



CITY OF HUDSON

Communications Department • 27 East Main Street • Hudson, Ohio 44236

Coexisting with Coyotes

Coyotes are common throughout Ohio in both rural and urban settings, including Hudson. While people and wildlife can peacefully coexist, sometimes it can be a nuisance and conflict can arise. There are simple ways to help minimize the problems with coyotes.

The coyote is doglike animal that is found throughout North and Central America. Coyotes are grayish brown with white fur around the neck area and resemble small German Shepherds. Their legs, heads and feet are reddish brown. Coyotes range from 1 ½ to 2 feet long, and from 20 to 50 pounds, on average. They are more active during the spring and fall months. Both parents hunt and feed their young. Coyotes are known for their “howl” which is a distinctive sound.

Coyotes are nocturnal and are more active during the night and early morning hours. They typically live in secluded burrows or dens. A coyote’s territory can be as much as 12 miles in diameter around the den. They do not run in packs, although they live with a family social unit that can include up to about 6 animals. Coyotes are opportunistic eaters and eat both meat and plants, as well as garbage. Their normal diet is mostly rodents, rabbits and carrion/deer. They often prey on wounded or dying animals.



Coyotes are usually shy and afraid of humans and avoid people whenever possible. They are highly unlikely to attack a person, unless provoked. If you encounter a coyote, do not run from or turn your back on the animal. They are usually frightened by aggressive gestures and loud noises.

Discouraging Coyotes

- Never feed or attempt to tame a coyote. These attempts only serve to make the coyote more habituated to the presence of humans and less fearful.
- Discourage coyotes by removing all food sources that would attract the animal to your yard. Never leave pet food, water, food containers, or garbage outside, and clean up around backyard grills. Don’t put garbage out until the morning of your scheduled pickup.
- Keep bird feeders from overflowing and fence in vegetable gardens. Pick up fruits or berries that fall from trees in your yard.
- Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks and sheds.
- Install outdoor lighting triggered by motion detectors. Loud noises also scare away coyotes.
- Clear bushes and dense weeds where coyotes may find cover or decide to create a den.
- Keep small dogs and cats inside or in a completely fenced in area, particular at night when they are most active. Walk your dog on a leash and do not leave your dog unsupervised.
- Trim and clear away ground level shrubbery or brush that provides cover for coyotes.

Trapping Coyotes

If the coyote appears aggressive and continues to be a nuisance after removing “attractants” from your yard, call a nuisance trapper. Nuisance trappers use regulated techniques to reduce urban wildlife conflicts. For more information about trapping or to locate a trapper call **Wildlife District Three: 330-644-2293**, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F

Additional Resources and Information

[US Department of Wildlife District 3 Headquarters:](#) (330) 644-2293, 8 am to 5 pm M-F

[Ohio Department of Natural Resources General Wildlife Line:](#) 1-800-WILDLIFE

[Summit County Division of Animal Control:](#) (330) 643-2845

[Ohio Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Div.:](#) (agricultural & farm properties) (514)728-6220

[ODNR Wildlife Division](#)

Further Reading

- ◆ [“Learning to Exist with Coexist with Coyotes.”](#) *Animal Issues*, Volume 37 Number 4, Winter 2006
- ◆ [“For Now, Urban Coyotes Pose Little Threat to Humans.”](#) *Plain Dealer* January 24, 2010
- ◆ [Ohio Map of Coyote Populations in Ohio](#)
- ◆ [“Coyotes in Ohio,”](#) The Ohio Wildlife Center
- ◆ [“Urban Coyote Ecology and Management,”](#) The Ohio State University School of Environment & Natural Resources