

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

YOU ARE IN COYOTE COUNTRY

Your neighborhood is experiencing an increase in coyote sightings and activity. Human behavior plays an important role in shaping urban coyote behavior. For you and your pet's safety, it is important to keep 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 observe or suspect someone is feeding coyotes, immediately contact Open Space and Natural Resources staff at 303-326-8435.
- Do not leave pet food outside, day or night. Period.
- Do not leave trash uncovered or out on the curb overnight.
- Bird feeders, nuts and fruits can attract coyotes into your backyard. In areas where coyotes have been seen, it is best to remove these attractants.

If you live near or adjacent to a park, trail, golf course or natural open space area; or if coyotes have been seen in your neighborhood:

- 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.

If you are approached or followed by a coyote:

Coyotes may follow humans if they have been fed by humans or if there is an active 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 or from entering your yard:

- Be as BIG and LOUD as possible.
- In a loud and forceful voice, command the coyote to go away.
- Use arm gestures or stomp your feet 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.
 - Never allow your pet to play with coyotes.
- Throw objects (not food) adjacent to the coyote.
- Facing 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.

SUPERVISE PETS

City of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) The Quality of Life Department

www.auroragov.org/nature





Coyote photo by Kevin Holiday

Open Space and Natural Resources Division

We are Stewards of Natural Resources Essential to Aurora's Quality of Life

Natural Resource Bulletin

Coyote Hazing:

2012.1.1

An Effective Tool for Shaping Coyote Behavior

Quick Facts:

Hazing is a SMART way to reduce coyote conflict in your community.

EVERY TIME you see a coyote in your community:

- Stop**
- Make yourself as big as possible** by raising your arms and widening your stance.
- Announce yourself.** Tell the animal loudly and firmly to "Leave me alone!" or "Get out of here!"
- Repeat or Reinforce.** The coyote might stop after a distance and look back at you. **DO NOT STOP** the hazing activity until the coyote completely leaves the area. If the coyote does not react initially, you may need to reinforce your hazing with more noise, stomping, lunging or exaggeration.
- Teach a neighbor or friend how to haze.** Hazing works best when the whole community participates.

Expect results to improve as you continue to haze:

If it is the first time a coyote has ever been hazed, it may be slow to respond. Expect to use more exaggerated, aggressive and consistent hazing the first couple of times you try it. Individual response will be faster as the coyote experiences multiple hazings from multiple people.

Need help?

Request a hazing clinic for your community by calling 303-326-8435 or emailing nature@auroragov.org.

What is hazing?

Also known as *aversive conditioning* or *negative reinforcement*, hazing is a training method used to discourage undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing effectively trains individual coyotes to avoid the presence of humans. It can also teach coyotes to avoid undesirable places like backyards, streets, and community play spaces.

How does hazing work?

In urban environments, coyotes are repeatedly exposed to people and potential food and shelter rewards such as lush landscaping, pet food, garden fruits and vegetables, bird seed, compost bins and unsecured trash. If there are no consequences associated with being in the presence of people or places where food and shelter rewards can be obtained, coyotes will come to tolerate the presence of people and readily explore and utilize community spaces. Hazing teaches coyotes to associate humans and communities with something unpleasant, causing them to avoid humans or flee further and faster at the sight of a human.

Is hazing humane?

The Humane Society of the United States supports the use of hazing to shape coyote behavior. By definition, hazing does not harm the animal being hazed, harm the person doing the hazing or cause property damage.

When should I haze?

Coyotes should not be tolerated in yards, driveways, parking lots, schools, community play spaces or busy trails. **DO NOT** haze a coyote that is obviously injured, sick or cornered. **DO NOT** haze a coyote with pups nearby.

How do I effectively haze a coyote?

- Don't ignore the coyote.
- Don't turn your back or run away from the coyote.
- Face the coyote and enhance your stature by raising your arms and widening your stance.
- Make noise using your voice, an air horn, a whistle, a can full of pennies, banging pots and pans, or by clapping.
- Throw small rocks, sticks or cans; do not throw food.
- Enhance your hazing effort by swinging a golf club, waving a walking stick, flashing a strobe flashlight, or shooting a water gun.

Hazing is more effective when an entire community commits to using it.

Apply hazing as a united community. A single coyote that is hazed by a variety of tools, techniques and people is more likely to demonstrate a change in behavior. Mixed messages such as hazing from one person followed by ignoring, intentional feeding or retreat by other community members will reduce overall effectiveness. Do not tolerate "cheaters" or neighbors engaged in intentional or unintentional feeding or encouraging coyotes to loiter in your community. Share successful techniques with neighbors and help those who feel uncomfortable or awkward overcome barriers to hazing.

Resources:

Denver Parks and Recreation: How to Haze: Effective Reshaping of Coyote Behavior
Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Community Concerns and Coyotes PowerPoint, Coyote Crew training PowerPoint, Hazing Guidelines
Humane Society of the United States: Coyote Hazing Guidelines

