



Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are extremely adaptable to their environment and can be found throughout suburban and urban areas. A coyote resembles a medium-sized dog weighing 25-45 pounds with mottled fur and a bushy tail. They communicate through high-pitched cries, shrieks, barking, and whining or yips that can be heard in the evening. Although coyotes commonly live in small family groups, they are primarily solitary hunters. Coyotes are omnivores and their diet depends on which foods are most readily available, including small mammals, such as mice and voles, dead animals, and soft and hard mast, such as berries and acorns.

CONFLICTS

Simply seeing a coyote is not a cause for concern. Coyotes can easily adapt to human-dominated environments, so it is common for conflict to arise from sharing space with people. Use the following tools to help resolve or prevent conflicts with coyotes:

- Do not feed or approach coyotes.
- Secure food attractants such as garbage, pet food, and bird seed.
 - » Feed pets indoors when possible. If pets must be fed outside, remove food bowls when finished.
 - » Remove excess bird seed on the ground that may be attracting mice to your yard, which in turn attracts coyotes.
- Haze, or scare, coyotes out of your yard. Coyotes are naturally wary of people. Consistent hazing helps keep this fear of people intact.
 - » Bang pots and pans, yell, or use an air horn.
 - » Use a water hose or motion activated sprinkler to move coyotes a safe distance away.
- Close off crawl spaces to prevent coyotes from using these spaces as dens.

KEEPING PETS SAFE

- Keep pets inside or leashed when outside.
- Monitor pets when they are outdoors, even in a fenced in yard.
- Be alert when walking at dawn or dusk with pets.
- Carry an air horn or noise maker when walking pets.

OPTIONS FOR REMOVING COYOTES:

If non-lethal methods are not working and coyotes continue to cause conflicts, lethal removal is an option. Check local ordinances regarding the discharge of firearms.

- You can remove coyotes from your property through trapping or hunting.
 - » Coyotes are a non-native species in Georgia and can be harvested year-round on private property. Consult [Georgia DNR's Regulations](#) for trapping regulations.
- To hire someone to trap and remove coyotes from your property, a list of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators can be found on [Georgia DNR's website](#).

DISEASE CONCERNS

Coyotes can carry diseases transmittable to pets and humans. Securing food sources on your property and monitoring your pet minimizes your contact with coyotes and can reduce your and your pet's risk.

Rabies

- Common symptoms: lack of coordination, lethargy, paralysis, and aggression.
- **Can be transmitted to humans and pets through bite or saliva of an infected animal.**

Canine Distemper

- Common symptoms: coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, and nasal discharge.
- **Can be transmitted to pets through contact with an infected animal.**