

# Coyote

(*Canis latrans*)



## Identification:

Size: Average wt. = 20-40 lbs.

Coloration: Brown to salt-and-pepper gray.

Other distinguishing features: Large, bushy tail with black tip.

## Habitat:

Coyotes are extremely adaptable and can be found in all habitats statewide.

## Benefits:

Coyotes are major predators on rodents and rabbits, keeping these animals in check.

## Problems / Concerns:

Coyotes are quite capable of living in urban areas. This in and of itself is not a problem. However, coyotes have been known to get into trash as well as go after small pets left outside at night.

## City Management Policy:

Eradication of this species is neither possible nor recommended. However, the city will not actively manage for the success of this species. The city will maintain secure trash containers to help eliminate artificial food sources. If deemed necessary, the city may trap and destroy a habitually offensive individual.

Note: Trapping and relocating animals does not work. It is not a viable solution.

## Citizen's Responsibility:

Coyotes are a natural part of our local ecosystems and pose no threat to human beings. However, to peacefully coexist with this species, citizens are encouraged to do the following.

1. Keep all pets from roaming the neighborhood.
2. Keep small pets (cats, poodles, etc.) indoors unless accompanied by someone.
3. Don't leave dog food, cat food, etc. out overnight.

## Similar Species:

Coyotes and domestic dogs often interbreed creating hybrids called "coydogs". These animals sometimes bear similarities to both coyotes and domestic dogs, making true identification difficult. Historically red and gray wolves were found in Texas. They no longer occur here, so any dog-like animal that is larger than the average coyote is a coydog.