



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation

Coexisting with Coyotes

Coyotes are extremely adaptable. They are the only large wild predator that has extended its range despite human intrusion into habitat...they now live in rural and urban areas from California to Maine, from alpine to desert habitat.

Coyotes come into heat once a year in late winter or spring. About two months later they bear roughly six pups, which begin to emerge from the den about two weeks later.

They are less social than wolves or domestic dogs and usually hunt alone, although they sometimes hunt in pairs for larger prey.

Coyotes are carnivores, and opportunistic: 90% of their diet is meat, carrion, mice, rats, ground squirrels, marmots, prairie dogs, other rodents, and the occasional bird. Any environment that attracts small rodents will, in turn, attract coyotes.

So, since we all live in coyote country...

- **CLOSELY SUPERVISE SMALL CHILDREN, DOGS, AND CATS AND KEEP THEM IN, ESPECIALLY AT DUSK AND DAWN.**
- **ELIMINATE HIDING COVER** in landscaping and dwellings. **Make it difficult for coyotes to approach unseen.**
- **INSTALL OUTSIDE MOTION DETECTORS.**
- **Predators follow prey. STORE GARBAGE, GRAINS, PET FOODS, AND OTHER ITEMS THAT ATTRACTS RODENTS SECURELY. Feed pets inside; don't allow a build-up of Uneaten birdseed near human residence.**
- **IF YOU ARE CONFRONTED... stay calm; look big and tough, and back away. Remember, a friendly coyote is eventually a dead coyote.**



Coyote on Lake Erie by Erica Maddox