



TAKE ACTION: PREVENT COYOTE CONFLICTS

MASSWILDLIFE

Coyotes can be found in nearly every town and city in Massachusetts and they can thrive close to humans in a variety of habitats. The mere presence of a coyote is not cause for concern. However, coyotes that spend a lot of time around people or regularly feed on human-associated food can become habituated and exhibit bold behavior toward people.

WHAT IS NORMAL COYOTE BEHAVIOR?

Normal		Frequent use of residential areas Frequent daytime activity Nighttime attack on unsupervised pet Daytime attack on unsupervised pet
Bold		Attack on leashed pet (human present) Approaching/following people (does not flee when hazed correctly)
Aggressive		Attack on a person

Small changes in human behavior can make a big difference. Follow these steps to prevent conflicts with wildlife while keeping coyotes wild and wary of people.

REMOVE FOOD

Remove or secure human-associated food sources, including bird feeders, trash, and open compost.



PROTECT PETS

Directly supervise and leash dogs outdoors. Keep cats indoors.



HAZE COYOTES

Aggressively haze coyotes in your yard or neighborhood. Turn the page to learn how.



Share this information with your neighbors! The more people that take action, the more effective it will be. Get more information at our website.

[MASS.GOV/COYOTES](https://www.mass.gov/COYOTES)



USE HAZING TO DETER COYOTES

Hazing is a safe technique used to deter an animal from an area or change its behavior. Repeated hazing helps teach coyotes to avoid people and that they are not welcome in your neighborhood. Similar to one coyote chasing another out of their territory, you are defining and defending your territory.

HOW DO I HAZE A COYOTE?

There are many ways to haze a coyote. You can:

- Make eye contact and move confidently toward the coyote while waving your arms or clapping.
- Make loud noises by yelling or using a small air horn or whistle.
- Hold your arms or a jacket over your head to make yourself look bigger.
- Spray a hose or throw small objects, like pebbles or tennis balls, towards the coyote.

The intent is to frighten, not injure, the animal. Hazing is most effective when it's done repeatedly, when a variety of techniques are used, and when many people in the area participate. Hazing is *not* effective if done from inside a building, from behind a screen door, or from a car.



NOTE FOR PET OWNERS: Coyote mating and denning season is January through May. This can increase coyote aggression toward dogs. If you think you are close to a coyote den, keep dogs on a leash, pick up small pets, and leave the area calmly. Do not run.

WHEN SHOULD I HAZE?

- You should haze a coyote whenever you see one that is comfortable on your property or in your neighborhood. Do not stop hazing until the animal has completely left the area. If you stop hazing too early, you will teach the coyote that your behavior is not a threat and that they should not be concerned.
- You should *not* haze if you think the coyote is injured or showing signs of illness like stumbling or circling. Call your local Animal Control Officer for assistance. Never corner an animal while hazing or haze an animal into a road.

HOW WILL THE COYOTE RESPOND?

A coyote that has been living around people, neighborhoods, or towns will not be startled by everyday sounds. It's essential that hazing includes dominant body language and loud, unusual sounds. If a coyote is effectively hazed, they may:

- Run off or move a short distance and stop to look back.
- Freeze and stare at the person hazing.

Don't be surprised if the coyote doesn't run off right away. This is especially true if you have a dog with you. Keep hazing until they have completely left the area. Never run from a coyote.