

Common Mistakes

1. Stopping hazing behavior before the animal leaves the area. Hazing must continue until the animal responds and definitely removes itself from the situation.

Expect slower responses initially, response will be faster the more often the coyote experiences hazing.

Common coyote initial response:

Coyote will freeze and/or look at hazer without leaving.

Hazing response: Increase level of hazing, add sounds, stamp feet, throw things, make eye contact, approach or run towards animal.

Common coyote initial response:

Coyote will run short distance away and stop, looking back and/or returning.

Hazing response: DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL SURE IT'S GONE, increase level of hazing, add sounds, stamp feet, throw things, approach or run towards animal.

2. Coyote not associating hazing with a person. Do not haze from inside a building, car, behind vegetation or anywhere that coyote cannot directly see you. The goal is to get the animal to focus on the hazer as the source of harassment or potential danger.

3. Changing your own behavior to avoid approaching coyotes. You should address the coyote and make sure it changes its actions while continuing on your desired path.

For information and tips on living with different urban wildlife species visit:
Denvergov.org/wildlife



Questions?

- Contact a wildlife ecologist
ashley.delaup@denvergov.org
303 455-0785
- Call or email 311
- Contact your local city council person
- Call Colorado Division of Wildlife
303 291-7227



How to Haze

Effective reshaping of coyote behavior



What is Hazing?

A training method that employs immediate use of deterrents to move an animal(s) out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity.

Hazing helps maintain coyotes' fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood areas such as backyards and play areas. Hazing does not damage animals, people or property.

Tools for Hazing

Using a variety of hazing tools is critical! Coyotes can habituate or get used to individual items, sounds and actions. Tools are used to startle the animal(s) and make them focus on you as a potential source of danger.

Noisemakers: voice, whistles, air horns, bells, "shaker" cans, pots, pie pans

Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls (sling shots, pepper balls and paint balls are not legal in Denver)

Other: hoses, water guns or spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, bear repellent, walking sticks



General Considerations

1. Level of hazing needs to match activity of the coyotes. Coyotes in open spaces are properly located, best practice is to leave them alone and be aware of their presence. Haze if approached, keep pets close to you. Coyotes out late at night or early morning are exhibiting normal and expected behavior.
2. Hazing must be more exaggerated, aggressive and consistent when beginning a hazing program. As coyotes "learn" there is less effort needed to maintain and get appropriate response.

It is common for coyotes not to respond to hazing early in the process. They lack the relevant context to respond properly (to leave) with no hazing history.

3. The same techniques and tools can be used for one animal or multiple animals. Usually others will follow the dominant animal's response in a group. **DO NOT ignore, turn back on, and avoid hazing just because there are multiple animals.**
4. The more often a single coyote is hazed by a variety of tools, techniques, and people, the more effective hazing will be to change the animal's behavior in the future.

5. Hazing must be directly associated with the person involved in the hazing actions. The coyote must be aware of where the potential threat is coming from and identify the person involved.

6. Coyotes recognize individual people and animals in their territories. They can learn to avoid or to harass specific individuals in response to behavior of the person and/or pet.

7. Coyotes have routine habits, paths and resting spots. Identifying their routines can help us target which behavior to change.

8. Always maintain certain levels of hazing so that new coyotes do not learn or return to unacceptable habits caused by lack of fear.



9. Remove access to items that attract coyotes to private property such as pet food, messy bird feeders, open trash and compost.

10. Coyotes are skittish by nature. Habituated behavior is learned and reinforced by human behavior. Coyotes AVOID aggressive people.

11. TELL A FRIEND! Changing behavior requires community involvement.