



Pinellas
County
ANIMAL SERVICES



COYOTE FORUM

Which one is the Coyote?



Maybe it's one of these?



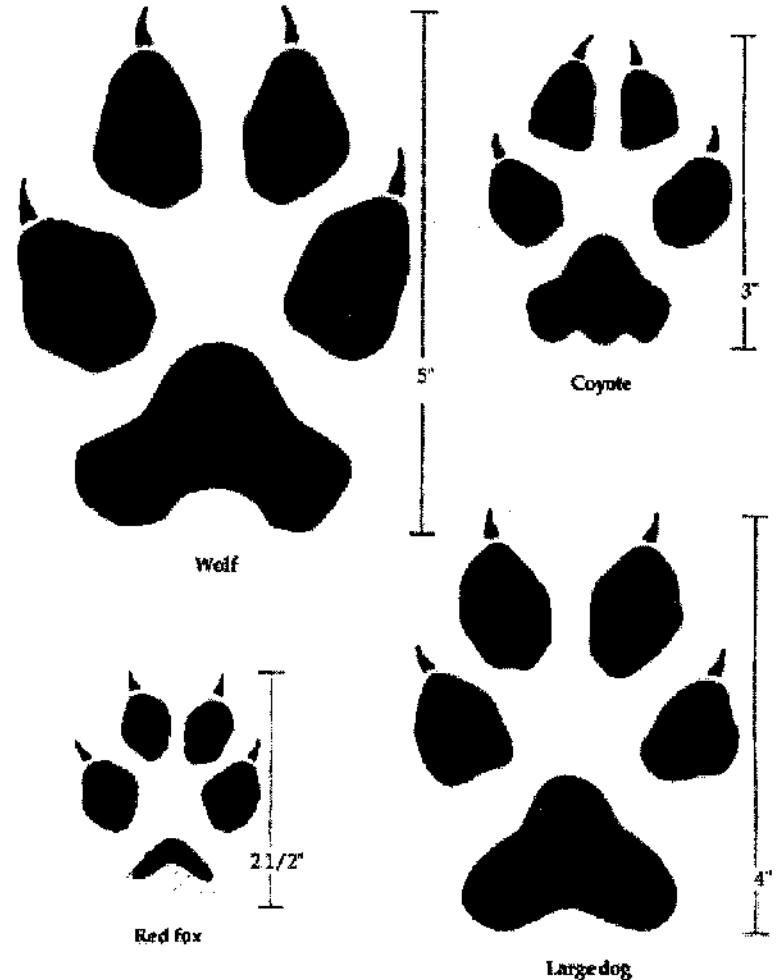


COYOTES



What Does a Coyote Track Look Like?

- Look at the difference between the tracks.
- Coyote tracks have more of an "oval" shape and seem more compact than a dog, wolf, or fox.



How to live with Coyotes in an Urban Environment



COYOTES

They Are Here to Stay in Pinellas County



How Did They Get Here?

- Normally, humans invade wildlife habitats and push wildlife out of urban areas, such as Deer, Bear, Panthers, Bobcats, etc.
- Coyotes have migrated into Pinellas County from neighboring Counties.



Coyote Reproduction

- Coyote females come into heat normally once per year in the winter months.
- Coyote gestation is approximately two months with potential litter size ranging from two to 12-- but usually averaging six pups.
- The average life span of coyotes is five to six years in the wild--with mortality being greatest during the first year.
- Coyotes will tend to reproduce more often when they feel pressed/threatened in order to survive.



Do Coyotes Attack People?

- It is not common, normally coyotes are timid and shy away from humans, but there have been attacks reported in recent years.
- There has only been one known fatality reported in 1981 in California. A 3-year old girl was left unattended while playing in the front yard.
- There have not been any known attacks to humans in Pinellas County.



Have you had a Coyote Sighting?

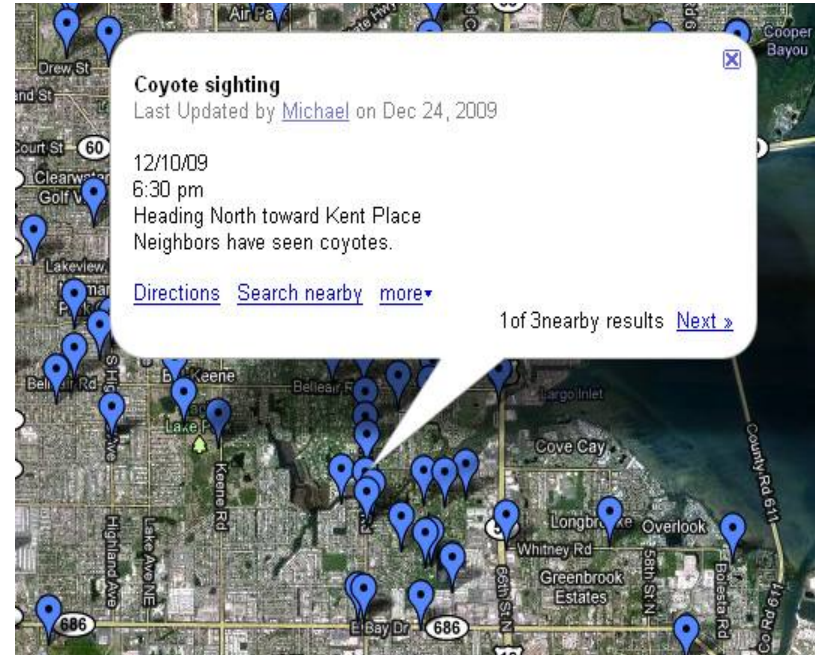
- Pinellas County Animal Services is tracking all coyote sightings. Sightings submitted to the following website are the only ones that are tracked on the Coyote Sighting Map.
- Submit your sighting at:
www.pinellascounty.org and go to Animal Services under the Department tab, or go directly to:
www.pinellascounty.org/forms/coyote_form.html
- Sightings are divided into two categories: Regular sightings, and concerned sightings.



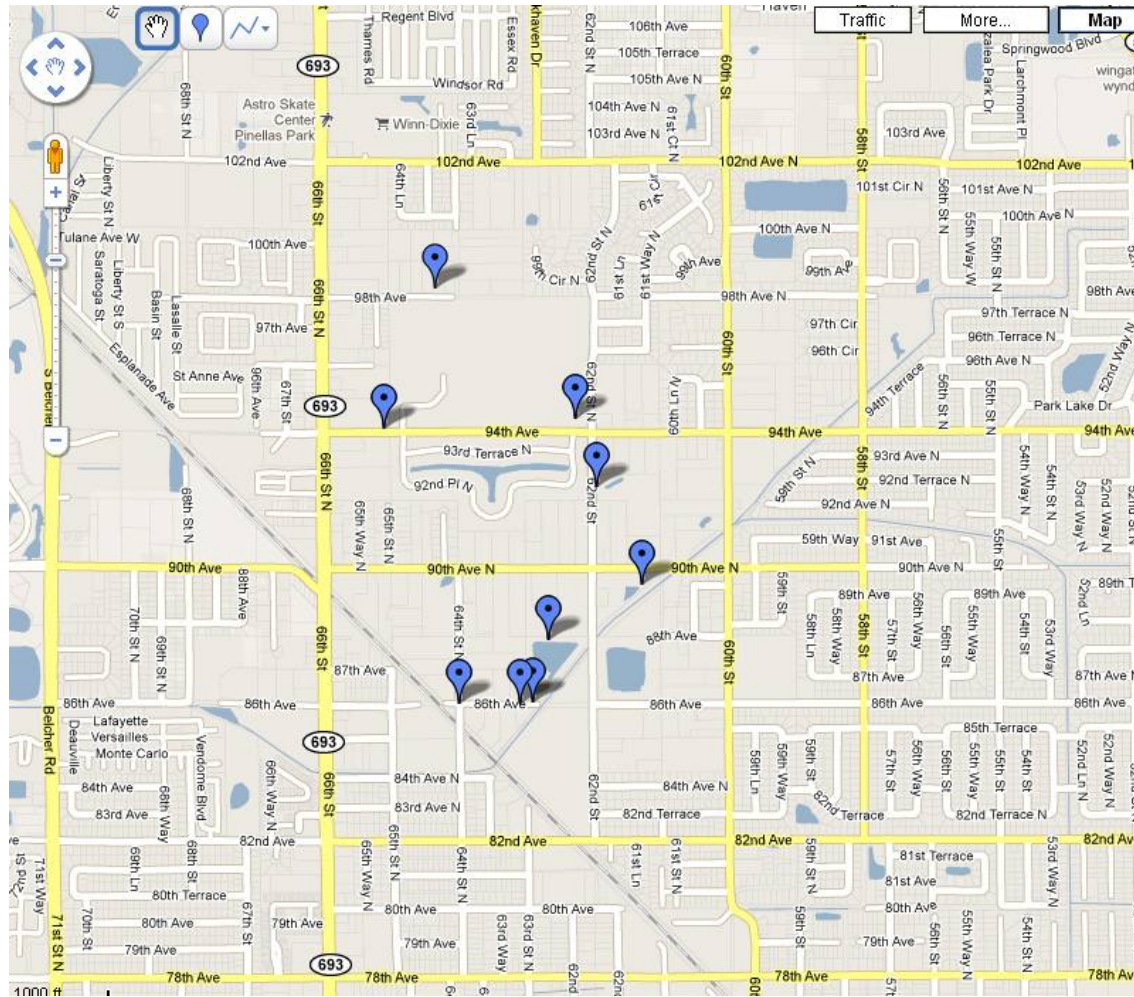
Should we be concerned?

- **Regular Sightings:** are coyotes seen from a distance and minding their own business.
From May 2009 to Current date there have been a total of 395 "regular sightings".
- **Concerned Sightings:** are coyotes that have had close encounters with citizens and/or their pets.
From June 2009 to Current date there have been a total of 92 "concerned sightings".

Coyote Sighting Map



Reported Sightings in Pinellas Park





Be more aware & more educated on the coyote!

- Coyotes have not necessarily gotten “more brazen or aggressive”.
- Believe it or not, we have “conditioned” them to their current behavior!
- Most of the time, coyotes go out of their way to avoid humans, but they are discovering that humans are a good source for food.
- Coyotes normally eat small mammals like rabbits, squirrels, rodents, birds, snakes, and fruit which comprise the bulk of their diet.
- Coyotes adapt to most any food source available to include, domestic cats, small dogs, insects, food scrapes in trash, compost, seeds, berries, and pet food.



Coyotes are changing their behavior!

- If there are no consequences attached to coyote/human contact, the coyotes will lose fear of humans.
- Coyotes are very resourceful and learn very quickly.
- Coyotes can be re-conditioned to fear humans if we all practice what is being presented.
- Continued education and building awareness levels is the key to success.



How to Prevent Attacks to Humans and Domestic Pets

- Do not feed coyotes.
- Do not feed pets outdoors, or leave food outdoors.
- Remove other food sources such as trash, and fruit on the ground.
- Secure trash with secure lockable lids
- Don't overflow birdfeeders, hang them high so they are not accessible to coyotes.
- Keep overgrown areas trimmed and cleaned well.
- Keep pets indoors from dusk to dawn, or in a safe enclosure.
- Harass coyotes with loud noises, clapping hands, yelling, throwing rocks at them, waving arms, and/or use air-horns.

Will Coyotes Attack Livestock?

- Coyotes usually target foals, lambs, calves, pigs, rabbits, and chickens.
- Coyotes will go after the afterbirth of a foal or calf.
- Will attack the older, and weaker of stock.





How Can I Protect my Livestock?

- Utilize net-wire or electric fencing.
- Utilize lights above corrals.
- Remove habitats that provide homes for rabbits, birds, and rodents.
- Utilize motion sensor strobe lights or sirens.
- Utilize guard animals, such as dogs, donkeys, and llamas for protection.
- Store feed in 50 gallon metal drums w/lockable lids to prevent rodent problems.



How Can I Protect My Pets?

- Never walk them during dawn and dusk hours, and keep them indoors.
- Keep them on a “short leash”, do not use an extendable leash!
- Never feed pets outside, or leave pet food out. Do not feed stray cats or other wildlife.
- Install a couple of 7 foot or higher posts with a platform towards the top for cats to escape a coyote attack.



Can Coyotes Climb Fences?

- Absolutely! They can also dig their way under a fence.
- Add extenders to top of fence that extend outward 15 to 20 inches to prevent them from climbing over fence.
- Attach a 4 to 6 foot wire apron, or electric trip wires at the base to prevent a Coyote from digging in.
- Electric fencing can also be used to prevent coyote intrusions.



What Diseases do Coyotes Carry?

- Rabies, eastern equine encephalitis, and salmonellosis, can be transmitted to humans and/or livestock.
- Coyotes are hosts to at least 11 species of parasites such as lice, ticks, heart worms, whipworms, and lungworms.
- Be sure to secure a good relationship with your local veterinarian to ensure that your pets, and/or livestock are regularly protected by proper vaccinations and parasite treatment.



Can Coyotes be Shot or Trapped?

- Yes, The coyote can be legally hunted all year long with guns, dogs, live traps, or snares. A permit is required to use steel traps, to trap on another person's property, or to use a gun and light at night.
- However, it is illegal to discharge a firearm within County limits. Pinellas County is one of the most densely populated areas in the State, and trying to shoot a coyote could result in an accidental shooting of a human. (Pinellas County Code of Ordinances, Part II, Chapter 86-Offenses: Section 86-71, and Florida State Statutes 790.15 & 810.09 (2) (h).
- If traps are utilized an owned animal could wander into the trap and be severely injured.
- Only FWC, or a professional trapper should be utilized in the removal of a problem Coyote.



Why Can't the Coyotes be Eradicated?

- The more pressure that is placed on the coyote population, the more they will be urged to survive and they will reproduce more often than once per year.
- When the first programs aimed at eradicating Coyotes in California began, nearly 500,000 coyotes had been reported destroyed at a cost of an estimated \$30 million of the taxpayer's money.
- Attempting to completely eliminate coyotes is both expensive and futile; however, it may be possible to eliminate specific problem coyotes.



Please Remember!

- Co-exist with all wildlife.
- Be aware and practice the act of re-conditioning Coyotes.
- Always practice safety with pets and children.