

## ***COYOTES IN FLORIDA***

The following information is from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) about [coyote](#)(s). Please find information below and click on any of the hyperlinks in **blue** to learn more.

For individuals with [coyote neighbors](#), we provide [technical assistance](#) through phone and email communications. Brochures are available digitally and in print in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Residents with questions or concerns can reach our [regional offices](#) Monday-Friday 8am-5pm to speak with a wildlife assistance biologist.

### **Learn more about coyotes**

Want more information? Join us for a live virtual presentation on **Tuesday February 10th at 7pm**. An FWC biologist will discuss coyote biology, their history in Florida, and the best methods to reduce possible conflicts with these adaptive, intelligent animals. Visit our [website](#) for the link to join.

[Coyotes](#) are generally not a threat to people and are *usually* easily scared off. Killing and removing coyotes from a community can open a space for another coyote to move in. Coyotes are highly organized in their social structure and removing one or two individuals can disrupt that hierarchy and cause more young to be born at a faster rate. Coyotes can also benefit the ecosystem by providing natural, effortless pest and rodent control. To reduce your chances of a negative encounter, we recommend the following:

### **Step 1 – Secure Attractants:**

Secure all [attractants](#), also known as human related food sources, (pet food, garbage, bird seed, fallen fruit, etc.) as this is commonly [what brings coyotes to the area](#).

Keep in mind that [feeding](#) coyotes, raccoons, foxes, bears, alligators, pelicans, and sandhill cranes is **illegal** per Rule [68A-4.001 General Prohibitions](#). If you believe someone is [feeding coyotes](#), you may report it to the Wildlife Alert Hotline (888) 404-3922.

Unsure what is attracting a coyote to your property? Please refer to our [Wildlife Attractant Scorecard](#) to help determine what attractants are in your area.

### **Domestic animals (pets and livestock):**

[Pets](#) are best protected when they are accompanied by their owner even in a fenced yard, kept inside, and walked on short (6 foot) leashes. Printable brochures are available in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). A “[catio](#)” is an option for providing some protection to small pets while allowing them limited access to outdoors.

[Appropriate livestock enclosures](#) should have 4 walls and a roof to prevent wildlife access. [Electric fence](#) can add extra support and security to your enclosure. [Coyote rollers](#) can prevent fenced yard access. Consistent and persistent use overnight and when you are unavailable to provide oversight for free-ranging livestock provides the best protection for your pets and livestock investment.

### **Step 2 - Hazing:**

[Reinforce the coyotes fear of humans](#) with sudden loud noises and threatening gestures:

- yelling, deploying air horns, banging pots and pans, aluminum cans filled with nuts, stones, or coins
- spray with a water hose, slingshot, paintball gun, to deter coyotes
- installing motion activated deterrents in your yard: [alarms](#) or [sprinkler styles](#) work well.

Find [here](#) a video of staff scaring a coyote off a golf course.

### **Legal options:**

Removal options are available *if* the coyote(s) exhibits nuisance behaviors as defined in our [nuisance rules](#). Presence is not an indicator that the coyote is a nuisance, and non-lethal options as listed above are recommended before exploring lethal or trapping options. The nuisance rule defines nuisance behavior as:

- causes (or is about to cause) property damage,
- presents a threat to public safety, or
- causes an annoyance within, under or upon a building.

If an individual coyote or coyotes exhibit nuisance behavior, they can be:

- trapped and released on the same property
- trapped and relocated:
  1. within the county of capture and a minimum of 40 contiguous acres, and
  2. the releaser has written permission from the owner of the release site, and
  3. the transportation of the wildlife does not violate any rabies alert or area quarantine issued by a county health department or county animal services
- lethally removed if a firearm discharge is allowed in your community. Check with your local law enforcement.

Keep in mind coyotes are difficult to trap with multiple coyotes adding to that difficulty. Following through on securing attractants and hazing are necessary if removal efforts fail and/or new coyotes fill in the void left by the removed coyotes.

If you need assistance with trapping or lethal removal, you may use our webpage as a starting point to hire a [nuisance wildlife control operator](#). This is not an endorsement of their services but a convenience to our citizens.

If you are looking for more information, or information to disseminate to your community, please refer to this [video](#) of our staff presenting our Living With Coyotes presentation for

Broward County. Although there are local references for Broward County residents, the information in the video can be applied for all coyotes throughout Florida.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call, or write. Thank you.

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