



Living with Coyotes in the City of Centennial



The following is taken from the Colorado Division of Wildlife website.

“Perhaps no other wild animal has endured the wrath of humans – while evoking such genuine heartfelt admiration – than the coyote. Some people curse their existence; Native Americans consider them the smartest animal on earth, and many urbanites revel in opportunities to see and hear these vocal predators.

Coyotes are extremely adaptable animals and rapidly adjust to changing conditions. In the past, wildlife managers have found that coyote populations can actually expand rather than decline in response to eradication attempts. They are comfortable in the country, mountains, or in cities, as long as there is appropriate shelter and food. As a result, people must be aware of their presence and take precautions to avoid conflict with them.

With a better understanding of coyotes and their habitat, humans can coexist with these adaptable and ‘cunning’ animals.”

Coyotes are an important part of Colorado’s ecosystems. Their presence controls the populations of mice, voles, snakes, insects, and more – but as more and more people live near and in wildlife areas, coyotes are finding food sources that are less than natural. Coyotes, fox, owls, falcons and hawk are natural predators and are a part of our natural ecosystem. You may see a variety of these animals around your home searching for food. The following are important guidelines to help us live successfully with the coyotes in our city.

1. Do not feed coyotes – There are federal consequences for feeding coyotes, and, it encourages the coyotes to rely on humans for food. In fact, do not feed any wildlife including fox, squirrels, and raccoons. If you have a bird feeder, position the feeder so that coyotes cannot get the feed, or the bird.
2. Keep pets in sight while outside or accompany them outside even if you have a fenced yard, particularly after dusk when many wildlife species, including fox, are more active. Raptors (falcons, owls, and hawks) are active at all times during the day.
3. Keep your dog on a leash while taking a walk. Do not let your dog run with coyotes in an open space. Your dog may be playing, but the coyotes are not.
4. Do not leave food outside – pet food – any type of food. Keep your garbage in a storage container that is tightly sealed.

While coyotes provide an enjoyable wildlife viewing experience, it is important to keep your distance and do not approach the animals. Coyotes that live in urban areas can lose their fear of humans. If you see a coyote around your home or park near your house:

- Be as BIG and as LOUD as possible; use arm gestures to exaggerate your size and voice.
- Chase them away by shouting, making loud noises and throwing rocks or sticks toward, not at, them.
- If you have small children with you, make the children stay close by your side.
- There is no need to run away from the coyote, slowly move toward a busy more populated area.

It is the city’s desire that you enjoy living around Colorado’s wildlife.