

## Coyote Yard Audit Checklist

Key attractants for coyotes are: food, water and shelter. We encourage you to take steps to eliminate attractants on your property in order to minimize conflicts with coyotes. Minimizing conflicts is most effective when the entire neighborhood works together.

<b>Food &amp; Water</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Recommended Action(s)</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Are you feeding coyotes?			If YES, stop feeding coyotes immediately. You are putting your neighbors and their pets at risk.	It is against the law to feed wild animals. Coyotes that are fed by people lose their fear of humans and develop territorial behavior that can lead to aggression.
Are you feeding feral cats (domestic cats gone wild)?			If YES, stop feeding them. You are putting your neighbors' pets at risk.	Coyotes will eat the food left out for feral cats. They also will prey on the cats you are feeding.
Are you feeding birds, squirrels or other wildlife?			If YES, stop feeding wildlife immediately. If you must have a bird feeder, be sure to clean up fallen seed regularly.	It is against the law to feed wild animals. Coyotes are omnivorous and will eat birdseed. Also, they are attracted to the rodents that are attracted by the feeders.
Do you have food for your dog or cat outside?			If YES, stop feeding pets outdoors, and store all pet food indoors. If feeding pets outside is necessary, do so during daylight hours, supervise them and remove the bowl promptly.	Leaving pet food outside is an invitation to coyotes. Coyotes will associate food rewards with people and continue to return.
Do you have water available for coyotes to drink?			If YES, remove standing water- such as pet water bowls. Consider emptying decorative fountains.	Coyotes stay in environments where food and water are available.
Do you let your cat go outside unattended?			If YES, this is the time to transition your cat to being an indoor cat. A fully enclosed "catio" is a safe option for outside access.	If outside in an unprotected area, cats may be killed by coyotes. Once a coyote finds easy prey, it will continually hunt in the area.
Do you let your dog outside unattended in an unsecured yard?			If YES, either be outside and close to your dog when he/she is in your yard or secure your yard with appropriate fencing.	If outside in an unprotected area, dogs can be injured or killed by coyotes.
Do you have fruit trees?			If YES, keep fruit trees fenced, pick up fallen fruit around trees and remove fruit from low branches.	Coyotes are omnivorous and will eat fruit that has fallen on the ground or from low branches.
Could a coyote or other animal get into your trash or green can?			If YES, secure trash containers with locking lids or bungee cord.	Coyotes are omnivorous. Once they find an easy source of food, they will keep coming back.
Do you have a compost pile?			If YES, do not include meat or dairy unless the area is fully enclosed.	Coyotes are omnivorous. Once they find an easy source of food, they will keep coming back.
Do you have an outdoor barbeque grill?			If YES, be sure to clean up food around grills after each use.	Coyotes are omnivorous. Once they find an easy source of food, they will keep coming back.

Shelter	No	Yes	Recommended Action(s)	Rationale
Do you have shrubs or bushes that are low enough to the ground that a coyote could hide in?			If YES, trim lower branches at least two feet above ground level.	Trimming vegetation helps eliminate hiding places for coyotes and potential sites for them to build their dens.
Do you have a deck a coyote could get under?			If YES, secure the space to keep coyotes out.	Coyotes can use spaces under decks as hiding places or locations for dens.
Do you have a woodpile that a coyote could hide in or behind?			If YES, cover or enclose your woodpile, so that a coyote can't use it as a hiding place.	Coyotes can use woodpiles as hiding places.
Do you have any other places on your property that could serve as a coyote hiding place or denning site?			If YES, restrict access to any location on your property that a coyote could use as a hiding place or den, such as a hollowed- out tree trunk or rock outcropping.	Coyotes can use a variety of protected locations for dens or hiding places.

### Options to Keep Coyotes Out of Your Yard

**If you are unable to eliminate all coyote attractants** or you want additional protection, fencing is a good option. It is important to understand that coyotes don't leap fences in a single bound. Rather, they grip the top of the fence with their front paws and use their back legs to kick themselves up and over the fence. They also are excellent diggers and can burrow under fences. Here are a few fencing options to help keep coyotes out of your yard:

**1. Wire fence with out-ward facing extenders.** A six-foot, woven-wire fence with extenders that face outward at the top of each post should prevent coyotes from climbing over. Outward facing wire extenders also can be added to existing fences. To keep coyotes from burrowing underneath, an effective fence needs to extend at least 12 inches below the surface, or have a galvanized-wire apron that extends out from the fence at least 15 inches.

**2. Coyote Rollers.** Coyote rollers, affixed at the top of an existing fence or wall prevents a coyote from being able to climb up on the top of the fence. Depending on the location of the fence or wall, you may also have to add something to keep coyotes from burrowing underneath.

**3. Install motion-activated** sprinklers or lights. Many inexpensive coyote deterrents are available on Amazon.