

Coyotes

Michigan Coyote

[Graphic: Coyote]

[Graphic: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo]

Coyotes

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Species: Canidae – A member of the wild canine family.

Life Span: 6 to 8 years in the wild.

Home Range: In urban areas, averages 2-5 square miles. In more rural areas, home range size may be larger, averaging 8 to 12 square miles. The size depends on the food and cover available as well as the number of other coyotes in the area.

Litter Size: In Michigan, 4 to 7 pups.

Vocalizations: Use several types of vocalizations including: howls, yelps and other sounds similar to what domestic dogs make. Considered the most vocal of North American mammals.

Appearance: Generally greyish brown with white fur on throat and belly, (individual colors and patterns may vary). Fur is dense and thick, often giving them a larger appearance.

Size: Coyotes may resemble a medium-sized German Shepard.

[Graphic: Size comparison outlines of fox, coyote and gray wolf]

[Graphic: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Logo]

People and Coyotes Can Coexist!

People are most likely to see and hear coyotes during their breeding period, which typically occurs January through March. If there is a den nearby, people may also see the adults throughout the summer as they care for their pups. As fall approaches, pups begin dispersing from the den site to establish home ranges of their own. These young dispersing animals are sometimes more visible. Coyotes are active day and night; however, peaks in activity occur at sunrise and sunset.

In urban or suburban areas, coyotes will take advantage of the small mammals and birds that bird feeders and gardens often attract. They may even eat some of the fruits and veggies too. Coyotes are opportunistic feeders and have a keen sense of smell. Garbage or pet food that is left out overnight may also draw their attention. If there are coyotes in the area, eliminating these potential food sources may make the area less appealing to them.

For your safety, NEVER intentionally feed or try to tame coyotes -- it is in your and the coyote's best interest! It is critical that they retain their natural fear of people.

Keep small pets indoors, or accompany them outside and keep them on a leash.

If you see a coyote in your area, try to scare it off by yelling, clapping or making other loud noises. Most coyotes are naturally afraid of people and will leave if you frighten them.

Remember, coyotes, like any wild animal, can act unpredictably and should be treated with respect and enjoyed from a distance.

Coyotes are incredibly smart and adaptable critters that have learned to survive in just about any habitat – including human created habitats. There are simple ways for you to be coyote SMART. Just remember....

- S – Safe to enjoy from a distance.
- M – Make noise if they are too close.
- A – Accompany pets outside.
- R – Remove bird feeders – these attract small birds and mammals – a coyote’s natural food!
- T – Take in the trash, pet foods and other possible attractants.

[Graphic: State of Michigan] Coyotes are native to North America and can be found throughout Michigan. They have expanded their range naturally.

[Graphic: Rodent] Coyotes are skilled hunters and provide people with free pest control services by keeping populations of mice and rats in check!

[Graphic: Binoculars] Coyotes are valued by many people throughout Michigan as a part of the ecosystem, a predator, and a recreational opportunity.

[Graphic: Coyote] Coyotes are shy creatures, avoiding people whenever possible. However, they are also naturally curious and may venture into an area if they smell something that might be a meal.

[Graphic: Cityscape] Coyotes are an incredibly adaptable animal and have been able to learn how to survive in just about every environment, including urban areas.

Know the Laws

Coyote hunting and trapping seasons are available statewide. Details on season dates and bag limits can be found in the current Hunting and Trapping Digest, found online at www.michigan.gov/dnrdigests. If problems exist outside regular seasons, coyotes can be killed without a hunting license on private land by the landowner or a designee if the coyote is doing or about to do damage to private property, pets, livestock, or humans. Before beginning any hunting or trapping activities, please check with local ordinances to determine if these activities are allowed in your area. For safety, be sure to adhere to the safety zones around any homes or buildings.

If hunting or trapping are allowable in your area but you do not wish to take part in these activities yourself, trappers from the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association may be able to help. You can learn more about their landowner assistance program at: <http://www.mtpca.com/landowner.html>.

In many urban areas, hunting or trapping may not be allowed for certain reasons. In this case, specially permitted nuisance control companies can be hired to assist landowners in the safe removal of problem animals. A list of companies are available at www.michigan.gov/wildlife and click on "Rehab & Conflict."

Learn more about Michigan's coyotes and how to prevent conflicts by visiting www.michigan.gov/wildlife and click on "Wildlife Species". Coyote information is found under the "Mammals" section.

DNR Offices

Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit us online at mi.gov/dnr.

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Crystal Falls, MI 49920
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Detroit, MI 48207
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