

## COMPASSION + COEXISTENCE

# Coyote Hazing Overview

### ABOUT COYOTES

Incredibly beneficial to the natural ecosystem, coyotes are a 'keystone species' and help keep rodent populations under control. They are often referred to as 'nature's cleanup crew'. They are devoted parents, and diligent protectors of their offspring. Coyotes mate for life and have significant family bonds. While coyotes normally avoid us, intentional or unintentional feeding may change a coyote's proximity tolerance, resulting in them approaching people or yards. Hazing is a critical part of restoring a coyote's natural aversion to humans.



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

Everything you need to know to be wildlife smart and help keep coyotes wild.





**Hazing** (or *aversion conditioning*) is a method of **negative association** that **safely** compels a coyote to **move away** from humans.

## Hazing 101:

Hazing is not a new technique. It has been used around the world with various species, including bears and tigers. In a nutshell, **hazing is a method of negative association that safely compels a coyote to move away from humans, sometimes through the use of deterrents.** These techniques can **restore a coyote's natural avoidance of humans** and minimize interactions. Communities that employ basic hazing techniques **experience measurable results** while educating and empowering themselves.

It is important to remember that **each coyote has a different “food education”**. Some coyotes have been taught that people (and their properties) will provide food, however these sources are always inappropriate (e.g.: direct feeding, composts, bird feeders.) Hazing a coyote can effectively change its behaviour, although a coyote may have to be hazed multiple times before they move away for good. **Indifference is not an adequate response.** These hazing techniques are lifelong tools, which will ensure that future coyotes do not develop these behaviours. **Please remember, hazing is a technique that must be used as part of an overall coexistence program** that addresses other issues (e.g.: investigating food sources.)

## Basic Hazing Techniques:

- ✓ Stand tall, make yourself big, shout (don't scream) and wave your arms while approaching the coyote until he/she runs away
- ✓ Noisemakers: your voice, air horns, pots and pans banged together, whistles, shake cans (pop cans filled with pennies or pebbles), keys, pop open an umbrella
- ✓ Projectiles (towards, not *at* the coyote[s]): sticks, clumps of dirt, small rocks, tennis balls
- ✓ Liquids (warm months): garden hoses, water guns, water balloons

*Note: If a coyote has never been hazed, he/she may not run away immediately just by you vocalizing. You may need to approach the coyote and incorporate some of the above-mentioned deterrents. If the coyote runs a bit, then stops to look at you, you must continue to haze the coyote until he/she completely cedes the area.*

For communities experiencing regular sightings, patience is required, as identified ‘hot spots’ may need more intensive hazing before the coyote entirely moves on. Often, “hazing crews” can be trained and formed to follow up with residents, and respond to calls and utilize more intensive hazing techniques if needed.

## Always put safety first.

- Never run from any canine, including coyotes.
- Always provide an escape route for wildlife, never corner them.
- Never approach a sick or injured coyote.