, rabbits, ducks, squirrels, fruits, bird seed, garbage, and occasional insects.

They are active day or night, but mostly at dawn and dusk.

If you encounter a coyote when walking your dog:

1. **DO NOT EVER** ignore, turn your back on, or attempt to run away.
2. **Stand your ground, yell, make noise, and make your-self look big.**
3. **Carry a whistle, noisemaker, or rocks**
4. **Approach aggressively if coyote does not leave.**
5. **Pick up your dog, if possible, and don't let Coyote between you and your pet.**
6. **Slowly back towards other people if possible.**
7. **Do not stop yelling and harassing coyote until it leaves area.**

**Keep Your
Cats Safe
Inside**

Keep pets inside when possible and never allow small pets to be out unattended especially after dark

The use of hazing is an excellent way to deter Coyotes from becoming acclimated to people and neighborhoods. Hazing should be practiced consistently by everyone to produce the fastest results.

Hazing: Yelling, making noise and throwing things all make an animal uncomfortable in your presence.

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- Help eliminate water sources for coyotes.
- Do not discard edible garbage until the day of trash pickup.
- Bird feeders should be positioned where coyotes cannot access.
- Feed pets indoors.
- A fence should be at least 6' tall with a secure base.
- Never leave children unattended.

Habituation begins when coyotes tolerate humans at a distance, and can progress to “taming” through positive reinforcement such as food. Habituated wildlife can and do become troublesome and dangerous.

For additional information, or if you have any questions, please call Mansfield Animal Care & Control at 817-276-4799.

Information is also available at <https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/1334/Coyote-Reporting>

If you have an emergency coyote related situation, where your life or any citizen’s life is in immediate danger, please call 911 immediately.

For all non-emergency coyote sightings please report on the website.