

COYOTES

The coyote is the most widespread relative of the wolf in North America, belonging to the Canidae family. Coyotes range from Panama to the north slope of Alaska. The coyote has become so abundant, that it has appeared in suburban areas of many metropolitan cities. This brochure is designed to educate and provide useful information on controlling their presence in residential areas.



Quick Facts About Coyotes

- Nocturnal, but if not feeling threatened by humans, will move during the day
- Very wary and generally shy of humans
- Monogamous—male and female pair for life
Peak breeding—January thru March
- Number of Litters per year—One
- Litter size—One to 12 pups
- Young are born April-May; begin leaving den with parents around three weeks
- Dens—dug under uprooted tree, log or thicket, entrance of 1-2 feet across, dug 5-15 feet long, terminates with an enlarged nesting chamber. May have several dens and may move from one to another
- Are territorial and are very protective of young
- Very intelligent with remarkable sense of smell, exceptional sight and very opportunistic
- If you encounter a coyote, act aggressive toward the animal. Wave your arms, throw items and make a lot of noise. Make yourself appear bigger, by standing (if sitting), stand on a rock, tree stump or other nearby object. Do not move toward the animal.

INFORMATION FOR VANDALIA RESIDENTS

COYOTES

CITY OF VANDALIA
333 J.E. BOHANAN DRIVE
VANDALIA, OHIO 45377

Phone: 937-898-5891

Fax: 937-898-6117

Website: www.vandaliaohio.org



Information on Coyotes

What You Should Know:

Coyotes are timid around humans. It is rare for a coyote to attack a human. Known attacks to humans are associated with the animal being rabid. Domestic animals should be monitored, especially during the early morning and evening hours. Smaller dogs and cats are more likely to be attacked. Residents should watch their wood lines for coyotes. Monitoring the wood line and watching pets is the key to protecting them while they are outside, particularly from dusk to dawn.

Education is the key to understanding these animals. It is strongly recommended that if you have seen or heard a coyote in your area, to watch your dogs, cats, livestock and children. Research coyotes on your own to better understand them. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, is a great website to check out. Teach your children about them. As a property owner, do your part to not attract them (keep garbage secured, do not put pet food outside, watch animals outside).

The city's policy on coyotes is that we do not hunt them. Trapping is not done, as they can be dangerous to other animals and children. It is important to understand that destroying one or two coyotes does not make your pet safer or eliminate the problem that may be in your area.

Description:

The coyote is generally a slender animal, very similar in appearance to a medium-sized dog. The coyote has erect, pointed ears, a long snout and green, wolf-like eyes. Since the coyote and domesticated dog are from the same family, Canidae, the resemblance is more than a coincidence. Coyotes have a bushy tail which is usually tipped in black and is carried down at a 45 degree angle as the animal moves, unlike that of its other cousin, the wolf. The majority of coyotes are grey, though some show a rusty, brown or off-white coloration. The coyote stands about one and one-half to two feet tall and is between 41 to 53 inches in length. Males of this species are larger than the females and weigh anywhere from 20 to 50 pounds. Coyotes may live 10 to 12 years in the wild; however, mortality is highest during the first year.

Habitat and Habits:

The coyote is a nocturnal animal, most active at night and early morning hours. However, when it is less threatened by man, it will hunt and move from place to place during the day. Primarily carnivores, coyotes will also eat a variety of fruits and plant life. They may be livestock predators; however, they do rely on rodents and rabbits for their main diet. In urban areas, unsecured garbage and domestic pets, such as cats and small dogs, are also food choices.

Control Methods:

It is important to remember that people are unknowingly attracting these animals to the area. Following are suggestions that may discourage coyotes (and other nuisance wildlife) from choosing Vandalia as a place to live and hunt:

1. DO NOT PURPOSELY FEED ANY WILD ANIMAL
2. Trash cans should always be secured or kept in a shed or garage.
3. Gardens offer a feast for nuisance wildlife. Enclose garden areas as best possible with fencing sunk at least 6" into the ground. Curving top and bottom of fencing outward may discourage climbing and digging. Some repellents are available at garden supply locations.
4. Sheds and decks offer excellent nesting and shelter. They should be protected by sinking heavy mesh wire at least 6" around the structure.
5. Never feed domestic pets outside. This practice will not only attract wildlife but expose your pet to infection or disease.
6. Keep small pets indoors, unless attended, especially at night.

