



Coyote Awareness

in Fort Worth and Tarrant County

Tips for discouraging coyotes

- Do not feed coyotes or other wildlife.
- Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- Feed pets inside if possible. Remove any leftover food if your pet is fed outside. Store animal feed away from wildlife.
- Place bird feeders well above coyote reach.
- Make fences at least 6 feet high extending 6 inches below ground level to help protect your property. On rangeland, net-wire or electric fencing can help protect young livestock.
- Keep pets confined to securely fenced areas. Walk dogs on leash and keep cats indoors.
- Provide secure enclosures for fowl, rabbits or small livestock.
- Use bright lights and make loud noises to discourage coyotes from staying.
- If approached by a coyote, wave your arms, shout, throw sticks or other items toward the animal, spray water from a garden hose or otherwise use tactics to reinforce the coyote's natural fear of humans.



Description: The coyote can range from 20-50 lbs. and is about 2 feet tall at the shoulders, about the size of a small German shepherd. He is usually gray or buff-colored with a bushy tail. Coyotes breed in the winter and raise pups in the spring. Coyotes are usually seen alone or in pairs. In summer or fall, you may see a family group that includes older pups. The coyote is intelligent and extremely adaptable.

Habitat: Coyotes originally roamed the Great Plains, but with the decline of the wolf, have spread their territory across most of North and Central America. Once rural, coyotes have become common in suburbs and cities where food sources are plentiful. In Fort Worth, coyotes are most common on the outskirts of the city, in parks, on golf courses and near the Trinity River banks. They are most often seen at dawn and dusk, but can be active anytime.

Diet: Coyotes will eat anything. Their regular diet is small animals such as rabbits, rodents and insects. They also eat carrion, lizards, snakes, fruit, vegetable matter and fish. Cats and small dogs become prey when wild animals are scarce during drought or extreme weather or when coyotes are used to scavenging pet food and garbage in neighborhoods. Pets may not recognize the threat and be easy prey.

Report sightings and questions regarding coyotes in Fort Worth to:

**Animal Care and Control at 817-392-3737 or
DFW Wildlife Coalition at 972-234-WILD.**

**Report ANY animal bite to Animal Care and Control at
817-392-3737.**