THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Coyote Hazing **GUIDELINES**

How to Haze for Effective Reshaping of Coyote Behavior

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Coyotes who've adapted to urban and suburban environments, however, may realize there are few real threats and approach people or feel safe visiting yards even when people are present. These coyotes have become habituated (lost their fear of humans), likely due to the ready availability of food in our neighborhoods. Sometimes, this food is deliberately provided by people who like to watch wild animals or misguidedly feel they are helping them by offering food. These bold coyotes should not be tolerated or enticed, but given the message that they should not be so brazen.

CHARLES WOOD

Hazing is a method that uses deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourages an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain coyotes' fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and playgrounds.

HAZING METHODS

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical because coyotes can habituate to individual items, sounds, and actions.

- Yell and wave your arms while approaching the coyote.
- Use noisemakers (e.g. your voice, whistles, air horns, bells, soda cans filled with pennies or dead batteries, pots and pans banged together).
- Use projectiles (e.g. sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls).
- Try other repellents (e.g. hoses, water guns with vinegar water, spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, bear repellant, or walking sticks).

"GO AWAY COYOTE!"

The simplest method of hazing a coyote involves being **loud** and **large**. Watch this fun video for a demonstration: *bit.ly/19hkRB2*

If a coyote has not been hazed before, he might not immediately run away when you yell at him. If this happens, you might need to walk towards the coyote and increase the intensity of your hazing. If the coyote does run away, he might stop after a distance and look back at

REMEMBER...

- **NEVER** run away from a coyote!
- If the coyote doesn't leave at first, continue approaching him and/or increase the intensity of your hazing until he runs away. If he runs a short distance away and then stops and looks at you, continue hazing him until he leaves the area completely.
- If a coyote returns after you've successfully hazed him or her, continue to haze the coyote as you did before. It typically takes only one or two times to haze a coyote away for good.
- Contact authorities and do not interact with a coyote whom you suspect of being sick or injured. Although coyotes are skittish by nature and generally aren't aggressive towards people, engaging animals who are sick or injured can result in unpredictable behavior.

you. It's important to continue to haze the coyote until he leaves the area completely. You might need to use multiple tactics, such as shaking noisemakers, stomping your feet, and spraying him with a hose to get him to leave.

DOG-WALKING TOOLS

There are several tools for repelling coyotes that you can carry with you while walking your dog. Of course, remember that you should always walk your dog on a leash. If you see a coyote, either pick up your dog (if possible) or place him or her behind you before hazing the coyote. Then:

- Blow a whistle or air horn at the coyote.
- Squirt a squirt gun at the coyote.
- Yell and wave your arms.
- Use a homemade noisemaker, such as pennies in a sippy cup or soda can (sealed with duct tape).
- Pick up sticks or rocks and throw them towards the coyote.

IN YOUR YARD

Keeping pets and pet food inside is the best way to keep coyotes out of your yard. If you do encounter coyotes, all of the above methods can be used in your yard. First, try the "Go Away Coyote!" method (yell and wave your arms as you approach the coyote). You can also squirt the coyote with your garden hose or a squirt gun or bang pots and pans together.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Hazing is most effective when an individual coyote is hazed by a variety of people using a variety of tools and techniques.
- ✓ A coyote who is being hazed must be able to recognize that the potential threat is coming from a person. Therefore, hiding behind a bush and throwing rocks or hazing from inside your car isn't effective.
- ✓ You can use hazing techniques and tools for one animal or multiple animals. There is usually a dominant animal in the group who will respond, and others will follow her lead.
- ✓ Don't stop hazing after it's successful. Coyotes or their pups could return to their unacceptable habits or behaviors if you stop.
- ✓ Share this information by teaching your family, friends, and neighbors how to haze coyotes too! The more people that get involved in hazing, the more quickly you will see results.

For more information and tips, visit our website at *humanesociety.org/coyotes.*