



PO BOX 98000 | BATON ROUGE LA | 70898

Living with Louisiana Wildlife: Responding to Urban Coyotes

Characteristics of Coyotes in Louisiana

Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Carnivora, Canidae,

Scientific Name: Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

- 20-35 lbs; 31-44" length; ~2ft tall
- Yellow iris
- silvery-gray, reddish brown coat
- Pointed ears; drooping tail
- Occasionally Melanistic in color



- **Diet:** omnivorous & opportunistic- insects, rodents, rabbits, reptiles, birds, ducks, eggs, fruits, carrion, livestock (LDWF study of stomach contents = small native mammals, rats and sandwich wrapper)
 - * RARELY-very small pets (puppies/kittens/cats/small dog breeds)
- **Reproduction:**
 - Breeding takes place January -May; avg. litter 4-7 pups: litter size dependent upon food abundance and population density
 - Coyote pups are weaned @ approximately 2 months and disperse from their birth area in the fall
- **Populations:** expanded eastward from western states with the eradication of wolves
- **Habitat:** commonly found throughout LA & US
- **Range:** up 40-60 sq miles (smaller for females, solitary and urban coyotes with reliable food sources average 2-10 sq miles)
- **Sexually dimorphic:** males slightly larger & heavier than females

Normal Coyote Behavior includes the following:

- Coyote observed during the day by the public
- Coyote frequently observed in the same area
- Coyote walking through your lawn or along highways
- Presence of multiple coyotes; pups born in early spring; exit den @ ~ 6 weeks
- Coyote observed hiding or appears to be watching you
- Coyote climbing or sleeping on tree limb or in dense vegetation
- Calling-pups, alarm calls
- Denning in the same area if conditions allow; may voluntarily den in new areas during pup season
- Coyote lying in an field or public area



Abnormal Coyote Behavior includes the following:

- Significant hair loss
- Wobbling or circling
- Seeming partially paralyzed
- Appearing disorientated
- Mutilating itself
- Appears to be agitated
- Bite or snap at imaginary and real objects
- Drool excessively
- Appears tame and seem to have no fear of humans

***IF ANY OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS ARE EXIBITED BY A COYOTE PLEASE CONTACT LDWF OR YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCY**



Nuisance wildlife prevention techniques

- Do not leave small pets unattended outdoors especially during dawn, dusk, and nighttime hours.
- Do not feed wildlife, feral domesticated animals, or pets outdoors (#1 cause of wildlife presence)
- Pen or coop all livestock especially at night: poultry, rabbits, ducks, chickens, domestic animals; (use metal posts)
- Do not dispose of food scraps or bury organic materials in your yard
- Secure garbage cans, compost (or temporarily cease)
- Remove bird feeders and low lying fruit (use metal posts)
- Motion triggered Game Cameras can be used to monitor wildlife activity and to identify sources of property damage

Nuisance animal deterrents

- Install motion sensor sprinklers
- Use mesh greater than .9mm on pens/kennels/enclosures
- Install concrete or wire mesh footing & potentially electric fence wire outside of all pens and enclosures – must install at base and top to be truly effective
- HAZE! HAZE! HAZE!-wave arms, yell, throw tennis balls, use garden hose or water guns

Legal mitigation methods for nuisance wild quadrupeds on private properties

REGULATION PURPOSE:

Authorizes landowners to control nuisance animals only when they are conclusively proven to be creating a nuisance or causing damage to property. The burden of establishing that the animal in question is causing the property damage shall rest with the property owner.

WHAT IS NUISANCE WILDLIFE?

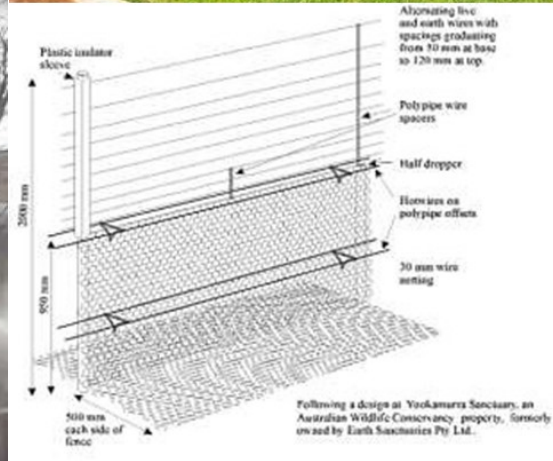
Wildlife affecting humans or causing damage to their property

NUISANCE WILDLIFE IS NOT:

Conflicts between wildlife species and other natural behaviors

Control of nuisance wild quadrupeds: LDWF Regulations continued

- The property owner or his/her designee, with written landowner permission, may trap and relocate to suitable habitat the following species: coyotes, armadillos, nutria, beaver, skunks, opossums, squirrels, rabbits, foxes, bobcats, mink, otter, muskrat, raccoon
- Written permission must be obtained from the property owner where the animals are to be released and such written permission is carried in possession while transport and release activities are taking place.
- Animals are treated in a responsible and humane manner and **released within 12 hours** of capture.
- Traps shall be set in such a manner that provides the trapped animal protection from harassment from dogs and other animals and direct sun exposure.
- Property owners must **comply with all additional local laws and/or municipal ordinances** governing the lethal take or trapping of wildlife and must follow local firearm ordinances.
- **No animal** taken under this provision **or parts** thereof **shall be sold**. A valid trapping license is required to sell or pelt nuisance furbearers during the open trapping season.



Nuisance animal control and reponse contacts:

- 1) Contact a local **Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO)** - these are private individuals/companies licensed by LDWF to provide commercial nuisance wildlife control services to the public

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/nuisance-wildlife-control-and-removal>

- 2) **Wildlife Rehabilitators** - individuals licensed to rehabilitate injured or orphaned animals for their eventual return to the wild

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/injured-orphaned-wildlife>

- 3) Contact your local City, Parish or Local municipal government employees

City, parish, and local officials assigned to animal control duties are exempt from nuisance wildlife trapping permit requirements while on duty and carrying out official business of their respective agency.

Coyote FAQs

Should I be fearful of coyotes?

You should have a healthy respect for coyotes: do not run from or corner any animal; treat them as you would an unwanted dog or bear

How many coyotes are there in my area?

Currently, there are no studies of coyote densities, including urban coyote studies, in Louisiana. Presumably, an area occupied by coyotes should consist of an alpha-pair, their subordinates (if any), and their pups. Overlap should not occur except in overlapping territories (occasional overlap) or in cases of solitary coyotes (There are fewer coyotes in a territory when at least two of the following are removed: food, water, and shelter).

My neighbors and I are not feeding coyotes; why do I see coyotes so frequently?

A survey of your entire neighborhood will likely reveal someone in your neighborhood is either directly or indirectly feeding wildlife or feral domesticated animals. Major landscape changes: habitat destruction, fragmentation, human expansion/development, and increased food availability have and will continue to increase our chances of encountering wildlife.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information provided in the document please contact LDWF Wildlife Permits Program (225)765-2975

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does NOT provide nuisance animal control or removal services. We do however provide technical assistance to the public to assist them with any wildlife related concerns.

NWCOs are permitted to handle most species except deer, bears, migratory birds, and alligators. For more information contact a local LDWF office, or a list of NWCOs can be found on LDWF's web site under wildlife control and removal. <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>

