## How You Can Protect Yourself, Family, and Pets.

**"A Fed Coyote Is a Dead Coyote"**

**"Don't"**

- ever feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife.
- leave small children out unattended in areas where coyotes are known to be.
- ever try to pet or tame a coyote.
- Don't leave domestic pet food outside. Bring it in at night.
- ever run from a coyote.
- leave pets, small livestock and fowl out at night in non-coyote-proof fencing.

**"DO"**

- work with your neighbors on making your neighborhood undesirable to coyotes.
- keep all trash in tightly closed containers.
- keep cats and small pets indoors or in coyote-proof enclosures. Coyotes are active day and night. Pets left outside are at risk.
- keep pets on a leash when out walking.
- pick up fallen fruit and enclose compost piles if possible.
- if followed by a coyote, make yourself look big, act aggressive, throw rocks and shout.
- build coyote-proof fences. Fences should be at least 6 feet' tall with the bottom properly secured and a wire apron to prevent digging.
- instruct your children to follow these rules.

**REMEMBER!**

Pet dogs account for 10-30 human deaths each year. Coyotes account for only 1 human death in recorded history.

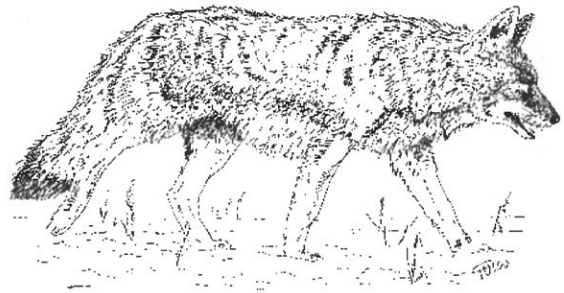
Pet dogs bite about 500,000 humans each year. Coyotes bite less than 100 humans each year!

**City of Huntsville**
**Animal Services**

**4950 Triana Blvd**
**Huntsville, AL 35805**
**(256) 883-3788**
**www.hsvcity.com**

# Living with Coyotes in Alabama

## Coyote Management Programs



**City of Huntsville**
**Animal Services**

**To Report an Aggressive Incident or for Further Information, Please Call:**
**ANIMAL SERVICES**
**(256) 883-3788**

## Coyote Facts

**IDENTIFICATION;** Coyotes (Canis latrans) weigh between 20 and 40 pounds. They resemble a small German shepherd with a slender muzzle and a bushy tail. Coyotes are predominantly brownish gray in color. Colors vary from nearly black to red or white.

**RANGE:** Coyotes range form North America to South America, throughout Canada, Alaska and even into the Arctic. Coyotes are widespread throughout the United States.

**HABITAT**: Coyotes are highly adaptable and can exist in various habitats such as deserts, swamps, mountain ranges, tropical, arctic, brush and grasslands. Coyotes have also adapted to living in densely populated areas such as New York City, Los Angeles and other cities like Huntsville.

**FOOD SOURCE:** Coyotes are opportunistic when it comes to getting their food. They seek out the easiest way to secure a meal. Coyotes feed on a wide range of animals such as rabbits, various rodents, small livestock and domestic pets like cats and dogs. In addition, coyotes eat fruits such as grapes and apples, berries and vegetables. They often get into open compost piles and unsecured garbage containers.

## Coyote Reproduction and Behavior

Coyotes are most active at night and during early morning hours. Where there is minimal human interference and cooler whether, they may be active throughout the day.

Coyotes bed in sheltered areas but generally use underground dens only when raising young. In urban environments dens can be under storage sheds and bushes and in culverts, dug holes in arroyos, ditch banks and fields.

Coyotes produce litters of 5-7 pups.

Coyotes are more territorial during denning and aggressive behavior, especially towards dogs, may be exhibited.

Both adult male and female coyotes hunt and bring food to their young. Food requirements rise dramatically during pup rearing, therefore, summer is a period of increased conflict for humans and urban coyotes. By 3-4 months the pups are foraging with their parents and will stay with them until late summer or fall while they become better able to survive on their own.

## Methods of Control

The City of Huntsville suggests trying these non-lethal, proactive methods of control.

**Eliminate Food Sources:** Cleanup food sources like pet food, birdseed, fruit and garbage, daily.

**Eliminate Protective Cover:** Trim or remove brush and ground vegetation on your property.

**Practice Hazing Techniques:** Make loud noises, throw stones, disturb den sites and shine bright lights. These efforts encourage coyotes to leave.

**Confine Pets and Livestock:** Keep animals in at night.

**Modify Fencing:** Build adequate fences at least 6' tall to deter most coyotes. Additional fencing information may be obtained from USDA Wildlife Services.

If practiced continuously, these steps may decrease the frequency of coyote sightings in your area. Occasional sightings will likely continue. Reducing opportunities for coyotes to obtain food, water and shelter will encourage them to seek out a more welcoming environment elsewhere.

We recognize that coyotes are a valuable component of a natural environment, but when they habituate to an urban environment, they can pose a threat to pets and occasionally to people. By following the steps for control and co-existence we can learn to live with them, and avoid negative conflicts.