

FAQ's about Coyotes in Emerald Isle



Do coyotes pose a danger to me or my family? Attacks on people, including children, are extremely rare. In fact, statistically you have better chance of being bitten by the neighbor's dog, than by a coyote. Normal coyote behavior is to be curious, but wary, when close to humans. Like other wildlife, they will become bold and habituated if people feed them, either purposely or inadvertently, such as with garbage or outdoor pet food. In fact, most bites on humans occur when people are trying to feed coyotes.

Do coyotes pose a danger to my pets? Possibly. Coyotes view outdoor cats and small dogs (under 40lbs) as prey, while larger dogs are viewed as threats to their territory and /or their pups. Coyotes are most likely to confront larger dogs during the mating and pup rearing period, April through July. Most attacks on pets occur when they are unleashed and not under the control of the owner. Coyotes also rarely contract rabies.

How can I protect my pets? Small pets are the most vulnerable and should never be left unattended, even in a fenced yard, and large dogs should not be left tied up outside. Always keep your dog on a leash and never let your dog chase after coyotes. If coyotes approach you while walking a pet, it is best to yell at the coyote and pick up your pet prior to the coyote getting close, if possible. Act aggressive and let the coyote know you are the larger animal. Slowly back away with your pet while continuing to watch the coyote.

What should I do if I see a coyote on my property? Coyotes are naturally timid animals and will usually flee at the sight of a human. If they linger or approach, do not turn your back or run. Make yourself as big and loud as possible. Wave your arms, clap your hands and shout in a loud and authoritative voice; make noise by banging pots and pans, using an air horn or blowing a whistle; throw small sticks, stones or tennis balls at the coyote. Spraying coyotes with a garden hose is also very effective. Coyotes tend to avoid areas where they perceive possible threats or danger.

How can I avoid attracting coyotes to my property? Do not feed your pets outdoors. It is not a good idea to feed any wildlife, but you should NEVER feed coyotes, as they will come to associate you with food and lose their natural fear of humans. If you are going to feed birds, use bird feeders that keep seed off the ground. Coyotes are attracted to small game and will view these areas as targets for hunting. Keep garbage containers closed and sealed so that coyotes cannot access trash. Never deposit used grease, bones or table scraps on property or in compost piles. Keep grills clean and put away when not in use. Remember, that coyotes spend most of their time hunting for food and will frequent areas that they associate with food sources.

What are my options if I want coyotes removed from my property?

Option 1: Outside the normal trapping season in Carteret County (*December 1 – February 28*), a depredation permit is required to trap and remove coyotes from your property. Permits may be obtained by contacting the NCWRC at 866-318-2401 or going to their website at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Other-Licenses-Permits/Coyote-Hunting-and-Depredation-Permits#6383508-how-to-obtain-permit>. You can also contact the Emerald Isle Police Department at 252-354-2021 for information and assistance in obtaining a permit.

Option 2: During the normal trapping season in Carteret County (*December 1 - February 28*), a property owner may allow a licensed trapper to trap coyotes on their property. The police department MUST be notified and all trapping must be conducted in accordance with all NC State Laws and Emerald Isle Town Ordinance Sec. 8-57.

Am I allowed to shoot coyotes if they are on my property? No. The discharge of a firearm within the town limits of Emerald Isle is prohibited. The use of a bow and arrow for hunting or shooting of an animal is also prohibited. (*Emerald Isle Town Ordinance 12-2*)

What if I have more questions about coyotes? The Emerald Isle Police Department is available to answer any questions that you may have or assist you with information about how to obtain permits through the NCWRC. For questions or more information, please call 252-354-2021. You can also contact the NCWRC at 866-318-2401 or 919-707-4011 for answers to questions and technical guidance on addressing coyote concerns on your property.

For more information you can also visit: www.coyotesmarts.org.