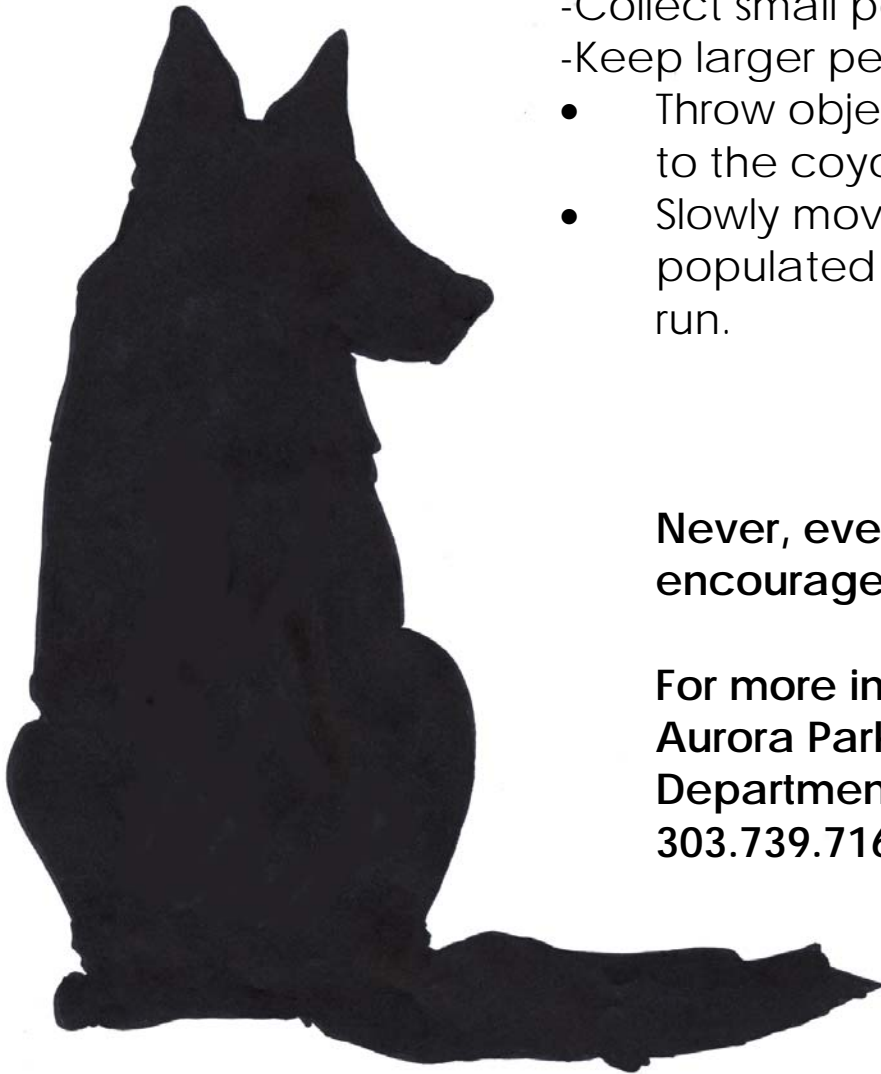




## If you are approached by a coyote:

- Be as **BIG and LOUD** as possible.
- In a loud and forceful voice, command the coyote to go away.
- Use arm gestures to exaggerate your size.
- Keep small children near you; do not let them run away.
  - ALWAYS keep your pets on leash
  - Collect small pets into your arms.
  - Keep larger pets close to you.
  - Throw objects (not food) adjacent to the coyote.
  - Slowly move toward a busy, populated area. There is no need to run.



**Never, ever feed a coyote or encourage it to come near you.**

**For more information, contact  
Aurora Parks & Open Space  
Department Naturalist staff at:  
303.739.7160.**

# How wiley are you?



Test your knowledge of coyote behavior and natural history with this short quiz:

## **Humans have impacted the coyote's natural range.**

**Fact.** Coyotes were originally a prairie species. Extirpation of wolves, deforestation, and the suburban landscape have all contributed to a range expansion which extends across the entire United States, up into Canada and Alaska; and down into the Yucatan, Belize, and Panama.

## **Coyotes are carnivores.**

**Myth.** Dentition classifies them as carnivore, but scat and behavior indicates scavenger, omnivore, or opportunistic feeder; coyotes are the ultimate flexitarian. A sample city coyote diet, taken from a 2006 Chicago study, is described below:

Small rodents 42%  
White-tailed deer 22%  
Fruit 23%  
Cottontail 18%  
Birds 13%  
Raccoon 8%  
Grass 6%  
Invertebrates 4%  
Human-associated 2%  
Domestic cat 1%  
Muskrat 1%  
Unknown 1%



## **Coyotes live and hunt in packs.**

**Myth.** Hunting style depends on prey, habitat, and time of year. Most research shows that coyotes are primarily solitary hunters, but may hunt cooperatively with family members, particularly in winter. A group of coyotes may team up to take large prey.

## **I should be nice to the coyote when it is in my neighborhood.**

**Myth.** You should haze a coyote that is in your yard or roaming the streets of your neighborhood. Hazing includes: bright lights, banging on pots and pans, speaking forcefully, tossing rocks, etc. Coyotes should not be made to feel welcome in neighborhoods.

## **Coyotes are naturally skittish around humans.**

**Fact.** A wild coyote possesses a natural fear of humans. A coyote that has been fed or welcomed into a neighborhood or yard will lose its fear of humans. A coyote that is not afraid of humans is *habituated*.

## **Humans create a food and habitat rich environment for coyotes.**

**Fact.** Human-based sources of food and water such as unsecured garbage, pet food, free-roaming cats and small dogs, rodents, fruit trees, fruits, ponds, and irrigation systems all attract coyotes.

**Coyotes are nocturnal.**

**Myth.** Coyotes are crepuscular and diurnal in the absence of humans, in areas where there are humans and coyotes are harassed, activity changes to nocturnal

**Removing coyotes is the best way to solve problems with them.**

**Myth.** Research shows that following removals, populations return to pre-control levels. In other words, there are always replacement coyotes waiting for an opening in any given habitat. It is more effective to remove the attractants than to remove the coyotes.

**It is easy to remove problem coyotes from a neighborhood.**

**Myth.** There are three options for removing coyotes in an urban/suburban environment. They are:

**Relocation:** By permit only. The Colorado Division of Wildlife does not authorize relocations of predators in the metro area because it is simply moving a problem.

**Trapping:** A 30-day permit for trapping can be obtained from county health officials in cases where there is a documented threat to HUMAN health and safety.

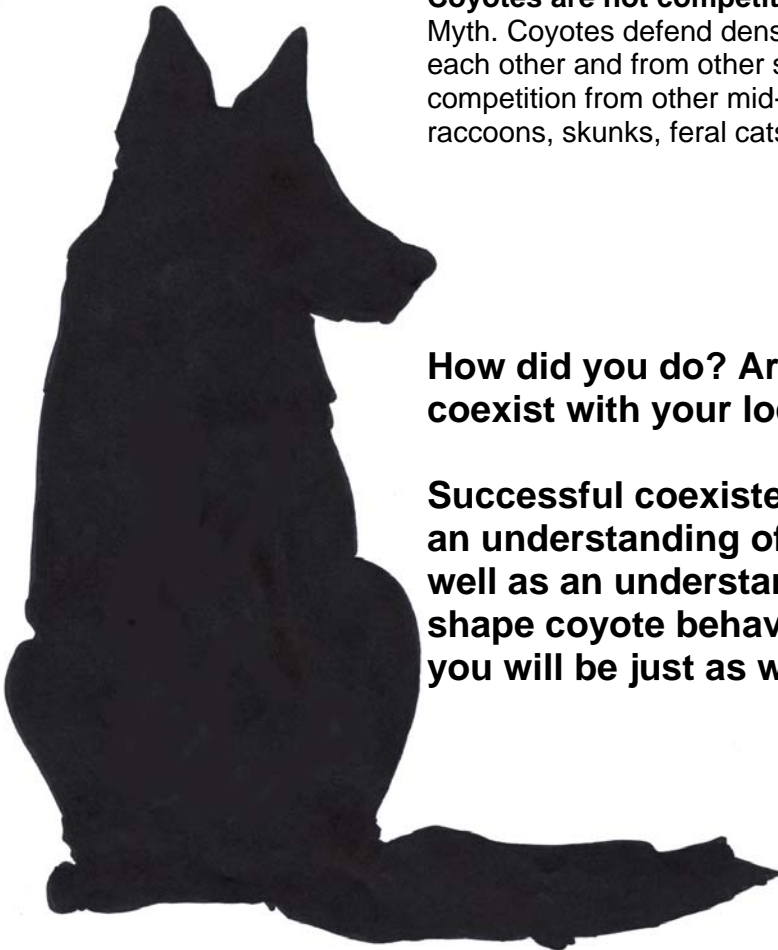
**Shooting:** Most municipalities do not allow the discharge of firearms in neighborhoods. USDA Wildlife Services can be hired to remove coyotes using firearms. This is an expensive and often ineffective method for solving problem interactions.

**The coyote I see looking in my backyard from the bike path lives in the den I see nearby at the golf course.**

**Myth.** Coyote home ranges vary greatly, depending on habitat, social status, and food resources. Home ranges can vary from .25 to 40 square miles.

**Coyotes are not competitive creatures.**

**Myth.** Coyotes defend dens, territories, and food resources from each other and from other species. They do not tolerate competition from other mid-level carnivores such as foxes, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, and domestic dogs.



**How did you do? Are you wiley enough to coexist with your local coyotes?**

**Successful coexistence with coyotes requires an understanding of how coyotes survive, as well as an understanding of how humans can shape coyote behavior. Remember this fact and you will be just as wiley as your local coyotes.**





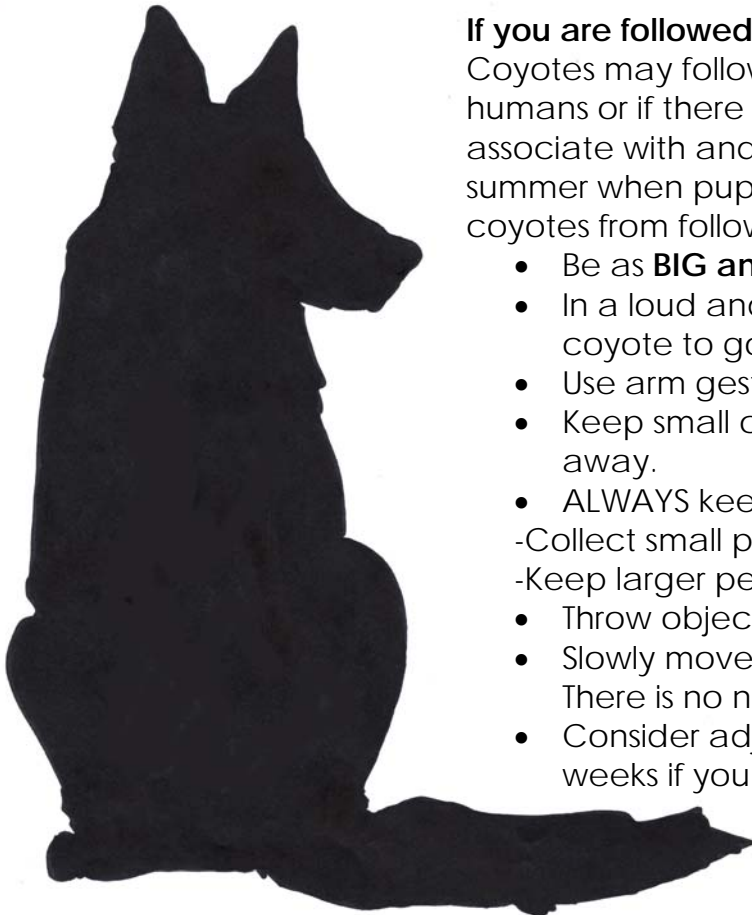
# Tips for Keeping Your Local Coyotes Wild

## **NEVER feed coyotes, either purposefully or indirectly:**

- NEVER feed a coyote—a fed coyote is an aggressive or dead coyote. *If you see or suspect someone is feeding coyotes, immediately contact Parks and Open Space Naturalist staff at 303-326-8948.*
- Do not leave pet food outside, day or night. Period.
- Do not leave trash uncovered or out on the curb overnight.

## **If you live near or adjacent to a park, trail, golf course, or natural open space area:**

- It's a good idea to keep small pets in sight or accompany them outside even if you have a fenced yard, particularly after dusk when coyotes are more active.
- Remember, if you live in Aurora – or any Front Range community – you probably have these wild neighbors. They are highly adapted to our urban landscape, which means they may travel through your subdivision in search of food.



## **If you are followed by a coyote:**

Coyotes may follow humans if they have been fed by humans or if there is a den in the area. Coyotes associate with and protect dens in the spring and early summer when pups are likely to be present. Discourage coyotes from following you and your pet:

- Be as **BIG and LOUD** as possible.
- In a loud and forceful voice, command the coyote to go away.
- Use arm gestures to exaggerate your size.
- Keep small children near you; do not let them run away.
- ALWAYS keep your pets on leash.
- Collect small pets into your arms.
- Keep larger pets close to you.
- Throw objects (not food) adjacent to the coyote.
- Slowly move toward a busy, populated area. There is no need to run.
- Consider adjusting your walking route for a few weeks if you think there is a den in the area.