

Coyote Behaviors



If you live in Florida, you live in coyote habitat! Know what to do if you encounter one. Learn how to avoid conflict, help your community, and live alongside coyotes.

If a coyote...



- Leaving scat, tracks, or marking an area
- Seen on surveillance cameras or posted to social media
- Howling, yipping, or otherwise vocalizing at night
- Feeding on natural food sources (plants, insects, wildlife, etc.)
- Observed in the area more than 20 feet from any human and/or is easily scared off by loud sounds or human activity

You should...

Observe from a safe distance. These are normal coyote behaviors: to help keep coyotes showing normal behaviors around humans, secure attractants (the things that attract animals into your yard), haze (scare away) any coyotes you encounter, and never allow pets to free-roam or be left outside unattended. Keep livestock in predator-resistant enclosures.

If a coyote...



- Taking domestic animals or their food (cats, chickens/livestock, pet food)
- Lingering in heavily populated areas and/or in close proximity to people
- Eating garbage, bird seed, or other human-sourced food
- Displaying "escorting behaviors"- following behind dog walkers at a distance greater than 10-15 feet (protective behavior that usually occurs near a den with pups)

You should...

Aggressively haze any coyotes you encounter. Carry a noise maker like an airhorn or coyote shaker if necessary and consider installing motion-activated scare devices. Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning. Secure attractants like pet food or unsecured trash. If you need assistance identifying what may be acting as an attractant in your yard or if persistent hazing efforts are not deterring coyote activity, contact your local FWC regional office 8 AM-5PM Monday through Friday for additional guidance.

If a coyote...



- Actively approaching people within 10ft
- Within 10ft of a person and not backing away in response to loud noises
- Approaching or injuring pets being walked on a short leash (less than 6 feet from a human)
- Lingering on a school campus or near a bus stop while children are present
- Showing unprovoked signs of threatening or aggressive behaviors including baring teeth, growling, raised hackles, etc.

You should...

Never run from a coyote. Stand your ground and be loud and aggressive. If you have a small pet or child with you, pick them up if possible. Report these unusual behaviors to the Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922. In case of emergency, call 911.

You've Seen a Coyote

What should you do?



Coyotes are common throughout Florida and can be found anywhere in the state. Coyotes have adapted well to urban landscapes. They can often be found in or around residential areas, so it is likely you may encounter one in your community. Fortunately, it is easy to avoid conflict with coyotes by taking a few simple precautions.



Use this guide to help understand what behaviors are normal and when you may need to take action. Follow the tips below or contact your regional office for the best methods to deter coyotes from the area.



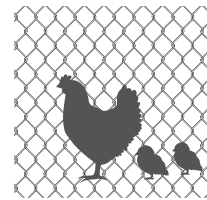
Never feed coyotes. It is illegal and can cause them to lose their fear of humans.



Secure Attractants
-Keep trash sealed.
Do not feed pets outside. Pick up fallen fruit or bird seed.



Do not allow pets outside unattended. Keep dogs on short, fixed leashes.



Secure livestock in predator-resistant enclosures.



Consistently haze coyotes by making loud noises and threatening gestures

If you need assistance, contact your local FWC Regional Office or visit MyFWC.com/Coyote

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