

Urban Coyotes

Coyotes are adapted to living in cities, suburbs, rural towns and agricultural areas.

What about rabies? Coyotes can be rabid. However, the Bexar County records show an extremely low occurrence of rabid coyotes in the state.

What about children's safety? Small children are at risk from coyotes; however, in Texas, there have been no reported incidents of coyote attacks. Children over the age of 5 or 6 generally play in groups and are too large to attract a coyote's interest. Children under 5 years old should be well supervised at all times, especially when near a pool, around streets, with domestic dogs, or where wildlife may be a concern.

What should I do if a coyote approaches me? Even if the above methods don't appear to be working, continue and exaggerate them. Do not turn away or run. Keep constant eye contact with the coyote and continue to move toward other people, a building or an area of activity. These techniques will generally frustrate even a bold coyote.

How can I discourage them from my backyard? It is crucial to understand the importance of a unified neighborhood effort. If there is a regular coyote food source in one yard on your block, there will be coyotes active throughout the neighborhood. If a coyote is in your yard, it is imperative that you make the animal aware that it is not welcome. Coyotes are most likely to be frightened by aggressive gestures, loud noises and large forms. Coyotes have been scared off of properties by people waving sticks or brooms at them, throwing stones or cans at them, clanging pots and pans in their direction, or by having the following homemade coyote deterrents thrown or moved in their direction.

What will ACS do, if there are multiple coyote attacks on animals or humans in an area? "ACS will investigate and set humane traps, in order to capture any coyotes that remain in the area. ACS will also be available to speak to the neighborhood association or individual residents to educate citizens and answer any citizen concerns. To report a coyote sighting or to request a trap please call 311."
(Translation: Try the deterrent measures above; if these don't work, call 311 and request that ACS trap and remove the animals; ask you neighbors to do the same; and finally if ACS doesn't respond, complain to our District 8 office.)

Ted Trakas

Refs: www.sanantonio.gov/animalcare/wildlife.asp & www.wildlife-rescue.org/library/urban.php

Note: See our newsletter web site for a longer version of this article.