

Do Coydogs exist?

Coyotes are biologically able to reproduce with domestic dogs, but rarely do. Domestic dog/ coyote hybrids, referred to as coydogs, are usually born in the winter. Since domestic dogs that manage to pair with a female coyote do not remain with her to assist in parental care, the young rarely survive. DNA sampling of coyote tissue in the Northeast shows no coyote/dog crosses. However, they do have a mixture of wolf DNA.



Information contained herein is provided courtesy of
The New Hampshire Fish & Game Department,
USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services, and
E. Kinkead "Coyote: The Species Indestructible" in
Wilderness All Around Us

**PORTSMOUTH
ANIMAL CONTROL**

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**ANIMAL
CONTROL**

Coyotes



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A Coyote's Legal Status

In New Hampshire there is no closed season on coyotes. They may be taken by trapping or shooting, but it is illegal to use poison as a control method. It is a good idea to check with the state wildlife agency before undertaking any control methods. Call Wildlife Services 603-223-6832 for more information.

Coyote Management

Coyotes are elusive, adaptive, intelligent animals that manage to hold their own when living in close contact with humans. In urban areas they are more likely to associate people with an easy and dependable source of food and they can become very bold. They will come up to the door of a house if food is regularly present and coyotes have learned that small dogs and cats are easy prey.

Here are some steps you can take to reduce the chance of a human-coyote conflict:

- ❖ Do not feed coyotes;
- ❖ Eliminate outside sources of water;
- ❖ Position bird feeders so that coyotes cannot get the feed. Coyotes may be attracted by bread, table scraps and seed as well as by the birds that come to the feeder;

- ❖ Do not discard edible garbage where coyotes can get to it;
- ❖ Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors;
- ❖ Feed Pets indoors and store pet food where it is inaccessible to wildlife;
- ❖ Trim and clean, near ground level, any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for coyotes or their prey;
- ❖ Don't leave small children unattended outside if coyotes have been frequenting the area;
- ❖ Don't allow pets to run free. Walk your dog on a leash and accompany your pet outside, especially at night;
- ❖ If you see coyotes around your home or property, chase them away by shouting, making loud noises or throwing rocks.

As for your safety, coyotes pose little risk to people. In New Hampshire there has never been a report of a coyote attacking a person.

Coyote Habits

Coyotes are generalists, eating whatever food is seasonally abundant. Coyotes are known to feed on mice, squirrels, woodchucks, snowshoe hare, fawns, house cats, carrion, amphibians, garbage, insects and fruit. Coyotes utilize forested habitats,

shrubby open fields, marshy areas and river valleys.

The coyote is a social animal that generally selects a lifelong mate. Coyotes are quite vocal during their January to March breeding season. Both parents care for their young, occasionally with the assistance of older offspring. Four to eight pups are born in early May. Within a year some pups will disperse long distances to find their own territories, while other offspring may remain with their parents and form a small pack.

Territories range in size from 5-25 square miles and are usually shared by a mated pair and occasionally their offspring. Coyotes mark and defend their territories against other unrelated coyotes and sometimes against other canid species.

Health Concerns

Coyotes, like all warm blooded animals, may contract rabies. Their close kinship makes coyotes susceptible where there are populations of unvaccinated domestic dogs and is the principal reason that an outbreak, or epizootic, of rabies occurred in parts of the Southwest recently.

Finally

Coyotes fulfill an ecological niche as a predator, thereby helping to regulate rodent and other nuisance wildlife populations. For this reason they should not be needlessly killed or removed.

