



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Live Wildlife Exhibits & Rehabilitation • Educational Programs • Planetarium



Coexisting with Coyotes

Coyotes are extremely adaptable. They are the only large wild predator that has extended its range despite human intrusion into habitat...they now live in rural and urban areas from California to Maine (and Ohio!), from alpine to desert habitat.

Once a year in late winter or spring, coyotes come into heat. About two months later they bear roughly six pups, which begin to emerge from the den about two weeks later.

Coyotes are less social than wolves or domestic dogs and usually hunt alone, although they sometimes hunt in pairs for larger prey. Coyotes are carnivores, and opportunistic: 90% of their diet is meat, carrion, mice, rats, ground squirrels, marmots, prairie dogs, other rodents, and the occasional bird. Any environment that attracts small rodents will, in turn, attract coyotes.

Removal of coyotes is a temporary fix. They have great immigration abilities and removed coyotes will usually be replaced by new coyotes.

So, since we all live in coyote country... here are some tips

- Eliminate hiding cover in landscaping and dwellings. Make it difficult for coyotes to approach unseen.
- Install outside motion detectors.
- Coyotes are extremely opportunistic. Securely store garbage, grains, pet foods and sources of food.
- Feed pets inside; don't allow a build-up of uneaten birdseed. These items attract rodents and other prey species. Predators will follow prey.
- It is unlikely they will attack pets as their typical prey is rabbit size or smaller. However, pets should always be supervised or kept indoors.
- If you are confronted, stay calm, and slowly back away.
- Do not feed or encourage coyotes to feel comfortable around humans. A friendly coyote is eventually a dead coyote.

Wildlife

Our Mission: The non-profit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural universe.

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