

FACTS ABOUT MICHIGAN COYOTES

Type: Mammal

Group name: Pack

Diet: Omnivore (eats both animals and plants)

Average life span in the wild:

Up to 14 years

Breeding: January through March with pups born about 60 days later

Size: Head and body, 32 to 37 in (81 to 94 cm); Tail, 16 in (41 cm)

Weight: 20 to 50 lbs (9 to 23 kg)

There is always the possibility that coyotes can carry rabies. Anyone who is bitten or scratched by a coyote should go to the nearest hospital. In fact, all animal bites should be reported so the individual can be evaluated for rabies.

This brochure was created by:



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Coyotes



Did you know ...

The Coyote is one of North America's most adaptable and resourceful predators and is also renowned for its piercing nocturnal howl.



The modern coyote has displayed its cleverness by adapting to the changing landscape of North America.

These members of the dog family once lived primarily in open prairies and deserts, but now roam rural and urban areas. They have even colonized in counties like Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne, and are now found over most of North America. Coyote populations are likely at an all-time high, according to National Geographic 2011.



Coyotes generally retain a natural fear of people even when they adjust to frequenting urban areas. Coyotes that do not run when yelled at or when they see a person may be animals that are becoming habituated to people. Coyotes that run and exhibit fear of people will usually not cause problems. If a coyote does not run from people or approaches a person and is not easily frightened away, it may be an animal of concern.

As coyotes become accustomed to living in proximity to humans, they begin to associate humans and homes with food. Because most urbanized areas are closed to hunting, coyotes have no negative experiences with people to reinforce their natural fear of humans. As a result, they become bolder and are more easily spotted by people. Just because you see coyotes, there is no reason to assume they are causing problems or about to cause problems, according to the DNR.

Coyotes in urban areas are generally hunting for typical prey; mice thrive in tall grass, under buildings, in trash, and in vacant lots. Reducing habitat for prey species by removing brush piles and mowing areas of tall grass or taking other steps to reduce rodent populations decreases the chance that coyotes will frequent your yard. Bird feeders can also attract rodents and serve to attract coyotes. Removing feeders and cleaning up bird feed for a couple of weeks can help to reduce coyote visits to your yard.

Finally, it's not a good idea to feed any pets outside as the food will attract coyotes and other species like raccoons, skunks, and opossums.

**NEVER INTENTIONALLY
FEED A COYOTE**

Coyotes usually do not attack humans. However, as residents, here are some simple safety tips to deter coyotes from attacking and to keep them away from your home.

To keep coyotes from your property:

- Bring pet food and water dishes inside.
- Do not put out food for birds.
- Do not leave food outside unattended; scrape your grill and burn off food residue.
- Cover garbage cans securely.
- Consider keeping small children and pets inside if there have been coyote sightings near your house.
- While outside, have handy a loud horn, noisemakers, or pots or pans to bang on and also things you can throw at coyotes.

If a coyote approaches you:

- Be aggressive: stand tall, shout in a loud voice, throw things at the coyote, maintain eye contact and wave your arms as you try to scare it away and head indoors or to a more populated area.
- Do not turn your back and run, as the coyote will then view you as prey and give chase.
- **Call 911**
- **Do not try to catch the coyote.**

