

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

# Coyotes and You

Living With Coyotes







# TRAINING STRUCTURE

## ISSUES TO TACKLE

History-Distribution

Family Life

Behavior

Reproductive Rate

Benefits

Challenges

How to Live With

Resources



**OUR COMMON GROUND**

**We Have To Share  
Space With Wildlife-**

**We Only Have 1 Earth**

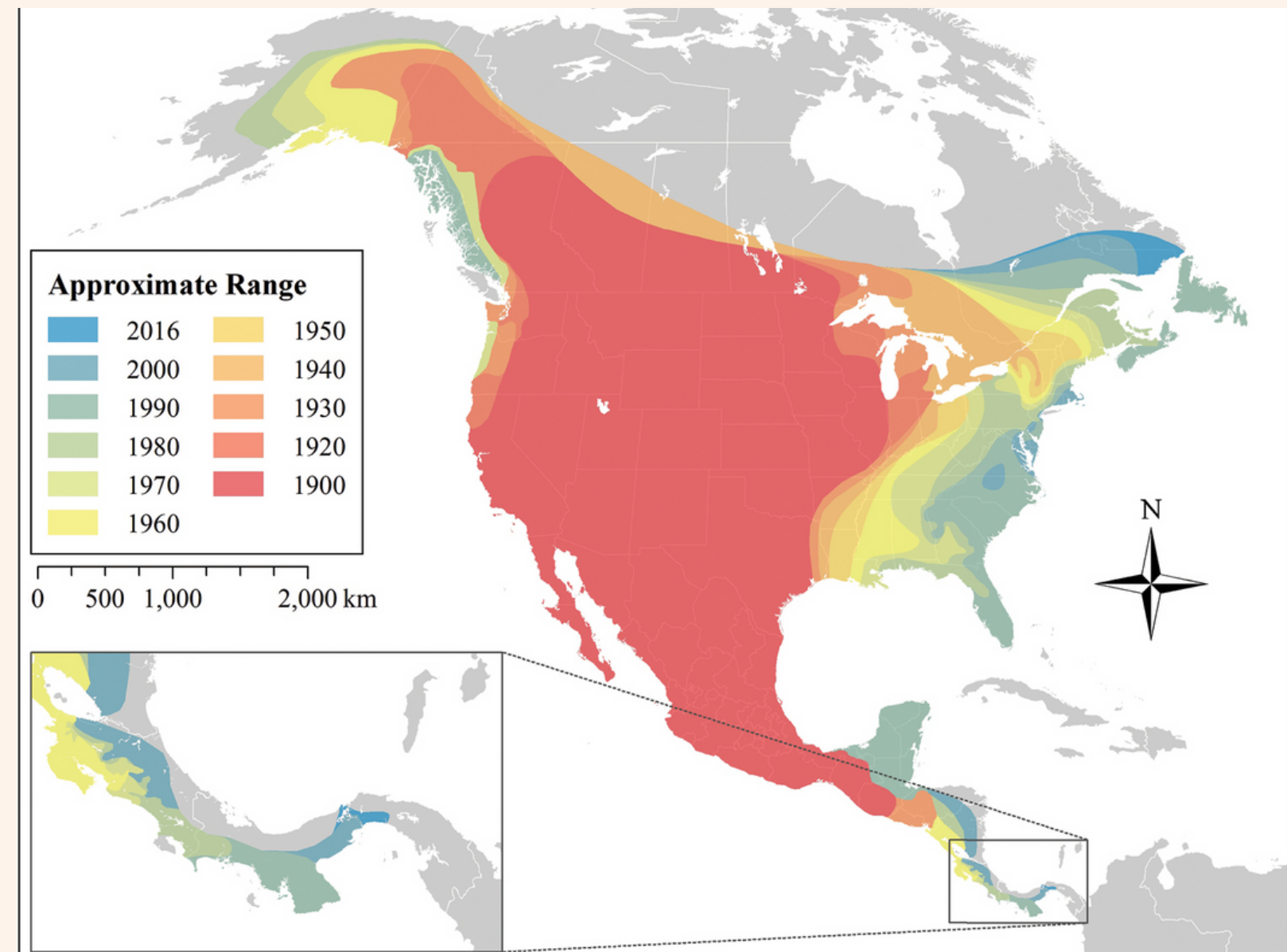




# HISTORY AND DISTRIBUTION



Living with Coyotes| Oct. 2021



## COYOTES ARE HERE TO STAY - WE HAVE CREATED A PERFECT SCENARIO FOR THEM

- Coyotes have been present in the arid west and California throughout the Holocene (12,000 YA), well before European colonization.
- Coyote expansion began around 1900 as they moved out across the US and into South America.
- Forest fragmentation and the extirpation of larger predators such as wolves, panthers and jaguars enabled these expansions.
- Land conversion from forests to agricultural fields and Everglades to housing developments, levies and agricultural fields.
- Hybridization with dogs in the SE makes them more genetically inclined toward colonizing new areas.





## THEY LIVE IN PACKS

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- Group size in protected habitats is typically five to six adults in addition to pups born that year.
- Packs consist of a dominant male and female (alpha pair), and extended family members (betas and omegas).
- Typically, only the alpha pair breeds, and produces one litter a year.



## COYOTES DEFEND TERRITORIES

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- Coyotes mark territory's boundaries with urine.
- Defend their space from all intruders, including other coyotes.
- May lead larger dogs away from territory.
- Males may roam over territories as large as 36 square miles, though females usually stay within a six square mile area.



# Coyotes and People



## NATURALLY SHY AWAY

Coyotes are rarely seen.

When they see humans, they typically watch from a distance out of curiosity or run away and hide.



## HABITUATION CAUSES THE PROBLEMS

People Feeding Wildlife causes wildlife to become habituated and "comfortable" around people.

Fed Wildlife is Dead Wildlife-Don't feed them, Haze them!



## STATISTICS

Coyote attacks on people are very rare and were by habituated coyotes. **Perspective:** More people are killed by errant golf balls and flying champagne corks each year than are bitten by coyotes.



# Coyotes in Florida

**Coyotes live in urban, suburban and rural areas throughout Florida.  
Follow these tips to avoid conflicts.**

FEEDING COYOTES is **ILLEGAL**. THEY WILL LOSE THEIR FEAR of HUMANS.



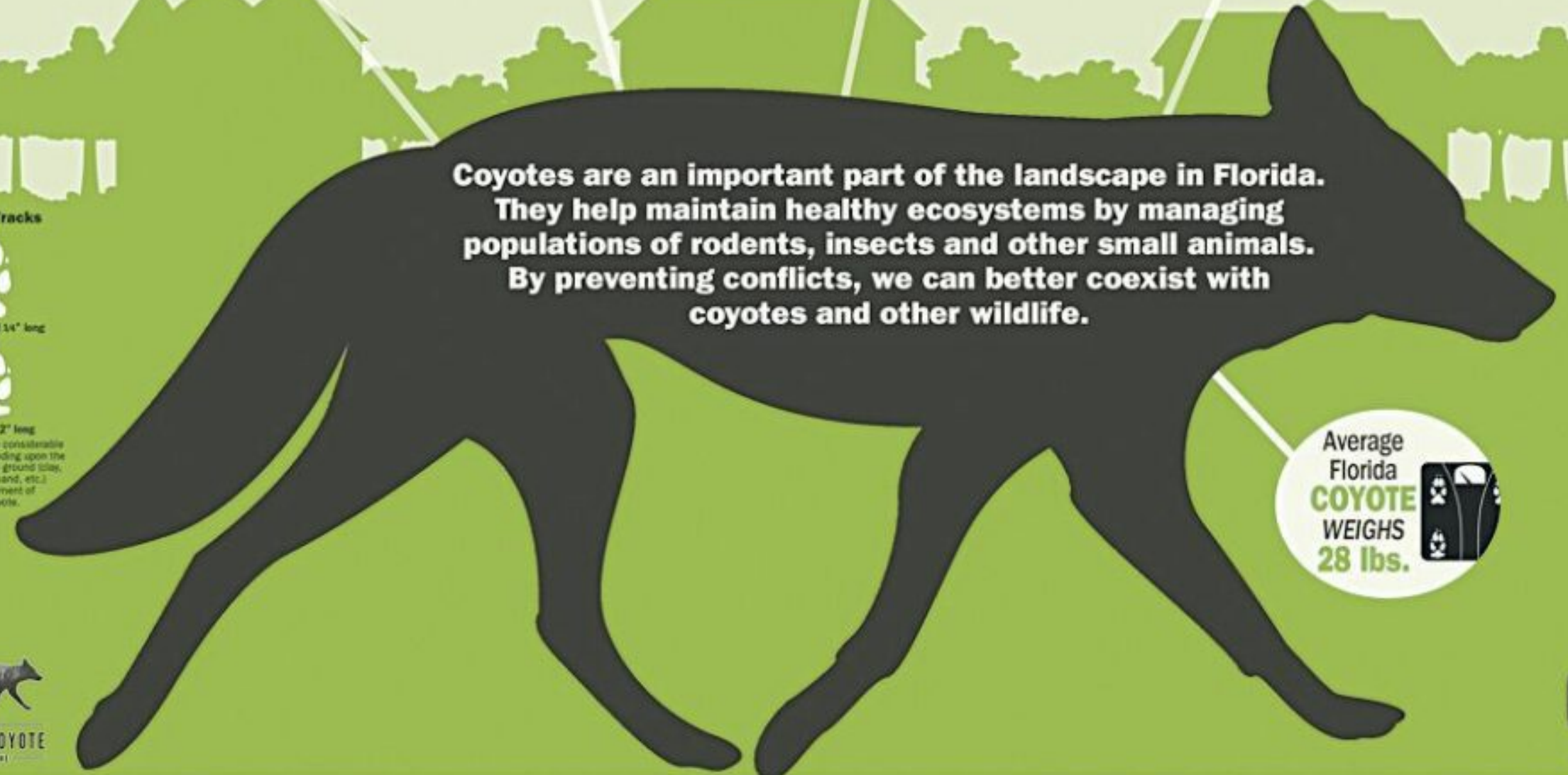
**SECURE** GARBAGE CANS. **CLEAN UP** PET FOOD and **FALLEN FRUIT**.



**SECURE** LIVESTOCK in **PREDATOR-RESISTANT** Enclosures.



KEEP PETS IN **ENCLOSED AREAS**. WALK DOGS ON A **SHORT LEASH**.



**Coyotes are an important part of the landscape in Florida. They help maintain healthy ecosystems by managing populations of rodents, insects and other small animals. By preventing conflicts, we can better coexist with coyotes and other wildlife.**

**Coyote Tracks**  
Front track: 2 1/4" long  
Hind track: 2" long  
Tracks will show considerable variations depending upon the condition of the ground (dirt, mud, dust, sand, etc.) and movement of the coyote.

Average Florida **COYOTE** WEIGHS **28 lbs.**





# COYOTE REMOVAL MAKES THE CHALLENGE WORSE

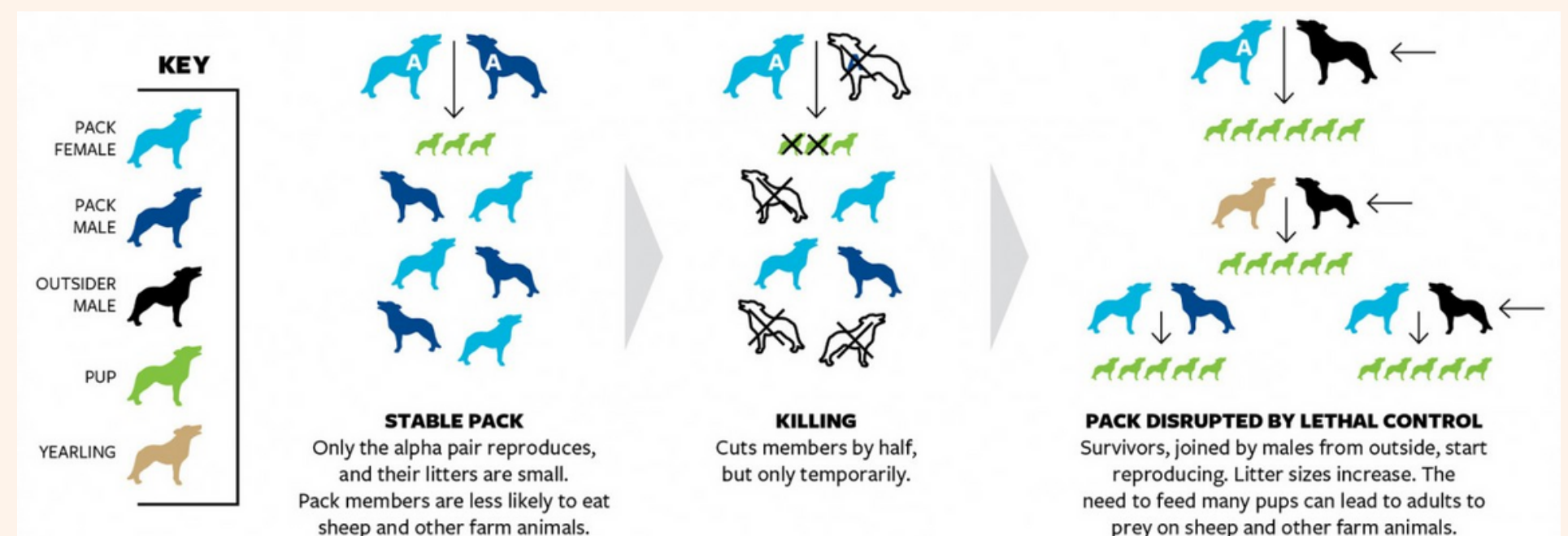
THEY INCREASE THEIR REPRODUCTIVE RATE WHEN  
"CONTROLLED"

coyotes can increase their reproductive rate by breeding at an earlier age and having larger litters, with a higher survival rate among the young. This allows populations to quickly bounce back.

HISTORY WILL REPEAT ITSELF IF WE ARE INTOLERANT

Impossible to completely eradicate coyotes from an area. Despite bounties and large-scale efforts over the last 100 years, coyotes have in fact expanded their range throughout the U.S. and Canada. One study found that killing 75% of a population every year for 50 years still did not exterminate the population.

WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH COYOTES IN BALANCE





# Best Coyote Practices

CURIOSITY AND PLAY ARE OFTEN MISINTERPRETED AS BEING "BOLD" OR AGGRESSIVE-PAY CLOSE ATTENTION AND "PUFF UP, THEY HATE THAT!".

1

## **DISTANCE IS YOUR FRIEND**

Always keep your distance from coyotes

2

## **WALK AWAY WITH EYES ON THE PRIZE**

The minute you see a coyote, and especially if he is approaching you, walk away from him and keep walking, especially if you have a dog.

3

## **KEEP PETS LEASHED AND INDOORS**

Don't allow pets to roam free

4

## **THEY BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS**

Never feed ANY wildlife, especially coyotes and other apex predators





# PROTECTING YOUR SMALL DOG

- Avoid using a flexi-leash
- Avoid walking near bushy areas or “edge zones”
- Stand or walk with other people, and/or larger dogs
- Avoid walking small dogs at dawn or dusk
- If a coyote gets too close for your comfort, and you can make and maintain eye contact, leash your larger dog or pick up your small dog, and haze the coyote). If the coyote doesn't leave, it's likely there's a den, pups, or food source that the coyote is protecting. Don't run. Leave the area calmly. Change your routine to avoid this challenging area for awhile.



# PROTECTING YOUR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

For livestock and Poultry pen:

Electric fences on the outside of the fence-use multiple wires.

at least 3:

- 1) Ground level (~ 3" above ground)
- 2) Nose level (2.5' above ground)
- 3) Along the top of the fence



In your yard: Anatolian Shepherds to protect your animals.

For small yards:

Build chainlink fence enclosures for your livestock at night or poultry. Chainlink should be in the following places:

- 1) On ground along edges of fence, inside and out just under the grass and attached to the vertical fencing.
- 2) On top either angled out or roof over enclosure.
- 3) May want double walls around enclosure with a 4" or 5" or more gap around.





# RESOURCES-EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

## Urban Naturalist

No. 27

2019

Species Richness Within an Urban Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Territory in Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Christopher B. Mowry and Lawrence A. Wilson

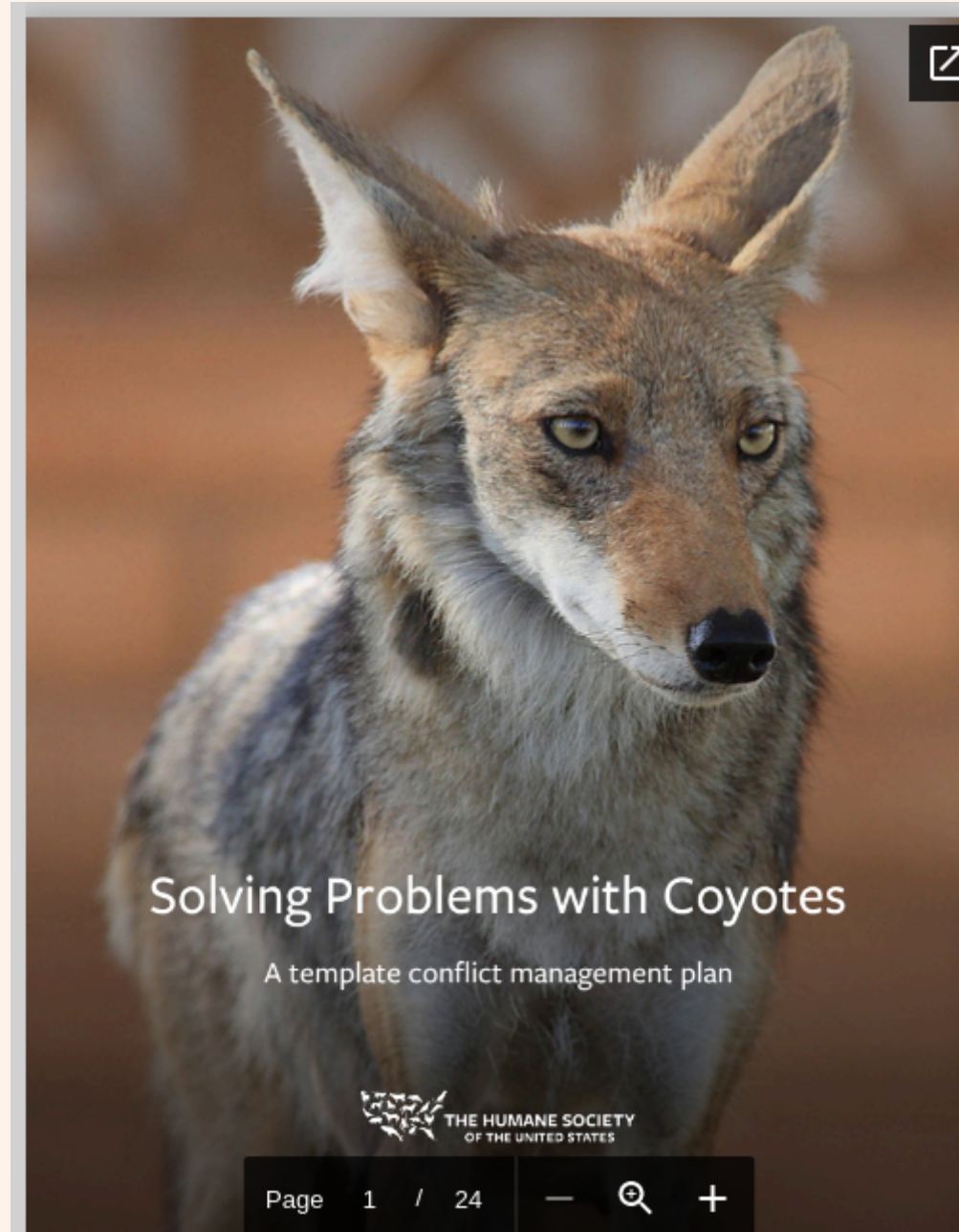


Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission- [myfwc.com](http://myfwc.com)

Broward County Parks You Tube-Living with Coyotes Workshop

Arizona Game and Fish-[azgfd.com/wildlife](http://azgfd.com/wildlife)

Humane Society-[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)



### Keeping Coyotes Away



#### Setting Boundaries Using Humane Deterrents

Humane hazing (or aversion conditioning) is a method of negative association that **safely compels wildlife such as coyotes, foxes or wolves to move away from humans**, sometimes through the use of deterrents. **Hazing has been used with great success around the world** with many species, including bears and tigers.

#### Basic Hazing Techniques

- **Stand tall, make yourself big, shout (don't scream) "Get Back!" and wave your arms** until the coyote retreats.
- **Use a noisemaker**, such as: your voice, an air horn or whistle, pots and pans banged together, a shake can (such as a pop can filled with coins or pebbles), a large plastic garbage bag being snapped, jingling keys, or an umbrella popping open and closed.
- **Use a projectile (toward, not AT the coyote)**, such as: sticks, clumps of dirt, small rocks, or a tennis ball.
- **During warm months, use liquids**, such as: a garden hose, a water gun, or water balloons.

For more information about coyotes in urban spaces, coyote behaviour, genetics, safety and coexistence, visit [coyotewatchcanada.com](http://coyotewatchcanada.com).

[@coyotewatchcanada](https://www.facebook.com/coyotewatchcanada)  
[@CoyoteWatchCAN](https://twitter.com/CoyoteWatchCAN)  
[@coyotewatchcanada](https://www.instagram.com/coyotewatchcanada)

Coyote Watch Canada is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering human-wildlife coexistence.

SCIENCE. EDUCATION. COEXISTENCE.  
[coyotewatchcanada.com](http://coyotewatchcanada.com)



### Coexisting with Canids



#### Basic Prevention and Safety Tips



##### Know your wild neighbours.

We share our urban and rural spaces with an array of fascinating species. Be wildlife-aware. Enjoy your surroundings and keep a safe and respectful distance from wild animals.



##### Don't invite unwanted houseguests.

Keep your home properly sealed to exclude and discourage wildlife. Remove food attractants: secure garbage/compost containers, pick up dog feces, and clean outdoor grills. Reconsider bird feeders: they attract small mammals which, in turn, encourage carnivores to visit your yard.



##### Be a responsible pet owner.

Free-roaming pets are vulnerable to a multitude of dangers. 92% of conflict between wildlife and domestic dogs occurs when dogs are running at large. For everyone's safety, obey leash laws and keep cats indoors or in a secured enrichment area.



##### Do not feed wildlife.

Feeding a wild animal will increase its proximity tolerance to people and pets. Direct feeding also attracts unintended/secondary wildlife and can ultimately put animals and people in harm's way.

Visit [coyotewatchcanada.com](http://coyotewatchcanada.com) for comprehensive resources about human-wildlife safety and coexistence.

### What to Do if a Coyote or Fox Approaches You

- STOP:** Pick up children and small pets, if necessary.
- STAND STILL:** Never run from a coyote, fox or domestic dog.
- MAKE YOURSELF BIG:** Wave your hands above your head.
- BE LOUD AND ASSERTIVE:** Shout "Go Away!", stomp your feet or clap your hands.
- SLOWLY BACK AWAY:** Be assertive as you leave, so the animal knows it is not welcome.



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