



# Our Neighbors the Coyotes

Presented by:  
First Landing State Park

# Basic Facts



- Weigh 25 -35lbs
- Smaller than a grey wolf, more like a medium sized dog
- Can live up to 14 years, though most wild coyotes don't live past 3 yrs
- Breed in January and February, in April or May a litter of 5-7 pups is born
- Opportunistic feeders omnivorous and scavengers
- While generally a pack animal, in urban environments solitary coyotes are common



# Basic Facts



Swimming Coyote

- They can run up to 40mph
- They are good swimmers
- They are not strictly nocturnal and can be very active during the day, especially in urban and suburban environments
- They serve an important role in the natural ecosystem keeping rodent and other small mammal population in check. Often they are the largest predator left in an area.

# Expanding Their Range



- Once primarily found in plains and deserts of the United State, with the elimination of wolves, coyotes over the past century have spread east.
- Except for Hawaii, coyotes are now found in every state and Canada and Mexico.
- More coyotes exist today than when the constitution was signed.

# Coyotes have been living in cities for years



- Cities provide an unique atmosphere with no predators and ample food sources.
- They are one of the few animals that have not been hampered by the spread of urbanization, in fact it has opened up new niches for them.
- In April 2015 the Smithsonian Magazine had an article entitled “NYC Has So Many Coyotes Living There, They’ve Started Going to Bars”



# Coexisting With Coyotes

- Coyotes pose no more significant risk to people or pets than other wildlife.
- Coyotes are very adaptable and they are here to stay.
- As a species they rapidly habituate to their environment, which can mean that they quickly become used to being around people and their natural fear of people diminishes.



# Coexisting With Coyotes

- Most of the time when they are seen they are seeking easy food or convenient shelter.
- Just because they are seen during the day does not mean they have rabies, though like other mammals they can carry the disease. If you suspect rabies or other disease call Animal Control.
- Most negative interactions with coyotes are the result of circumstances people created.
- Many of the same guidelines that apply to living with other wildlife apply to coyotes.





# Coyote Encounters



- Coyotes attacking people is very, very rare. More people are killed by errant golf balls and flying champagne corks each year than are bitten by coyotes.
- Many people enjoy viewing wildlife, observe from a distance.
- Never run, make yourself big and loud.
- Haze the coyote, yell at it, stomp feet, make noise. If you have to throw small rocks or sticks at it or spray it with a hose. Make the coyote know its not welcome.
- When walking a dog, keep them on a leash and out of brushy areas where a coyote den might be. If you see a coyote either pick up your dog (if possible) or place him or her behind you and then haze the coyote.



# How to Discourage Coyotes from Your Area

- Don't feed the coyotes.
- Keep trash inside until the morning of trash pick-up or place trash in an animal proof container.
- Do not leave pet food outside.
- Keep bird feeding areas clean of debris. Even well-maintained feeders can attract rodents. In turn, this may attract coyotes.
- Close up all openings under and into your buildings. Animals look for places to den and raise their young – don't give them that opportunity.



# How to Discourage Coyotes from Your Area

- Clear fallen fruit from around trees.
- Keep brushy areas in your yard cut down to prevent cover for coyotes.
- Keep small pets inside and on a leash when outside; they may be viewed by a coyote as prey. Larger dogs are viewed as a threat particularly from January to June while mating and birthing pups.
- Pass along this information to your neighbors. If anyone in the neighborhood is feeding wildlife directly, or indirectly, it can cause trouble for everybody.
- Install coyote proof fencing to protect unsupervised pets.
- If you see coyotes in your yard chase them away, before other problems occur.





# Coyotes in First Landing

