

Wiley Coyote ?

As more and more land is developed for human habitation, we will continue to see wildlife in our communities. Arizona Game and Fish suggests ways to cohabit with the wildlife here at the ranch. Coyotes seem to be the most visible nuisances.

Are coyotes dangerous? On rare occasions, human-fed coyotes have bitten people. Although naturally curious, coyotes are usually timid animals that run away if challenged. Coyotes can be a risk to people once they become comfortable around humans, usually as a result of feeding or indifference. When this occurs, coyotes lose their natural fear and learn to see humans, their yards and their pets as food sources and safe havens. You must aggressively discourage coyotes from becoming comfortable around you and your property. Never intentionally feed coyotes, eliminate attractants (food sources, including pet food) from your property and use aggressive gestures toward coyotes.

What should I do if a coyote approaches me? Remember, humans are dominant and must act that way. Some things to remember:

- Show you are dominant by keeping eye contact with the animal.
- Yell or make loud noises, use a whistle or shake a can filled with pebbles.
- Encourage coyotes to leave -- spray with a hose, or throw sticks or rocks at them.
- Don't stimulate a coyote's instinct by running.
- Pick up small pets.
- Protect small children so they do not panic and run.
- Also, to scare a coyote away, act as large and threatening as possible. Make aggressive gestures with your arms and legs, or wave an object at the animal.

How can I keep my pets safe? Pets most likely to be endangered are either off-leash or smaller than 25 pounds. Coyotes have taken cats and smaller dogs in the vicinity of their owners and, occasionally, right off the leash. Coyotes in groups have also been reported to attack larger dogs or after one or two have been lured away from the owner. Here are suggestions for keeping your dog or cats safe.

- Allow pets off-leash only in enclosed areas. If your dog is off-leash, be sure it has immediate recall response to prevent conflicts with the coyotes and other wildlife.
- If you see a coyote when walking your dog, let the coyote know you are there. Either gather your dog in your arms or keep it as close to you as possible, while also using some of the deterrents described above. Move toward an area of human activity.
- Keep cats indoors or in a secure outdoor enclosure to protect them from coyotes, other wildlife (owls, hawks, etc.) and also from cars, domestic dogs and disease.
- Supervise small pets at all times when outdoors.

What about children's safety? Small children can be at risk from coyotes. However, in Arizona, it's rare for a coyote to bite any human. In Maricopa County, 18 coyote bites were reported between 1997 and 2014, and 15 of those bites were attributed to people feeding the coyotes. Supervise children under 5 years old wherever wildlife may be a concern, especially

near a source of water like a pool, on streets that coyotes use as travel corridor, and with domestic dogs that could attract or fight with coyotes.

I hope you found these tips helpful, I know I did. Bottom line: be smart around all wildlife.

On a different note, please remember our 3 golden rules: 1. Please watch your speed on Gainey Ranch. 2. Keep your garage door closed when not in use. 3. Keep your garbage cans in and out at appropriate times.

As always, the security team thanks you for all the support and help that you, the residents at the ranch, provide us throughout the year.

Mike Anderson
Director of Security