

What should I do?

If you see a coyote near your home don't ignore it. This may cause it to lose its natural fear of people, which can eventually lead to aggressive behavior.

To discourage a coyote immediately:

- Make loud noises
- Shout and bang pots or pans or rattle empty soda cans with rocks in it
- Wave your hands or objects like sticks or brooms
- Throw small stones or cans
- Spray the coyote with a hose
- Use a commercial repellent spray on bold animals that refuse to leave

In an emergency:

If a coyote is aggressive, approaching a person, biting, or growling and snarling unprovoked, **Dial 911** and:

- Continue and exaggerate the above actions
- Don't turn away or run because the animal may view it as an opportunity to chase
- Keep eye contact
- Move toward other people, a building, or an area of activity



COYOTES ARE WILD ANIMALS!

Reporting and tracking:

The following definitions will be used to identify interactions with coyotes:

Observation-noticing or taking note of tracks, scat, and/or vocalizations without seeing a coyote

Sighting-visual observation of one or more coyotes from a distance

Encounter-an unexpected direct meeting between human and coyote that is without incident

Incident-a conflict between a person and a coyote where a coyote exhibited behavior creating an unsafe situation without physical contact

Attack-an aggressive action by a coyote that involves physical contact with a person and or a person is injured by the actions of a coyote (example injured while trying to escape an incident or attack)

In an effort to maintain a consistent tracking system of coyote/human interaction the public is encouraged to report any of the above activities along with the following to the Mount Pleasant Police Department:

- Intentional feeding incidents
- Unsecured trash
- Active den sites

To report coyote/human interaction or for additional information contact:

Mount Pleasant
Animal Protective Services
(843)884-4176
www.tompssc.com

Additional information is also available at:

www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/coyote/coyoteinfo.pdf



Coexisting With Coyotes

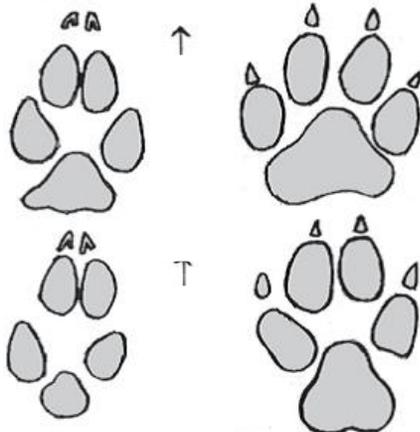


What do coyotes look like?

The coyote has the general appearance of a small shepherd type dog; standing 23 to 26 inches at the shoulder with a slim muzzle, erect pointed ears and a bushy tail. The fur is generally a grizzled, grayish-brown but varies greatly from a light tan or reddish-tan to almost black. The typical coyote weighs 30 to 45 lbs., though coyotes over 60 lbs. have been recorded in other states.



Coyote tracks are similar to other dog tracks; however a coyote's tracks are usually longer than they are wide. Their tracks are usually more compact than dogs', and their stride is longer, about 16-18 inches while trotting. Typical coyote tracks are 2-3 inches long and 1 1/2 to 2 inches wide with the front heel pad being larger than the rear.



Coyote

Dog

Where do they live?

Though traditionally believed to be adapted to life in open areas, coyotes have expanded into most types of habitats. While they do well in agricultural communities, their relatively high tolerance for human populations allows coyotes to exist in most areas of South Carolina, including a presence in every county.

When are they the most active?

Coyotes are typically most active beginning at twilight and continuing throughout the night. In some areas they may be seen during the day, especially when left undisturbed.

What do they eat?

Coyotes are opportunistic feeders. While rabbits probably comprise the majority of their prey items, they also eat rodents and other small mammals, and supplement their diet with fruits, berries, and insects. They will eat dead/decaying animals and will also prey, to a limited degree, upon deer fawns and occasionally on adult deer. On occasion, coyotes will prey on domestic pets. Pet predation is usually due to the territorial nature of the coyote and lack of an alternative prey base in suburban areas.

What attracts coyotes?

Coyotes should not feel comfortable around people or your homes. If you see a coyote in your neighborhood, you should do your best to make it feel unwelcome. You can discourage coyotes from hanging around your home by scaring them off your property and by removing attractants such as:

- Accessible garbage or compost
- Outdoor pet food and water (stored or fed)
- Intentionally feeding animals in the coyote food chain such as birds or squirrels
- Fruit that has fallen from trees or shrubs
- Rodent habitat such as neglected yards, garages or sheds
- Any of the above in your neighbor's yard or neighborhood

When are coyotes a risk to people?

Although naturally curious, coyotes are usually timid animals and normally run away if challenged. Coyotes can be a risk to people if they have become comfortable around humans, usually as a result of feeding. It is not normal for coyotes to attack or pursue humans, especially adults; it is a learned behavior. You can discourage coyotes from feeling comfortable around you by responding to their presence and eliminating coyote attractants (food sources) from your yard and neighborhood.

When are coyotes a risk to pets?

If you own a cat

The only way to guarantee your cat's safety is to keep it indoors. Some owners ensure their cat's safety by building outdoor cat runs.

If you own a small dog

You can greatly reduce the risk of conflict with coyotes if you:

- Keep your dog on a short leash while outside
- Avoid extendable leashes
- Supervise your dog while it is off leash in the yard. Coyotes have lured free roaming dogs away from their owners and attacked.
- Walk your dog at times and places that coincide with high pedestrian traffic
- Keep your dog in front of you; if your dog stops keep an eye on it
- Dog walk with a friend or relative

If you own a large dog

Coyotes pose very little risk to medium to large sized dogs. However, keep large dogs on a leash, except in designated areas and discourage your dog from feeling comfortable with coyotes by preventing it from playing or interacting with a coyote. Coyotes may consider large and loud dogs a threat to their territory and become aggressive.