



Detroit Animal Care and Control Policy for Neighborhood Coyotes

Coyotes generally avoid human contact and usually are not aggressive towards people. Over the years, coyotes have adapted to city and neighborhood environments. They are members of the dog family, and look similar to a small wolf. Coyotes have lost their fear of humans in neighborhoods because people leave food or garbage outside. Some coyotes may approach people or visit yards even when people are present.

Detroit Animal Care and Control encourages residents to avoid feeding coyotes and leaving food outside and around garbage cans. And also recommend that residents take part in hazing activities to help keep coyotes at a distance. Hazing simply means to scare a coyote away from you, your yard or neighborhood. It is not meant to harm or harass the coyote.

Low Intensity Hazing is an activity, or series of activities that maintain a healthy distance between people and coyotes. Low intensity hazing can be performed by anyone. Residents are encouraged to participate in hazing when coyotes are on their property or when coyotes approach too closely.

Low intensity hazing activities can include:

1. Yelling, waving your arms and clapping – “Go away coyote!”
2. Noisemakers such as whistles, air horns and bells
3. Banging pots and pans together
4. Motion sensor light, blinking holiday lights
5. Deterrent sprays (spray coyote with water hose or vinegar water)
6. Motion sensor sprinkler

Important things to remember:

1. Never run away from a coyote.
2. The coyote may not leave at first, but if you approach it closer and/or increase the level of your hazing, it is very likely the coyote will run away.
3. If the coyote runs away a short distance and then stops and looks at you, continue hazing until it leaves the area.
4. After you have successfully hazed a coyote, contact Detroit Animal Care and Control to make a report as the coyote may return.

High Intensity Hazing is an activity, or series of activities, done in an attempt to change the behaviors of coyotes living in cities and neighborhoods. The goal is to stop or limit unacceptable behavior by the coyote. High intensity hazing should be conducted through **local government agencies and should only be performed by trained individuals**. High intensity hazing can be conducted in areas where coyotes are approaching residents and where there have been reported pet attacks.

High intensity hazing can include:

1. Irritant sprays
2. Slingshots
3. Paintball guns
4. Pepper ball guns
5. Bean bag rounds
6. Fuse ropes, cracker shells, blank rounds

When using these tools, every effort should be made to avoid or minimize the chance of permanent injury or harm to the coyote. The goal of high intensity hazing is to re-instill a fear of human in coyotes.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are you doing about coyotes in the area?

Detroit Animal Care and Control (DACC) received calls from the community about coyotes moving into city neighborhoods. The DACC team will be in neighborhoods using various hazing methods and techniques as to help remove coyotes away from people and their homes. Our goal is to reestablish coyotes' natural caution of people so they are not as likely to approach people too closely.

2. Are you hurting the coyotes?

We do not intend to cause physical injury to the coyotes. Depending on the method of equipment employed, the result of hazing to the animal can include sneezing, bruising and irritation that will only last for a short period.

3. How long will you be doing this?

DACC may utilize hazing for days or weeks as the need arises.

4. What can I do to help?

You can help your local wildlife, and your neighborhood, by following these simple rules:

- a) Do not feed wildlife.
- b) Keep your yard clear of attractants such as pet food, birdfeed, trash, and dirty barbecue grills.
- c) Remove food sources for coyotes and their prey (such as mice).
- d) Monitor pets while they are outside.
- e) Use **low intensity hazing** to move coyotes off your property or away from you if they approach too closely.