

If a coyote approaches a child, the animal can be startled away by an adult first yelling loudly and then moving towards the coyote. This gives the adult an opportunity to lift the child as quickly as possible and back away from the animal. 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 – teach them not to run, which could cause a coyote to chase them.



### Myths About Coyotes

Coyotes are extremely dangerous: **FALSE!**  
Coyote's innate fear of humans tends to keep them from getting too close.

Coyotes are a new problem: **FALSE!** Coyotes have been in Florida for many years and will continue to make their homes around the state.

Coyotes can be totally eliminated: **FALSE!** Removing coyotes from one location is an ineffective method to control populations. They compensate by increasing litter sizes and new coyotes will move into areas where others have been removed.

**\*\*Please report all coyote sightings to your local police department!\*\***

### Contact Us

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[www.indianharbourbeach.org](http://www.indianharbourbeach.org)

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Information sources:

[www.MyFWC.com](http://www.MyFWC.com)

[www.coyotesmarts.com](http://www.coyotesmarts.com)



# Coyote Safety in Our Beachside Communities

"We Serve...We Care" IHBDP  
"Serving Our Community" SBPD



Chief David Butler



Chief Jeff M. Pearson



Please remember to NEVER FEED COYOTES OR ANY WILD LIFE and DON'T leave pet food outside that can attract wild animals!

Special tip for cat owners: A safe cat is an indoor cat.

## How can you keep your pets safe?

While coyote attacks on people are rare, pets are not so lucky. Those that are small or elderly are especially at risk. Owners will greatly improve the safety of their pets by taking the actions listed below:

- \* Never leave pets outside and unattended, even during daylight hours.
- \* Avoid feeding pets outside if at all possible. Or feed them during the day and remove all bowls when finished.
- \* Remove all food attractants from your yard including fallen fruit.
- \* Clean areas around bird feeders and store feed indoors.

## Where are beachside coyotes from?

Coyotes are found throughout Florida and have been documented in all 67 counties. This medium-sized canid is extremely adaptable and can be found in rural, suburban and even urban landscapes. They are typically shy and elusive but encounters between people and coyotes in Florida are occurring more often. Coyotes help maintain balanced ecosystems by controlling the populations of rodents and small predators, such as foxes, opossums and raccoons. They are native to North America, have been in Florida for many years, and will continue to make their homes around the state.

## What can I do to stay safe if I see a coyote?

Coyotes are not large animals and 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. Hazing the animal by making loud noises and acting aggressively will typically cause a coyote to leave an area. There are several methods of hazing that are effective with coyotes.

☐ Waving your arms in the air and yelling will usually get a coyote to retreat. You may need to move towards the coyote and increase hazing if the animal does not immediately run away. It is important to continue hazing efforts until the coyote has left the area or the animal may return.

☐ 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.

☐ Throwing small stones or sticks towards (but not at) a coyote will usually cause the animal to leave. Spraying water from a hose can also be effective hazing methods. Do not attempt to hurt the coyote because injured animals are more likely to defend themselves; the goal should be to scare the coyote away. Remember that wild animals will attempt to protect themselves or their young if threatened — keep your distance.

☐ Vary your methods of hazing so that the coyote does not become desensitized and hazing is still effective.