Hazing tips

- **Stand your ground.** Make eye contact. Advance toward the coyote with your hazing tools if there is hesitation on the part of the coyote. Haze until the coyote retreats. Allow room for the coyote(s) to escape.
- **Make sure the coyote is focused on you** as the source of danger or discomfort. Do not haze from buildings or your car where the coyote can't see you clearly.
- **If you see more than one coyote, continue** your hazing efforts; multiple animals will most likely respond to the same hazing techniques at the same time.
- **Make it multisensory.** Use tools that scare with sound, light & motion.
- **Variety is essential.** Coyotes can learn to recognize and avoid individual people, so the more often a coyote has a negative experience with various hazing tools and different people, the faster he will change his behavior to avoid human contact.
- **Hazing should be exaggerated, assertive, and consistent.** Communities should always maintain some level of hazing using a variety of tools so that coyotes do not return to unacceptable behavior over time.
- **Coyotes have routine habits.** Make note on when and where you encounter them. Ask neighbors in those areas to help you scare the coyote, or avoid those areas.
- ***Think prevention first!*** Coyote pups begin coming out of dens in the early summer and parents are very protective. Keep pets close and don't let them roam.

Common coyote responses

- **Being startled and running off.**
- **Freezing and staring at the hazer.** Keep hazing and increasing the intensity of your efforts.
- **Running/walking off a short distance, stopping, then looking back.** The coyote is unsure if the hazing is directed at him. Keep hazing until he gets your message to leave.

Living safely and comfortably with coyotes isn't difficult. Removing attractants (and asking your neighbors to do the same), and knowing when and how to scare a coyote gives you an effective and non-lethal tool for comfortably coexisting with our urban wildlife. With this field guide in hand, you can take advantage of the many benefits that a coyote provides, including free and healthy rodent control. Coyotes can make good neighbors!

Share this guide! Coexistence between people & their domestic animals and coyotes is an active process that requires community involvement.

Coyote Hazing Field Guide: What-When-How

Helping coyotes be good neighbors

"Coyotes are naturally timid animals. Hazing is an effective method for keeping coyotes wild and wary."

-Dr. Paul Paquet, Scientific Advisory Board, Project Coyote

"Knowledge conquers fear. Learning to haze empowers people and saves coyote lives."

-John Maguranis, Belmont, Massachusettes Animal Control Officer & Project Coyote MA Representative

"Coyotes are keenly intelligent, adaptable and resourceful animals deserving of respect and appreciation."

-Camilla H. Fox, Executive Director, Project Coyote

For more information about coyotes and to help your community enact a coyote coexistence plan:

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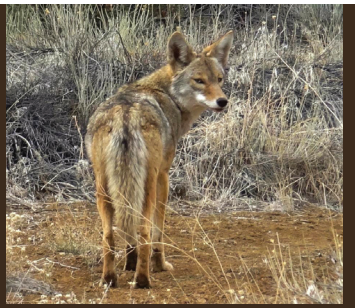
Coyote Hazing Field Guide

Project Coyote — Fostering Coexistence



WHAT

Coyotes are common throughout North America, including urban areas. You may see and hear them more during mating season (Dec.-Feb.) and when juveniles are dispersing from family groups (Sept.-Nov.). Living safely with wildlife is easy when you know how.

This field guide teaches you about "hazing," a powerful tool for keeping coyotes at a distance by reinforcing the coyote's natural wariness of people. Discover what hazing is, when and how to do it, and how to avoid common mistakes. Keeping coyotes wild and wary is the key to successful coexistence.

> *"Coyotes have much to teach us about peaceful coexistence & this is largely about altering human behavior and better understanding coyote behavior."*
>
> –Dr. Marc Bekoff, Scientific Advisory Board member, Project Coyote

WHEN

- **Don't haze…** if you think the coyote is sick or injured. Call your local wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control/services office.

- **Don't haze…** if it is March through July, and you are in a park or open space and think you could be near a coyote den, or if you think that pups could be present. Allow them breathing room to raise and protect their new families. Be aware that you may encounter a coyote who is trying to haze ***you*** away from his den by acting anxious and/or assertive. He may attempt to escort you to a safe distance by hunching his back and walking towards you, or by vocalizing (barking or "huffing"). Please leash dogs and pick up small pets and leave the area calmly. Do not run.

- **Don't haze…** if the coyote is at a comfortable distance from you. Seeing a coyote at a distance is no cause for alarm. They have adapted to urban environments and may be seen during the day and at night.

HOW

Hazing can be as simple as removing attractants (passive) or asserting yourself by yelling and waving your arms above your head as you walk toward a coyote (active). The aim is not to harm or harass the coyote.

Passive hazing involves removing attractants to create less welcoming habitats for animals. Examples include using motion activated lights or sprinklers, not feeding pets outside, cleaning around bird feeders and BBQs, and thinning vegetation where coyotes may den. **Active hazing** involves reacting to the inappropriate presence of a coyote so that he is frightened or startled and leaves the area. The response to your efforts may vary depending on the individual. Be persistent until the coyote "gets it."

Hazing Tools:

Noise makers: your loud voice, whistles, bells, pots, pan lids, shaker cans (soda can filled with pennies & wrapped with aluminum foil), slapping a newspaper

Surprises: pop-up umbrella, motion-activated lights or sprinklers, garden hose, supersoaker spray gun filled with vinegar water

Common coyote responses ›
(on back)

What is "hazing?"

Hazing simply means scaring a coyote away from you, your yard, or your neighborhood. Coyotes are members of the dog family, and just as we train our dogs to adopt good behavior, we can reinforce a coyote's natural instinct to avoid people without harming them.

When should I haze?

Haze if a coyote approaches you in a park or in a neighborhood, or if you see a coyote who is comfortable walking your street or visiting yards. Be consistent and persistent: haze every time you see this too-close-for-comfort behavior. Do not stop until the coyote has left the area or you risk teaching the coyote that your hazing behavior is "normal," and is nothing to be concerned about.

How should I haze?

Begin by acting "Big, Bad, and Loud." Make and maintain eye contact. Wave your arms, a stick or jacket over your head; jump up and down, yell, or throw objects toward, not at, the coyote. The more dominant you act, the better the coyote will get the message that you are something to be afraid of! Keep at it until the coyote leaves.