



Stay Alert. Coyotes are Present in Rivendell. Tips on How Best to Live in Harmony with Coyotes.

By Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

Rivendell residents were recently sent an email alert about Coyotes. They have been reported in our community. Coyotes rarely pose a threat to people. However, homeowners need to be careful especially when walking small pets after dark and early morning. Small pets attract predators and everyone needs to be cautious when out after dark.

Coyotes, medium-sized canines, a close relative of the domestic dog, is extremely adaptable and can be found in rural, suburban and urban landscapes. They are typically shy and elusive but encounters between people and coyotes in Florida, including Rivendell, are occurring more often. Coyotes are here to stay and play a vital role in the food chain, as do most wildlife, to help maintain balanced ecosystems by controlling populations of other animals. We need to understand how best to live in harmony with coyotes in our community.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has some helpful tips to keep your family and pets safe. Coyotes rarely pose a threat to people, especially adults. They can be curious but are also timid and generally run away if challenged. If a coyote approaches too closely, there are methods you can use to deter it and frighten it away – known as “Hazing.” (Click <https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/coyotes/> for detailed Hazing information.)

- Waving your arms and yelling will usually get a coyote to retreat (unless there is a den with pups nearby). Continue hazing efforts until the coyote has completely left the area.
- Noisemakers are often effective deterrents to coyotes, including air horns, banging pots and pans and homemade noisemakers. A “coyote shaker” made from placing pebbles or coins in an empty drink container can be an effective noisemaker. (Some noisemakers may also scare pets or small children.)
- Throwing small stones or sticks towards (but not at) a coyote will usually cause the animal to leave. Spraying water from a hose or using bear repellent can also be effective; but do not attempt to hurt the coyote.
- Vary your methods of hazing so that the coyote does not become desensitized.
- If a coyote approaches a child, an adult should first yell loudly to startle the coyote and then move towards the coyote. Lift the child as quickly as possible and back away. Do not run from a coyote, as this may cause the animal to chase.
- Teach children to recognize coyotes. If children are approached by a coyote, have them move slowly inside and yell loudly – teach them not to run, approach, or feed coyotes.
- Never feed coyotes either intentionally or unintentionally. This includes placing food outside to attract other wildlife, such as pet food, fallen fruit and seed around bird feeders.
- Keep cats indoors and dogs on a leash.



Coyotes rarely pose a threat to people. Review these helpful tips that you can use if a coyote approaches too closely to deter it and frighten it away; known as “Hazing.”



(Source: myFWC.com)