

## REDUCE CONTACT WITH COYOTES

- **Remove Food Sources**

-Pet Food: Feed pets indoors and store pet food securely.

-Trash: Use animal proof trash cans or keep garbage cans tightly sealed. Lay something heavy on top of the lid or use bungee cords.

- **Remove Attractants**

-Fruits & Vegetables: Pick ripe fruit from trees and clean up fallen produce.

-Bird Feeders: Keep bird feeders clean and consider placing them at an appropriate height, away from the ground.

- **Protect Pets**

-Supervision: Keep pets indoors during early morning and late evening when coyotes are most active. If they need to go out, supervise them until they need to come back inside.

-Fencing: Install tall and sturdy fences to keep coyotes out. Considering adding coyote rollers to your fence if you live near wooded areas or green spaces.

- **Use Deterrents**

-Noise & Lights: Motion activated lights or noise devices may deter coyotes from entering your property.

-Haze: Make yourself look bigger, yell and shout, throw rocks & sticks at the coyote. Be persistent until the coyote leaves. If the coyote is behaving aggressively, leave the area calmly and report it to:

**Neighborhood Services (515) 222-3321**



**Request Service:** (515) 222-3321

**General Questions:** (515) 222-3364

**Pet Licenses:** (515) 222-3600

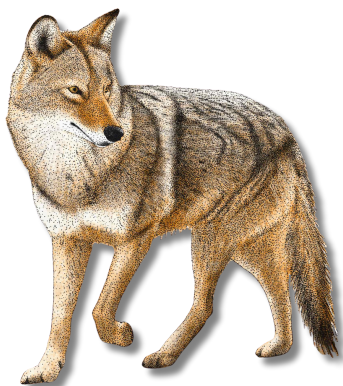
# COYOTES



**NATURE'S ADAPTABLE SURVIVOR**

## Natural History

Before European colonization in the 1800s, coyotes thrived primarily in the plains and semi-arid regions of the central and western United States. Although coyotes were present in Iowa, their numbers were likely limited due to the presence of larger apex predators, such as gray wolves, mountain lions, and black bears, which naturally kept coyote populations in check. As European settlers moved westward throughout the 1800s, these large predators were largely eradicated through unregulated hunting.



In Iowa, coyotes were found throughout the state during the period of European settlement, especially in the open prairies of central and western Iowa. Like other predators, they were often targeted for elimination by settlers. Historical records show that bounty programs and organized hunts motivated early Iowans to further reduce coyote populations. While it is believed that coyote numbers hit a low point in the 1920s, they were never completely eradicated, unlike species such as black bears, cougars, and gray wolves.

## What Do Coyotes Eat?

Coyotes are categorized as carnivores, but their eating habits reveal a more diverse diet. Studies indicate that small mammals like mice, voles, and rabbits make up a significant portion of their diet, accounting for nearly 90% of their prey. During certain seasons, coyotes may also hunt deer and their young. Despite this carnivorous tendency, their diet is quite omnivorous and changes with the seasons, incorporating various food sources such as berries, wild grapes, plums, and trash containing food if it's accessible.

On farms, they may target chickens, calves, sheep, or goats. Additionally, coyotes often scavenge on animals or livestock that have died due to accidents, hunting, or illness.

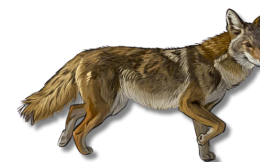
**Coyotes are known for their distinctive vocalizations, making many different sounds including howls, yips, barks, and other unique calls.**



Scan the QR Code to listen to coyotes.

## A Coyote Is Encountered While Walking A Pet

1. Do not let the dog engage with the coyote(s)
2. Keep the dog nearby or if its small, pick it up.
3. Make loud sounds, throw rocks and sticks.
4. Slowly and calmly leave the area by the way you came.
5. Leash your dog or command it to stay next to you.



## When To Report A Coyote

### Typical Urban Coyote Behavior

- **Observation:** signs of coyotes including security camera picture/footage, vocalizations, tracks, or scat.
- **Sighting:** In Person visual observation of a coyote, day or night.

### Action Step

Enjoy the chance to see a coyote.

Monitor the animal's activity. Report any unusual behavior to *Neighborhood Services* if noticeable injury, or illness is seen.

### Concerning Coyote Behavior

- **Encounter:** A close sighting (<30 yards) but no physical contact
- Coyote is not easily scared away when encountered
- Often present in areas with high amounts of human activity

### Action Step

Haze the coyote: make loud noises, wave your arms, throw rocks or sticks at the coyote, spray it with water until they leave. Contact *Neighborhood Services* with time of the event, description of behavior, and location.

### Aggressive Coyote Behavior

- **Incident:** displays growling, baring teeth, lunging, or making physical contact.
- Aggressively approaching people or pets.
- Attacking humans or pets.

### Action Step

**Report it to Neighborhood Services**  
**(515) 222-3321**

