

Living With Coyotes in Massachusetts

Coyotes are currently well established throughout the state from the Berkshires to Cape Cod. They thrive in suburban and urban areas close to people. Coyotes eat many different foods, including small animals, fruits, vegetables, garbage, and pet food. Remember everything a coyote does is related to a potential meal.

Here are a few suggestions to make your property less attractive to coyotes.



Secure your garbage!

Coyotes raid open trash materials and compost piles. Secure your garbage in tough plastic containers with tight fitting lids and keep in secure buildings when possible. Take out trash when the morning pick up is scheduled, not the previous night. Keep compost piles in containers designed to contain but vent the material.

Don't feed or try to pet coyotes!

Keep wild things wild! Feeding, whether direct or indirect, can cause coyotes to act tame and may lead to bold behavior. Coyotes that rely on natural foods remain wild and wary of humans.

Keep your pets safe!

Although free roaming pets are more likely to be killed by automobiles than by wild animals, coyotes do view cats as potential food and dogs as competition. For the safety of your pets, keep them restrained at all times.

Keep bird feeder areas clean!

Use feeders designed to keep seed off the ground as the seed attracts many small mammals coyotes prey upon. Remove feeders if coyotes are regularly seen around your yard.

Feed pets indoors!

Outdoor feeding attracts many wild animals to your door!

Close off crawl spaces under porches and sheds!

Coyotes use such areas for resting and raising young.

Don't let coyotes intimidate you!

Don't hesitate to scare or threaten coyotes with loud noises, bright lights, or water.

Cut back brushy edges in your yard!

These areas provide cover for coyotes and their prey.

Protect livestock and produce!

Coyotes prey on livestock. Techniques, such as fencing, will protect livestock from predation. Clear fallen fruit from around fruit trees.

Educate your neighbors!

Pass this information along since your efforts will be futile if neighbors are providing food or shelter for coyotes.



For more information contact **MassWildlife** at:

Western Wildlife District, Pittsfield: (413) 447-9789

Connecticut Valley Wildlife District, Belchertown: (413) 323-7632

Central Wildlife District, West Boylston: (508) 835-3607

Northeast Wildlife District, Acton: (978) 263-4347

Southeast Wildlife District, Buzzards Bay: (508) 759-3406

or visit our website at www.masswildlife.org

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