

KEEP AUSTIN WILD

Peacefully Coexisting with Coyotes

COYOTES 101

Coyotes are

- Mainly active from dusk to dawn.
- Overly protective if mating or their pups are nearby (January–June).
- Omnivores (eat plants and animals).
- Found mostly near greenbelts and in brushy areas.
- Likely to return if they found a food source near you, (pet food, trash, birdseed, fruit tree droppings, compost, dirty BBQ grills, and unfortunately, outside pets)
- Fearful of loud noises.
- More likely to approach humans if you have fed them. Nationwide, a third of the negative coyote encounters with people were after humans intentionally gave them food.
- More likely to approach small dogs and cats left alone outside.

Coyotes are *not*

- Naturally aggressive towards people.
- Usually pack travelers. They are more likely found in pairs.
- Controlled by killing them. National scientific studies have shown more move into the territory and have more litters earlier and more often in their lifetime.
- Leaving. The most successful efforts in other cities involve public outreach and education on how to safely coexist.



EXPANSION

Movement Among People and Animals

As our community grows and expands, there is increased opportunity for interactions with wildlife. We can keep these interactions positive with some basic knowledge.

City of Austin Population:

2000: 656,562

2015: 900,701

2025: 1,080,261

*Source: City of Austin

In 2009, the City of Austin was certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. To date, the City of Austin has 2,154 certified wildlife habitats and the number is steadily increasing.

In the wild, a coyote's home terrain can be 3-16 miles. But because of all the inadvertent food sources in our growing city, the territory of one can be just one mile.

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LIVING SAFELY WITH COYOTES

- Do not feed wildlife.
- Do not leave food outside.
- Check your property and eliminate water or food sources, like pet food, bird seed on the ground, uncovered trash and compost bins, and make sure to pick up fallings from nut or fruit trees regularly.
- Trim all brush and shrubbery near ground level.
- Monitor all pets when outdoors.
- Walk your dog on a 4-6 foot leash.

- Discourage coyotes from frequenting the area by hazing and encourage neighbors to do the same.

Call Austin 311

HAZING

How to Scare a Coyote Away to Minimize Future Interactions

Hazing is the process that helps reshape and encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans and pets. It reinforces coyotes' natural wariness of humans without harming them.

The more often an individual coyote is hazed using a variety of tools and techniques by a variety of people, the most effective it will be.

If you see a coyote, make eye contact and make loud noises (banging things, using a whistle), while making yourself seem larger (waving arms, jacket, umbrella). If the animal does not back off and leave, you should then more 'aggressively' haze, throwing **non-edible** objects near by the animal to scare it. This will help reinstall a natural wariness of humans. Keep at it until the coyote leaves. Hazing should be exaggerated, assertive and consistent. You may feel silly but you will be helping people, pets and wildlife peacefully coexist. If the animal does not leave after hazing efforts, do not run away or turn your back. Slowly back away while still facing the coyote. Then, immediately call 311.

Do not haze if you think the animal is sick or injured. Call 311 right away with the location and description of the animal.

Do not haze if the animal is just walking by from a distance. Only use these techniques when they are showing bold, behaviors near you or in areas like your porches or yard.

Want a FREE visit from a Wildlife Educator in your community? Please call 512.978.0514.

austintexas.gov/departments/coyotes-central-texas