

ELIMINATING COYOTE ATTRACTANTS

Are you attracting coyotes to your yard?

Food

Coyotes are opportunistic scavengers that may be attracted to your yard if you leave out pet food, unsecured compost, trash, bird seed, bird baths, and fallen fruit. Research has shown a higher incidence of human-related food items in the diet of nuisance residential coyotes. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with food, which can result in negative interactions between coyotes, people, and pets.

1. Never feed coyotes or other wildlife.
2. Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly.
3. Keep compost and garbage in fully secured “animal-proof” containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave out overnight, trash cans are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.
4. Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders and keeping grills and tables clean of food products, to help discourage coyote activity near residences.
5. Remove fallen fruit from the ground promptly.

Water

In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove low-sitting water bowls set outside for pets and birds.

Shelter

Parks, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, and crawl spaces, etc., increase the amount and variability of cover for coyotes. They allow coyotes to safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes, and businesses, without detection. When coyotes give birth and begin to raise young (March-June), they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which their young are sheltered. Coyotes may take advantage of available spaces under sheds or decks for use as a den, bringing them into close contact with people and pets. Restrict access to available space under sheds or decks to deter coyotes from denning and sheltering.

Unattended Pets

Within their territory, coyotes may consider unattended pets as potential prey, competitors, or even an imminent threat to young. Free-roaming pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to protect pets is to place dogs on a short leash, 6-feet or less in length. Attending to your pet while its outside will also reduce other dangers such as cars, disease, dogs at large, and other wildlife conflicts.