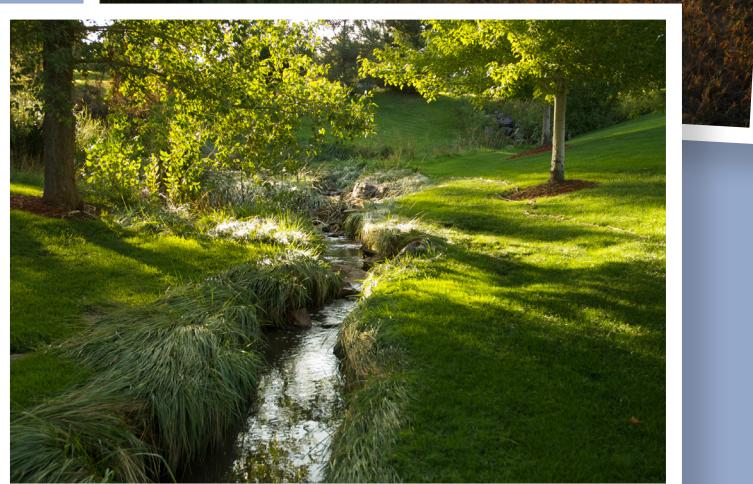


COYOTES

in
Greenwood Village

OUR VILLAGE MAKES A GREAT HOME

Coyote sightings are inevitable in Greenwood Village because of its abundance of open space, natural parks, running trails, and flowing drainageways that provide three essential resources coyotes need to survive: food, water, and shelter. Space is plentiful in the Village for coyotes to live. Coyotes can be active at any time of day, but are typically active at dawn, dusk, or overnight. As coyotes adapt to living in rural/urban areas like Greenwood Village, they do become accustomed to human presence. As they lose their fear of people, coyotes will become bolder in approaching people and may put themselves in situations they would normally avoid.



THE COYOTE'S BIOGRAPHY

Family Ties

The coyote is a medium-sized member of the dog family that includes wolves and foxes. With pointed ears, a slender muzzle, and a drooping bushy tail, the coyote often resembles a small German Shepherd or Husky. Coyotes are usually grayish brown with reddish tinges behind the ears and around the face, but coloration can vary from a silver-gray to black. The tail usually has a black tip. Eyes are yellow, rather than brown like many domestic dogs. Most adults weigh between 25 to 35 pounds.

The average weight of a coyote in the Village is 29 pounds.

Café Coyote

A plentiful food source exists in the Village on which coyotes prey. Up to 70 percent of a coyote's diet consists of small animals like mice, rabbits, rats, squirrels, and voles. The remaining 30 percent is a combination of fruits, vegetables, insects, fish, birds, and eggs. Occasionally, coyotes have been known to prey on small pets as a food source.

In your neighborhood, coyotes are attracted to an array of items which are commonly found and easily accessible:

- Outdoor pet food and water
- Birdseed
- Garbage or compost
- Fallen fruit or berries from trees or shrubs

Expanding Their Family

Generally, you may see and hear coyotes more during mating season (December through February) and when juveniles are dispersing from their family group (September through November). Coyote pups are born April through May, and are taught to hunt at approximately 12 weeks of age, at which time they no longer utilize their den. The litter size is determined by the local coyote population density and food availability. The pups disperse from the family at approximately 20 weeks of age which will often result in more coyote sightings.

Coyote Life Cycle

December–January–February	Breeding Activity
February–March–April	Den Site Selection
April–May	Birthing
May–June–July	Raising Pups
July–August–September–October	Expanding Home Range
October–November–December	Dispersal of Pups



THEIR DEN

In April, after a 62- to 65-day gestation period, the female will begin looking for existing dens or dig one herself. Pup season is the time coyotes will voluntarily use a den; otherwise, coyotes usually sleep above ground in the open or in cover. Dens may consist of an existing burrow made by skunks or other medium-sized wildlife. Coyotes will also build dens from scratch by digging a hole and sometimes will use wooden decks or patios. They usually prefer some protective cover of the den, such as bushes or trees, and some type of slope for drainage. It is not uncommon for mothers to move their young from den to den to keep them protected or to re-use the same den over multiple years. Coyotes keep watch near their dens to keep threats away from their young.

Coyotes are more active hunters in the months of May through November.

At night, coyotes both howl a high, quavering cry and emit a series of short, high-pitched yips. Howls are used to keep in touch with other coyotes in the area and not a sign of imminent danger.

HARD HABITS TO BREAK

Coyotes are predictable with their behaviors in most habitats, whether it's in a rural or urban environment.

- Coyotes can be seen throughout the day, but are especially active at dawn and dusk.
- **Coyotes are curious and are known to stare at humans. They sometimes follow humans out of natural curiosity or to keep them away from their pups.**
- They communicate by vocalizing and scent marking.
- Coyotes are fast and agile; they can run at speeds of 25-40 m.p.h. and will jump as high as eight feet or equivalent to the height of a residential privacy fence.
- They are highly intelligent and social animals; they learn quickly and are devoted parents to their young.
- Coyotes are solitary creatures and mark their territory with urine. During the winter, coyotes tend to become more social and they join forces, creating hunting packs to find food more easily.
- Coyotes may live in family packs or on their own at different points in their lives.
- Coyotes have a mate for life and are monogamous until the mate dies.



THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT

Wildlife experts indicate that most coyote and human conflicts have been a direct result of human behavior such as feeding coyotes, walking a dog without a leash, or leaving food or water outside for your pets. Although these behaviors may seem innocent, they are actually harmful to you and your family, and to the health and safety of the coyote population.

June through November are the months of the year where we see the most conflict between urban coyotes and humans and pets.

Here are some tips to help you avoid conflicts with coyotes in your neighborhood:

Your Home

- Never feed coyotes! Intentionally feeding coyotes is illegal and this law will be enforced.
- Remove attractants from your yard such as pet food, water sources, bird feeders and fallen fruit.
- Secure trash in a container with a locking lid.
- Trim up vegetation to reduce hiding places.

Keeping Coyotes Out - Most fences and garden walls will not deter coyotes from entering onto your property. A good rule of thumb is that anything a cat can get through or over, a coyote can, too.

Pet Doors - Do not leave pet doors open, especially when you are not home, even in the middle of the day. If you have a cat or dog door in your home, make sure it is shut especially at dawn, dusk, and at night.



Pets Away from Yard - Be cautious when bringing pets back home after they have been away from yard due to vacation or for other events. Coyotes usually move into the area when family pets leave and pet-coyote interactions occur when the dog returns home.

Your Pet

- Keep pets on a 6-foot leash or shorter when walking.
- Never allow your pets to "play" with a coyote.
- Pick up small pets if confronted by a coyote.
- Any size pets, large or small, could be targets if coyotes feel threatened.
- Always supervise your pet when outside, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Never leave cats or dogs outside unattended.
- Never allow dog bones to be left in your yard.
- Spay or neuter your dogs as coyotes are particularly attracted to female dogs in estrous.

Coyotes may perceive other animals, including pets, as a threat or competition to their territorial domain. Studies have shown that coyotes generally do not rely on pets for their diets.

THE ENCOUNTER

Hazing

Spring is denning season for coyotes with new pups in the dens, and it is likely a Village resident will have some type of encounter with a coyote during this time. The most effective method people can use is hazing when encountering a coyote as a means to move the coyote out of the area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and playgrounds.

How Does Hazing Work?

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical because coyotes can habituate to individual items, sounds, and actions. A coyote who is being hazed must be able to recognize the potential threat is coming from a person. Therefore, hiding behind a bush and throwing rocks or hazing from inside your car isn't effective. You can use hazing techniques and tools for one animal or multiple animals. There is usually a dominant animal in the group who will respond, and others will follow its lead. Don't stop hazing after your hazing method is successful. Be persistent in your hazing efforts. Coyotes or their pups could return to their unacceptable habits or behaviors if hazing efforts are not continued. Once you haze the coyote, it may return. Continue to haze the coyote as you did before; it usually only takes a couple of times for the coyote to not return.

Haze. Haze. Haze. Continue hazing the coyote at every opportunity even if the coyote doesn't seem aggressive.

Coyotes that have been effectively hazed are much more likely to develop a fear of humans and move along to a new habitat.

Recommended Methods of Hazing

- **Yell and wave your arms while approaching the coyote – "Go Away Coyote"**

Stand your ground and face the coyote. If a coyote approaches you, be as big, mean, and loud as possible. Wave your arms and throw objects at the coyote. Shout in a deep, loud, and authoritative voice. Do not run or turn your back on the coyote. If attacked, fight back with your fists and feet.

- **Use Noisemakers**

Make yourself loud by using tools such as whistles, air horns, bells, soda cans filled with pennies, or pots and pans to scare the coyote with sound.

- **Use Projectiles**

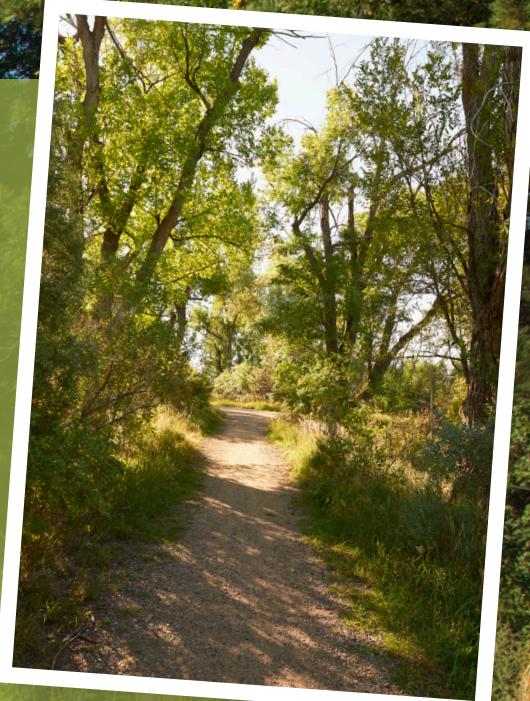
Show your authoritative presence by exhibiting power with walking sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis, or rubber balls.

- **Try Other Repellents**

Hoses, water guns or spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, or bear repellent are effective methods to scare the coyote. Citronella Spray (Brand: Spray Shield) is also very effective for hazing a coyote. If a coyote is in your yard and will not leave, you can use ammonia rags (ammonia soaked rags, with 70 percent ammonia to 30 percent water). Place ammonia rags in areas where coyotes have frequently been seen on your property. During warmer months you can squirt them with a hard spray from your water hose.

Don't Haze When...

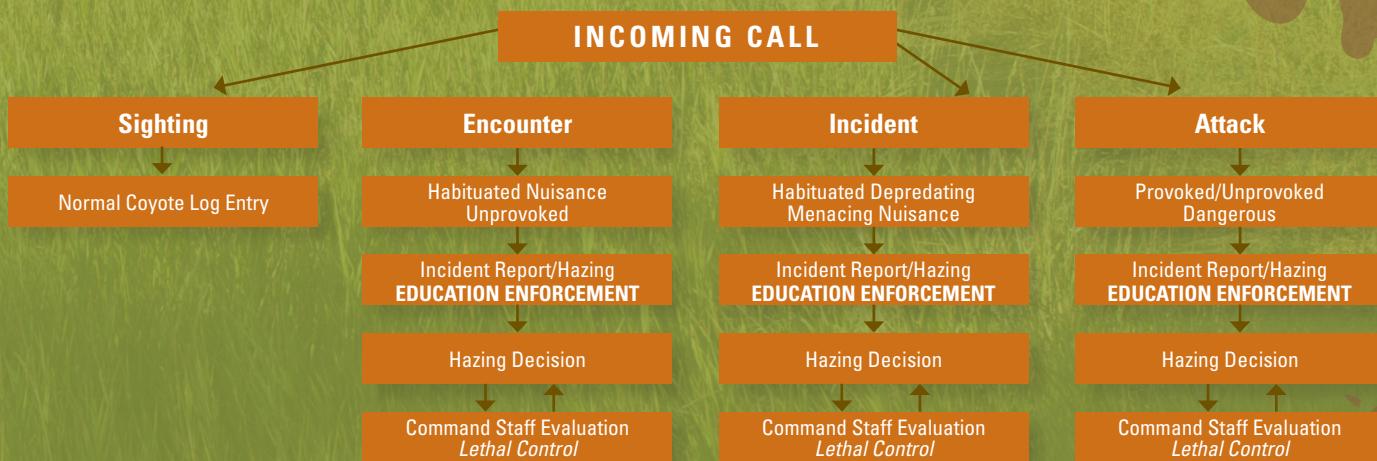
- The coyote is sick or injured. Call Animal Control of the Police Department at 303-773-2525 for assistance.
- You think you could be near a coyote den or pups could be present (usually between March and July). You may encounter a coyote who is trying to scare you away from its den by acting assertive. Slowly remove yourself from the area and call the Police Department immediately.



GREENWOOD VILLAGE COYOTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In an effort to ensure the safety of the community and foster human-coyote coexistence in the Village, the Police Department has a comprehensive Coyote Management Plan to handle public safety concerns and to address coyote activities and behaviors in Greenwood Village. The Plan is four-pronged, consisting of public education on how to safely coexist with coyotes and how to avoid human-coyote conflicts; enforcement of laws that prohibit the feeding of wildlife and require domestic animals to be leashed; active “hazing” of coyotes to instill or re-instill a healthy fear of humans; and lethal control measures to eliminate dangerous or menacing coyotes.

Village Response to Coyote Sightings, Encounters, Incidents and Attacks



Sighting = Visual observation of a coyote.

Encounter = An unexpected direct meeting between humans and coyotes that is without incident.

Incident = An unsafe condition where a coyote displayed abnormal behavior.

Attack = An aggressive action initiated by the coyote that involves physical contact with a human.

COYOTE LAWS IN COLORADO

- There are no federal restrictions over management and control of coyotes. The rules and regulations are governed by the state.
- Per the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, relocation of coyotes is not an option.
- Amendment 14 of the Colorado State Constitution prohibits the use of leg-hold trapping in the state except in certain circumstances. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is authorized to issue exemptions to use prohibited devices to capture aggressive coyotes. There has to be documentation of the existence of aggressive behavior before a permit may be issued.

C.R.S. 33-6-107(9) Allows you to manage coyotes that are causing damage to your property. This management may only be performed on your property.

C.R.S. 33-6-128 Damage or destruction of dens on public lands is prohibited. Unless permitted by the Division (of Wildlife), it is unlawful for any person to willfully damage or destroy any wildlife den.

C.R.S. 33-6-130 Explosives, toxicants, and poisons not to be used states: "unless permitted by law or by the Division of Wildlife, it is unlawful for any person to use toxicants, poisons, drugs, dynamite, explosives, or any stupefying substances for the purpose of hunting, taking or harassing any wildlife."

REPORT ANY COYOTE ACTIVITY

Always haze a coyote even if it seems non-confrontational, and then call the Police Department at 303-773-2525 to report any sightings or interactions with coyotes. The Police Department actively keeps a record of coyote activity in the Village to assist in tracking the coyote population. Call 9-1-1 immediately to report aggressive coyotes.

Greenwood Village Animal Control



www.greenwoodvillage.com

Greenwood Village Police Department Animal Control
6060 South Quebec Street
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
303-773-2525
animalcontrol@greenwoodvillage.com