



# Coyotes

Coyotes are not usually dangerous to people. A potential exception is if they become habituated to people and lose their natural fear.



## SHARE THE WILD

### Preventing Encounters with Coyotes on Your Property

- Do not feed coyotes.
- Remove attractants from your property, including pet food, water sources, bird feeders and fallen fruit.
- Secure trash in a locked receptacle. Keep it inside or put it out only on the morning of pick up.
- Trim vegetation around your yard to reduce hiding places.
- Do not leave small children outside unattended.
- As a deterrent, install outdoor and motion sensitive lighting around your property. Lights also make approaching coyotes visible.
- If a coyote is on your property make it feel unwelcome: yell, throw rocks, bang pots and pans, spray it with a hose or turn on sprinklers.

### Ask your neighbors to follow these tips too!

### Protect your pets and keep them current on vaccinations. Here are some tips to help reduce the risks to your pets:

- Supervise pets when they are outside, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Bring pets inside at night.
- Keep dogs leashed, especially when on trails and in open areas.
- Never let your dog chase or "play" with coyotes.
- Cats should be kept indoors.
- To deter coyotes, fence your yard with a six-foot high fence. Use electric fencing to help keep coyotes away from pets and livestock.
- Provide secure shelter for hobby farm pets such as poultry, rabbits and goats.
- Secure outdoor pets in a kennel, barn or shed at night. If that is impossible, a small, well-lit pen close to a structure is the next best option.
- Actively discourage coyotes from your property. Install strobe lights and sirens to scare away coyotes. Use guard animals such as dogs, donkeys or llamas to protect hobby farm pets and livestock.

### Preventing Conflicts Between Your Pets and Coyotes

Pets may be perceived as food for coyotes and large dogs may be seen as a threat or competition. Coyotes have taken pets in backyards, open areas and right off a leash.

The coyote is a member of the dog family *Canidae*. They can be found throughout the United States and are quite common in Utah. They are adapted to a wide range of habitats, including urban areas such as inner cities and suburban neighborhoods. Adult coyotes typically weigh 25-45 pounds. Coyotes are brownish-gray or light gray to reddish in color with a cream-colored belly. They have a long, slender muzzle, bushy tail and triangular ears. Their main vocalizations are loud yipping or short bark howls. Adult coyote tracks are typically 2 ½ - 3 inches long. Note the claws present in the track. Coyotes are mainly active at night, but will hunt during the day. They become more active, vocal and territorial during mating (Dec-Feb) and breeding pup season (Apr-Jul). Coyotes are opportunistic predators. They eat small mammals, insects, reptiles, birds, carrion, grasses and fruit. Near human habitation, coyotes may seek trash and pet chow as food.

### If You Encounter a Coyote

- Make noise while hiking to alert wildlife of your presence.
- Do not approach a coyote.
- Pick up small pets, make loud noises, stomp your feet, or throw rocks or sticks if necessary to frighten the coyote away.
- Do not run or turn your back on a coyote that has approached you. Face the coyote, shout at it, be as big and loud as possible, wave your arms and back away slowly.

Learn more about coyotes and their important role in ecosystems at [wildawareutah.org](http://wildawareutah.org)

Please take care to prevent coyotes from becoming nuisance animals by keeping trash contained and pets indoors.

If you have an encounter with aggressive wildlife, please alert the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) office near you. If the encounter or sighting occurs after hours or on the weekend, please call your local police department or county sheriff's office, who can contact a conservation officer to handle the situation.

Cedar City (435) 865-6100

Salt Lake City (801) 538-4700

Ogden (801) 476-2740

Springville (801) 491-5678

Price (435) 613-3700

Vernal (435) 781-9453

