

# Living with Urban Coyotes

## Myths and Facts



### Myth

### Fact

Coyotes are never seen during daylight hours unless they are infected with rabies.

Coyotes are often seen in the daytime especially if they are rearing pups. They need to hunt more often to feed their young.

Coyotes are pests that do not belong on the East Coast.

While coyotes are not native to the eastern US, they have made their way over from west of the Mississippi to fill an important ecological niche that was left empty when other carnivores were extirpated.

Coyotes pose great threats to human safety.

Coyotes are shy and rarely attack humans. Learning how to coexist safely should further minimize conflict.

Coyotes are greatly reducing the amount of deer in our environment.

Coyotes that live in small family packs are able to prey on deer, however their diet normally consists of insects, fruit, and small mammals.

Trapping, hunting, and killing coyotes is the only way to control their populations.

Coyotes have a compensatory, density-dependent breeding rate, meaning if there is a disturbance that decreases their population, they will birth more pups to make up for it. Therefore, killing or removing coyotes that do not pose a problem will only make the population expand.  
For coyotes  $5 - 5 \neq 0$ , instead  $5 - 5 = 8$ .

Coyotes will prey on cats, small dogs, and livestock.

Steps can be taken to ensure the safety of domesticated pets and livestock. Keep cats indoors, and monitor pets outside. Dogs should be kept on leashes, and all animals should be taken in around dawn and dusk when coyotes are most active. In the case of livestock protection, non-lethal methods should be used such as range riders, fladry, and guard llamas.

A high population of coyotes has been linked with a high incidence of lyme disease.

Although the results of a newly published, highly publicized study have pointed at this conclusion, no direct link has been confirmed between coyote population and lyme disease. More research must be done on this subject to come to concrete conclusions.