



How to Act when Near a Coyote

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Coyotes are a member of the canine family and are often found in wilderness areas. While they may be known as cute, cuddly animals from TV, coyotes are wild animals, and should be treated with respect. Follow this guide to safely avoid a confrontation with a coyote.

Method
1

Defending Yourself at Close Range

- 1 **Look at the coyote while slowly backing away.** Maintain eye contact. Coyotes are generally frightened of people and will not confront you.
- 2 **Make yourself as large and imposing-looking as possible.** This can be achieved by holding your backpack above your head or opening up your jacket.
- 3 **Shout or yell to frighten the coyote.** Keep making noise.
- 4 **Throw sticks or rocks to scare away the coyote.**

Method
2

Dealing With an Entire Pack

Coyotes are known to live in a pack, so be careful.^[1]

- 1 **Do not approach a pack.**
 - Give them ample space.
- 2 **Don't stare at any of the coyotes or act threatening toward them.**
- 3 **Most coyotes prefer to avoid human contact, so follow the above instructions make lots of noise.**
 - Once coyotes become aware of a human presence, they will probably avoid you.

Method
3

Staying Safe in Coyote Territory

- 1 **Be vigilant with your children and pets.** Make sure they don't get too close, since they can be drawn towards animals.

Community Q&A

Will I can hear young coyotes howling near my home?

Just stay inside, especially if it's nighttime. Make sure your pets are safe as well.

wikiHow
Contributor

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Am I in danger if I hear coyotes near my house in the mornings?

wikiHow Contributor

No, but be sure that any pets are indoors (or behind a fence). And keep the area clear of food, trash, etc., which might attract the animals. Coyotes are not really a danger to adult humans, as they are small and afraid of people. They could potentially harm pets or unattended small children, though.

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What if a pack surrounds your campsite and howls?

wikiHow Contributor

Most likely, they're not surrounding you, they're just moving about in their territory, which just so happens to include your recently established campsite. Keep all food, food scraps, trash, and smelly-items put away in the car or tied in a tree (especially if it's bear territory as well). Keep a fire burning until you're ready for sleep, and keep a flashlight accessible in case you need to scare any intruders away from your campsite. They're far more interested in your scraps than they are in you.

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Is it common in New England to be attacked by a coyote?

wikiHow Contributor

Not really. Only if you are in deep woods or the country is it common.

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To get to work, I have to ride my bicycle through an area with high coyote activity. What should I do?

wikiHow Contributor

If you can't find an alternative mode of transportation (by car, bus, or carpool), take some precautions such as carrying pepper spray with you. Coyote attacks on humans are rare.

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Will you get attacked by a coyote if you are on a trampoline?

wikiHow Contributor

If the coyote is interested in you, it doesn't matter where you are. It's safer if you stay inside.

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What should I do if I am scared?

wikiHow Contributor

You should call your parents or the nearest person around or dial 911. Whatever you do, DO NOT RUN! If you run, the coyotes will think you are a threat, and they will chase you.

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How do I protect an outdoor cat from coyotes?

wikiHow Contributor

Keep the cat indoors. Domestic cats are very damaging to the populations of small mammals and birds in their territory and will even kill for sport. It is safer for your cat, and for your backyard ecosystem, to be an "indoor cat."

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What do I do if I am walking home and see a coyote?

wikiHow Contributor

Slowly back away and make sure you don't stare them in the eyes or act threateningly.

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Tips

- If you are camping with a pet, keep them somewhere where they can't easily escape. It may attract wild animals like coyotes.
- If you get bitten by a coyote, seek medical attention right away!
- Don't keep any food inside a the tent as this attracts wild animals. Make sure that you hang all your food in a tree or keep it in a place far from your camp. This includes strong smelling "non-food" items such as toothpaste, deodorant and soap.
- To scare a coyote away make a lot of noise.
- If you have a flashlight then flicker it on and off to distract them.
- It is very very important to maintain eye contact if you take your eyes off of the coyote for a second it will attack you.

Warnings

- Never run from a coyote. It can run much faster than you.

- Never try to feed a coyote. Feeding wild animals is illegal in the U.S. and Canada, and could result in injury if the animal were to bite you.
- Coyotes often attack humans to protect their pup's lives. Take care not to go too close to a coyote pup.
- Never let your child or pet interact with a coyote!

Sources and Citations

1. Dog owner's guide to coyotes and other members of the Canine family