

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

(03/23/2015 above Coyote den site under shed rear yard Harmony Lane., Monroe, female coyote moving her pup (in mouth) from shed to secondary den site)

## **GUIDELINES to follow when you see a coyote...**

### **...crossing a yard or street**

Coyotes are most frequently seen and heard during mating season (January-March) and when juveniles start leaving the family pack (September-November). While normally fearful of people, they can sometimes be spotted crossing yards or streets. This behavior is not unusual, especially in residential areas bordering on open space where coyotes find their natural prey. They may simply be taking a shortcut to their favorite hunting ground. This type of sighting generally requires no response—other than making sure that pets and children are secure and that there are no likely food attractants present in the area.

### **...lounging in a yard or approaching/following people**

Coyotes are naturally timid animals and will usually flee at the sight of a human. If they linger or approach, it's time to begin "**hazing**." This is a term applied to the following actions that can be taken to scare coyotes and chase them away:

- Be as big and loud as possible. Do not run or turn your back.
- Wave your arms, clap your hands, and shout in an authoritative voice.

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

- Make noise by banging pots and pans or using an air horn or whistle.
- Throw small stones, sticks, tennis balls or anything else you can lay your hands on.  
Remember the intent is to scare and not to injure.
- Spray with a hose, if available, or a squirt gun filled with water and vinegar.
  - Shake or throw a “coyote shaker”—a soda can filled with pennies or pebbles and sealed with duct tape.

The effects of hazing may not last unless all food attractants are permanently removed. This information should be shared with neighbors, friends and homeowner’s associations since hazing is most effective when the entire neighborhood is working together.

Hazing should **never** be attempted if the coyote is accompanied by pups or appears to be sick or injured. If it’s the latter, make a report to the local police or the CT Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection

**...failing to respond to hazing**

Some coyotes may freeze and stare, or run a short distance and stop. Hazing should be continued until the coyote gets the message and finally leaves the scene. Hazing can work whether the encounter is with a lone coyote or a small pack. If the leader retreats, the rest of the pack will follow. If the coyote refuses to retreat or returns to the area despite persistent hazing, it may be due to the fact that someone is feeding coyotes nearby. This is a cause for concern and should be reported to the local police or animal control officer.

**...approaching a pet or a child**

Small pets and children should never be left unattended, and dogs should always be walked on a leash. Problems are more likely to occur when the animal is out of the owner’s control. It can also be helpful to carry a noisemaker, squirt gun or pepper spray. If a coyote approaches, pick up the pet or child, then start hazing. If the coyote does not leave, back away slowly while continuing to haze and go indoors if possible. Any aggressive behavior should be reported to the local police or animal control officer. If bites or other injuries are sustained, medical attention should be sought and a report made the local police or the CT Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection.

March 19, 2015

**Female resident from Harmony La near Melon Patch La reporting her Basenji dog was attacked by Coyote in her front yard at approx. 5:00 p.m. Her twelve year old son, chased coyote away. The dog received minor injury to the left hind leg. Wounds were treated by veterinarian and rabies vaccination booster was provided.**

**January 7, 2015**

**Female resident from Saddle Hill Rd near Kettle Creek reporting one of their three dachshund dogs had been attacked and injured by coyote that was in the yard at approx. 9:30 pm. The dog received several puncture wounds to the shoulders and chest.**

**October 16, 2014**

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

Female resident from Richards Drive near Forest Road reporting her small breed Welsh Terrier Dog was found injured in her yard on Oct 15. She immediately brought the dog for Emergency Veterinary care in Newtown, finding that the dog had been bitten several times around the neck and shoulder area by a larger Canine type of animal (wounds consistent with coyote attack). The dog had been left outside in the yard and unattended the morning of Oct 15, and again in the afternoon. The dog received a booster rabies vaccination, wounds treated, costing the owners, \$2,000.

**May 25, 2013 Saturday, 10:00 PM**

While left outside unattended in her yard on Woodlawn Road, near Purdy Hill Road, small breed Cocker Spaniel dog was attacked and injured by coyote. The dog was euthanized due to the extensive damage (face and throat) costing the owner, \$4,700 for veterinary fees.

**March 27, 2013 12:50 p.m.**

Falls Brook Circle resident NorthBrook Condo reporting a coyote chasing and attacking a stray black cat. The cat was able to get away from the coyote and fled up a tree for safety.

Additional reports received during door to door survey of Hollow Tree, residents reporting seeing a pair of coyote, working the area rear (north east side) of Hollow Tree, indicating den site in the immediate area.

**March 12, 2012**

**11:00 PM:** While in her yard on Pilgrim Lane, a small breed dog (eleven pounds) was attacked and injured by a coyote, costing the dog owner an excess of \$3,000 in veterinary fees.

**Here in Fairfield County coyote attacks of this type are not uncommon.**

**To report coyote problems, sightings and for control information:**

Call the local Animal Control Division at 203-452-3760, These sightings help identify potential trouble spots for human-coyote interactions. This map can be used to locate areas that might have food attractants for coyotes.

If your neighborhood is experiencing a lot of coyote traffic, you may want to ask yourself:

- Are they just crossing through to a farm or forest or are they hanging around?
- If they are hanging around, what is attracting them to the area?
- Are people feeding or leaving pets—or pet food—outside?
- Are people feeding feral cats (the cat food is a big attraction; the cats are too)?
- Is there compost with food items or unsecured garbage in the area?
- Can I help educate my neighbors about how to avoid attracting coyotes?

### **Problem Prevention**

Coyotes are attracted to urban/suburban areas by the easy accessibility of food, water, and shelter. Reducing or eliminating the availability of these elements will often encourage coyotes to leave. Garbage

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

can lids should be secured at all times or garbage stored indoors. Pets should be fed during daylight hours and all pet food removed before darkness. Water bowls should be emptied and not left out after dark. Ripe fruits and vegetables should be covered at night or the garden/fruit trees enclosed by a coyote proof fence to prevent access by hungry coyotes. All windfall fruit/vegetables should be picked up daily. In areas where predation on pets has been documented, cats and small dogs should not be left out after dark unless enclosed in a coyote proof enclosure. Food should never intentionally be left out for wild mammals. In suburban areas where livestock such as lambs, piglets, calves, or poultry are raised and coyote predation has been documented, precautions should be taken to prevent further losses. Animals can be brought into barns, sheds, or coyote proof enclosures at night, or in certain instances the confinement areas can be lit at night.

To exclude coyotes, fences should be constructed which are at least 5 1/2 feet tall. These can be made of solid wood, cement blocks, brick, or wire. If net wire fencing is used, the bottom portion should be at least 3 1/2 feet tall with squares smaller than 6 inches. If high tensile fence is used, it should be electrified with a fence charger to prevent coyotes from going through. All fences should have some sort of galvanized wire apron buried at least 4 to 6 inches in the ground, which extends out from the fence at least 15 to 20 inches. The apron should be securely attached to the bottom of the fence. Coyotes are very adept diggers and prefer to dig under fences rather than jump them.

Brush and vegetation should be cleared from backyards and adjacent areas to eliminate habitat for prey, which could attract coyotes. Landscaping should be pruned on a regular basis. These actions also remove hiding cover used by coyotes to stalk domestic pets. If cats cannot be contained indoors, and predation is viewed as a problem, posts can be installed in open space areas, which provide an escape for the cats. These posts should be at least 7 feet tall, made of material that the cat can climb, and have enough space on top for the cat to sit.

During the time of the year when adult coyotes are caring for young (May-September), they can be very aggressive when their young are threatened. Domestic dogs are especially vulnerable to attack during this time. Even dogs on leashes have been attacked when they got too close to a family of coyotes. In urban settings where a den site has been identified, caution should be taken to keep dogs out of the area. These areas should be posted with signs and people concerned about attacks on their dogs should avoid the area. Increased predation on domestic pets can be expected around den sites, and extra precautions should be taken by residents to protect valued domestic cats or small dogs. In some cases a family group of coyotes can be harassed enough to encourage them to move.

Whenever possible, coyotes should be harassed or scared to condition them to avoid humans.

**Coyote Precautions:**

- Never feed a wild animal. Eliminate food attractants, such as outdoor pet food, table scraps on compost piles, garbage, fruit fallen from trees and bird seed (which attract rodents, a favored prey item for coyotes).
- Avoid any contact with wildlife.
- Keep trash securely covered or indoors.
- Feed pets inside or supervise outdoor feedings, and keep the area clean.
- Keep cats and dogs indoors, especially at night, or stay outside with them. Pets can be protected by: Limiting their time outdoors, especially at night. Supervising pets while outdoors. Enclosing pet areas with fencing or a kennel.
- Secure garbage, compost and pick up fallen fruit

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

- If a Coyote approaches, act aggressively by standing, shouting and waving arms. Attempt to harass or frighten away coyotes with loud noises (Air Horn). In the case of bold individuals, the use of strong unnatural odors (e.g. deodorant soap) may discourage animals from restricted areas or trails or from establishing dens in yards or near houses.
- Trim low braches of conifer trees and remove low brush cover in or near yards that may serve as cover.
- Install yard lights or lights with motion detectors.

Coyotes have a natural fear of humans and it is critical that you never feed or treat this wild animal like a pet. Feeding a Coyote will habituate it to people and create a danger for yourself, pets, your neighbors and the coyote. Report any unusual wildlife behavior to your local animal control officer, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection or local police.

### **Direct Control**

Where coyotes continue to be a problem after non-lethal methods have proven unsuccessful or when human health and safety is jeopardized, it is sometimes necessary to kill one or more animals. Coyotes can be shot where legal and appropriate or captured using a variety of restraining devices. Generally speaking, cage traps are not effective in capturing adult coyotes.

### **Hazing**

Hazing is a method that makes use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from backyards and play spaces.

The following guidelines are adapted from the hazing guidelines found in the city of Denver's [Coyote Management Plan](#), written by the Natural Areas Program of the Denver Parks and Recreation Department in October 2009. They have proven very successful at correcting problematic coyote behavior, both short and long term.

### **Methods of hazing**

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical so that coyotes don't get used to redundant or single stimulus devices, sounds, and actions.

Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote.

Noisemakers: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, "shaker" cans full of marbles or pennies, pots, lids, or pie pans banged together.

Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls.

Other: hoses, water guns with vinegar water, spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, bear repellent.

### **"Go away coyote!"**

The simplest method of hazing a coyote involves being loud and large:

Stand tall, wave your arms, and yell at the coyote, approaching him if necessary, until he runs away as demonstrated in this [coyote hazing video](#).

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

If a coyote has not been hazed before, he may not immediately run away when you yell at him. If this happens, you may need to walk towards the coyote and increase the intensity of your hazing.

The coyote may run away, but then stop after a distance and look at you. It is important to continue to go after the coyote until he completely leaves the area. You may need to use different tactics, such as noisemakers, stomping your feet, or spraying the coyote with a hose, to get him to leave.

## Dog-walking tools

There are several tools that you can carry with you while walking your dog that can be used to repel coyotes. These include:

Walking stick, cane, or Umbrella

### Homemade noisemakers

Whistle or small air horn (you can purchase small air horn "necklaces")

Squirt guns

Pepper spray

Sticks or other objects to throw towards (but not at) the coyote

## In your yard

Remember, keeping pets and pet food inside is the best way to keep coyotes out of your yard. If you do encounter coyotes, all of the above methods can be used in your yard at home. First, try the "Go away coyote!" method (yell and wave your arms as you approach the coyote). Here are some additional methods you can also use: Squirt the coyote with your garden hose, Spray the coyote with vinegar water, Bang pots and pans together.

## Important things to remember

- **Never** run away from a coyote!
- The coyote may not leave at first, but if you approach him closer and/or increase the intensity of your hazing, he will run away.
- If the coyote runs away a short distance and then stops and looks at you, continue hazing until he completely leaves the area.
- After you have successfully hazed a coyote, he or she may return again. Continue to haze the coyote as you did before; it usually takes only one or two times to haze a coyote away for good.

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT****To report coyote problems and for control information:**

Local Animal Control Division (Monroe) 203-452-3760

DEEP Wildlife Division: (860) 424-3011

**To report animals that are behaving abnormally  
or are posing an immediate public threat:**

Local Police Department (Monroe) Communications Center 203-261-3622,

DEEP Emergency Dispatch Office (24 hrs.): (860) 424-3333

**Coyote Facts**

Coyote is a member of the canine (dog) family. Although it resembles wolf, these two are completely different species. Coyote can be found in the United States, Mexico and Canada. They inhabit different types of ecosystem, such as deserts, mountains and prairies. They can also be often found near the urban areas, around farms and the suburban areas of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Number of coyote in the wild is stable and they are not considered as endangered species. Coyote is also known as prairie wolf and bush wolf.

**Interesting Coyote Facts:**

- Coyotes are usually 32 to 37 inches long and have between 20 and 50 pounds. Their size is somewhere in between foxes and wolves.
- Color of the coyote's fur ranges from grayish brown to reddish brown. Fur on their belly is usually white. Color of their body helps them blend with their environment.
- Coyote has pointed ears and muzzle and flat forehead. Another easily recognized feature is a long, bushy tail.
- Coyotes are omnivores (eat both meat and vegetation). They will eat anything they find. Their favorite food include: rabbits, rodents (rats, mice, squirrels), antelopes, lizards, birds, cactus fruits, flowers. They will even eat dead animals (carcasses) and garbage if they cannot find anything else.
- Hunting strategy depends on the type of prey they are chasing. If coyote hunt a small prey, it will hunt alone. If the prey of choice is larger animal, such as deer, group of coyotes (composed of several animals) will join their forces to kill the prey. Coyotes are the most active during the dawn and the dusk.
- Coyote has incredible sense of hearing and smelling. It can localize a prey hiding under the snow using his ears.
- Coyote relies on its ears to avoid danger, also. It can detect hunters that are one mile away.
- Coyotes have special tactic to avoid predators and potential danger. They move silently by walking on the tips of their toes.
- Main predators of coyotes are bears, cougars, wolves and humans (coyotes are treated as pests and humans often kill them to protect livestock).
- Coyotes are excellent runners. They can achieve a speed of 40 miles per hours when chasing the prey. They are also excellent swimmers, which is especially important when they are trying to escape the danger.
- Coyotes produce wide variety of sounds for communication. They can howl, yelp, and produce high-pitched cries. They can also bark, growl, wail, and squeal. Communication allows coyote to keep track on its family members.

**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

- Coyotes are territorial animals. Just like dogs, they use urine to mark their territory.
- Mating season takes place in February. Pregnancy lasts 60 to 63 days and it ends with five to seven babies. Mother takes good care of her babies in the underground den or in a den made of bushes and trees. Urine marks are used as alert sign to keep other coyotes away from a den. If mother detects danger, she will move her cubs to a safer location.
- Coyotes are monogamous (one couple mate for a lifetime).
- Average lifespan of the coyote in the wild is between 10 and 14 years. They can live up to 20 years in the captivity.

---

The coyote (scientific name: *Canis latrans* or “barking dog”) is one of the world’s most adaptable animals. The coyote is a native species that has increased its range as a result of human alteration of the landscape and human intolerance of wolves, the coyote’s natural enemy. Once confined to the Great Plains region, it can now be found throughout many parts of North and Central America and is represented by 19 or 20 subspecies.

**Eastern vs. Western Coyotes**

One of these subspecies is the eastern coyote (*Canis latrans thamnus*) found in New England and other parts of the Northeast, along with southeastern Canada. Our coyotes are descendants of Great Plains coyotes that expanded their range to the north and east as forests were cut and wolves were extirpated. Eastern coyote DNA reveals that, as coyotes spread through southern Canada, they occasionally interbred with the wolves they encountered. As a result, our eastern coyotes are larger than their western counterparts. With a typical weight of 30-50 pounds and a length of 48-60 inches (nose to tail), they can sometimes reach twice the size of their more diminutive relatives. Because there are no wolves in Connecticut, our coyotes are not actively cross-breeding and are not “coywolves.” They are coyotes with some wolf genes they picked up along the way to New England. These genes give them the tendency and the ability to hunt deer. This trait is very beneficial—for coyotes and people—in regions overpopulated by deer. Because many canids (species in the dog family) readily hybridize, our coyotes have some dog genes incorporated in their DNA as well.

**Diet and Habitat**

As coyotes expanded their range, they also expanded their menu. Once omnivores limited by the grassland fauna of rabbits, mice and insects, they now opportunistically consume everything from small mammals and birds to livestock and pets, fruits and vegetables, carrion and garbage. Their habitat has also expanded to include a variety of natural and human-altered environments, including forests and fields, scrublands and wetlands, parks and golf courses, suburban backyards and urban developments.

**Family Life**

Coyotes are generally monogamous and maintain pair bonds that can last for several years. The breeding season runs from late December through March, and pups are born in the early spring. Litter size depends on a variety of factors but typically ranges from four to seven. Both parents care for their young, frequently with the help of older offspring. Coyotes make their dens in rocky crevices, dense thickets and sometimes the dens of other animals. The den is abandoned after the pups are weaned but may be used from year to year. Pups are close to adult size at about nine months, when some will begin to leave the pack while others may remain with their parents.

**Hunting Behavior**

When living in close proximity to humans, coyotes tend to be nocturnal but may also be active in the early morning and at sunset. In areas with little or no human activity, coyotes will hunt during the day, and when a litter of pups



**MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT**

needs to be fed, they may have to hunt around the clock. Coyotes normally hunt alone or in pairs and rarely as a pack, unless the prey is a deer or other large animal.

**Communications**

The coyote is a very vocal animal with a varied repertoire of calls. It uses a long howl to report its location, short barks to warn of danger, yips when reuniting with pack members, growls when establishing dominance, whines and whimpers when bonding, and high-pitched barks to summon pups.

**Packs and Territories**

A pack is a coyote family dominated by an alpha male and female who form a breeding pair. It can also include this year's pups and offspring from the previous year, along with individuals from other packs that have been accepted into the family. The size of the pack will depend on the amount of food available to sustain it. If the pack relies on a natural diet, its numbers will tend to be smaller. But if the diet is subsidized by humans, either intentionally or unintentionally, its size could be considerably larger.

Coyote packs have a "home range"—the entire area in which they live—and a "territory" that they will defend against other coyotes and whose boundaries are marked with urine (like dogs). Coyotes also use scat to mark the most heavily defended core areas (unlike dogs). Our coyote packs appear to defend all the area they regularly use: their territory is the same size as their home range. As with the size of the pack, the size of the territory will depend on the amount of food available. If the pack relies on a natural diet, its territory will be larger than that of a pack whose diet is subsidized by humans.

**Residents and Transients**

Resident coyotes are members of packs (family groups) and help defend their territory against other coyotes. Transient coyotes are solitary individuals that do not belong to a pack. They are commonly yearlings that have recently left their natal pack and sometimes old or sick coyotes that were forced to leave. Transients can join another pack if accepted by the alpha pair. Transient coyotes are not territorial and have a huge home range that spans many coyote pack territories. They do not use all of the area, however, and confine themselves to the spaces between the resident pack territories. Often resident coyotes will use geographic features like roads or streams as a easily recognizable territorial boundaries. For this reason transient coyotes spend a lot of time on roadsides, where they will not be attacked by residents, but where they are more frequently hit by cars.

**Life Expectancy**

Coyotes are affected by a wide variety of parasites and diseases, including ticks, fleas, intestinal worms and heartworms. They may also be infected with canine distemper, parvovirus and mange. While susceptible to rabies, they are not frequent carriers of the "raccoon" or mid-Atlantic strain of the virus. The average lifespan of a coyote in the wild is six to eight years, while coyotes in captivity can live twice as long. In places where coyotes are the top predator, humans are usually their greatest threat. In rural areas, a major cause of death is hunting or trapping, while in urban areas it is usually automobiles. Laws regarding hunting vary from state to state, but in many places it is always open season on coyotes, although the use of traps and poisons may be restricted or prohibited.

<http://www.coyotesmarts.org/coyotes101/>