



# Coyotes in the Community

**Allison Colter**

**Region Wildlife Biologist**

**Game Management Section**

# Coyote Basics



**Weight:** 30 – 45lbs

**Length:** 42 – 56in

**Height:** 21 – 25in

**Colors:** variations on red-brown  
or black-brown mottling with grey

- Simply seeing a coyote is not cause for concern
- Do not approach or try to feed coyotes (directly or indirectly)
  - Pet food
  - Bird seed
  - Garbage

# Common Reasons Public Fears Wildlife

- The Unknown and rumored behaviors
  - Myth: “Coyotes pack hunt”
    - They’re actually mostly solitary, only grouping with their pups some times of the year.
  - Myth: “Coyotes howl before they hunt”
    - They howl to locate or defend territories, but not prior to hunting. They primarily eat rodents and small mammals. When people hear what sounds like coyotes attacking a dog or other animal, it is just their pack sounds. They don’t make a lot of noise when killing prey.
  - Myth: “Coyotes kill for fun”
    - They don’t expend unnecessary energy to kill something they’re not going to eat. If coyotes become fearless of humans and approach, that is uncharacteristic.
  - Myth: “Coyotes are invasive”
    - They’re native, habitat generalist not invasive. Invasive indicates becoming overpopulated and harming their new environment.



CAMERA 1

23 DEC 2020 01:19 am

# Year at a Glance

- More active:
  - Sept – January : Pups and transient coyotes seeking territories
  - February to March: Breeding season
- Less active:
  - April – October: Pups born, and stay close to mother until early fall



# Deterrent Options

- Remove food sources and attractants – They're omnivores so their diet also includes plant material, berries, and/or nuts, even birdseed (or garbage if left out and available!)
- Haze if you see them
- Noise: banging pots or yelling
- Repellents: water hoses, walking sticks, or of course pepper sprays, motion sensor flood lights
- Reduce den site options around home (Get rid of brush piles or old root balls that are near your home)



# Keep Pets Safe

- Pets inside, leashed, or fenced in
- Be alert walking at dawn, dusk, or night
- Carry hazing repellents when walking
- Simplest things to do is keep your pets inside at night, or leashed when walking. keep pets in a fence in backyard but monitor small pets when outdoors.
- Overall just be alert of your surrounds. Coyotes are most active during early mornings, evenings, and at night.



[georgiawildlife.com/regulations/trapping](http://georgiawildlife.com/regulations/trapping)



# USDA and GADNR

- Removing Coyotes is not going to eliminate them
  - What are your reasons: pros vs cons?
  - Keep in mind, removing coyotes is not going to eliminate them, so consider your reasons for removal before setting all that up. When you remove the currently established coyotes, they'll be gone for a time, but those transient coyotes will eventually move in establishing it as their new territory.
  - Coyotes pros: They're our apex predator and keep our rodent population at bay. Coyote cons: considered a nuisance wildlife species.
- Ranger Hotline: GADNR's wildlife emergencies (i.e. deer stuck in fence or present injured wildlife)
  - 1-800-241-4113
- USDA's Wildlife Services: Must go through HOA
- Chatham Co Trappers: Must go through HOA

# Question & Answer Period

Thank You For Your Participation & Support



## Our Mission:

Conserve and promote fishing, hunting and wildlife resources through management, education, and scientific research.

<https://georgiawildlife.com/preventing-wildlife-conflicts>