



Information on Coyotes in New Jersey



The coyote has firmly established itself in our area through its extremely adaptable nature. Coyotes adjust well to their surroundings and can survive on whatever food is available. Coyotes primarily hunt rodents and rabbits for food, but will take advantage of whatever is available, including garbage, pet food and domestic animals that are left unattended. They also consume carrion (decaying tissue).

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control.

The coyote closely resembles a small German shepherd with the exception of a long snout and bushy, black-tipped tail. The coyote has a habit of holding its tail in a horizontal position or lower while standing, walking and running.

They are tolerant of human activities and rapidly adapt to changes in their environment. They are by nature wary of humans.

In suburban and urban areas, coyotes have occasionally attacked small pets. Attacks on humans are extremely rare, but as with any predatory animal they can occur. Conflicts between coyotes and humans are most likely to develop as adults forage for food for the pups in the spring and summer.

Coyote Precautions

The following guidelines can help reduce the likelihood of conflicts with coyotes:

- Feeding pet cats and/or feral (wild) cats outdoors can attract coyotes. The coyotes feed on the pet food and may also prey upon the cats.
- Avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey, put away bird feeders, pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, and other farm animals.
- Clear brush and dense weeds from your property. Coyotes, as well as other predators, are attracted to areas where rodents are concentrated like woodpiles.
- Be mindful of any small domestic pets that are let outside. It is good practice to always supervise your pet and have it on a leash.
- Bring pets in at night.
- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry conditions.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Allowing coyotes access to human food and garbage is irresponsible and can lead to problems. They lose caution and fear.

If coyotes are present, make sure they know they're not welcome. Make loud noises, such as yelling, banging pots together, or even a blast from a canned air horn. If you observe coyotes in the daytime that show no fear of humans or if a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the Denville Police Department at 973-627-4900 etc. 9. You may also contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 908-735-8793 or, outside of normal business hours, call the DEP Hotline at 877-WARN-DEP.