

COYOTE AWARENESS WEEK

March 16 - 22, 2026



Join us to raise awareness about the intense persecution and misunderstanding coyotes face and the importance of compassionate coexistence.

Photo by: Joe Galkowski #CaptureCoexistence Contributor



COYOTE AWARENESS WEEK

INTRODUCTION

Project Coyote created Coyote Awareness Week, during the third week of March, to celebrate the beauty and remarkable ecological contributions, social lives, resiliency, and adaptability of one of North America's most iconic species.

Both historically and today, coyotes have faced relentless persecution by local, state, and federal governments and hatred by many people—resulting in millions being killed each year. Yet scientific research demonstrates the ineffectiveness of lethal “management” of coyotes—a practice that can actually increase human-wildlife conflict and coyote populations. We also know now just how much coyotes benefit the ecosystems on which we all depend.

In both rural and urban environments, coyotes regulate rodent populations, limit disease transmission, keep communities cleaner by scavenging carrion, and limit mesocarnivore populations (e.g., raccoons, skunks, and foxes), thereby increasing bird diversity and abundance. Increased appreciation for coyotes and understanding of the crucial ecological roles they play are necessary to reform outdated wildlife policies and end unjust persecution.

Coyote Awareness Week is a chance to change the negative perceptions and misunderstanding that coyotes face and raise awareness of the importance of compassionate coexistence. With support from wildlife advocates, nature photographers, educators, and communities nationwide, Coyote Awareness Week activities reach diverse audiences to share information on coyote ecology, behavior, and the benefits of coexistence.

We believe that if we can change hearts and minds about coyotes, the world will be a more compassionate place for all wild lives.



Photo by: Hank Perry,
#CaptureCoexistence Contributor

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WHY COYOTES ARE VALUED MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY

Coyotes, our unique Song Dogs, have existed in North America since the Pleistocene era. Their survival is attributed to their remarkable intelligence, adaptability, and emotional resilience, traits many Native American cultures have revered in coyotes for centuries.

Coyotes experience the world in remarkably rich and multifaceted ways that often exceed human comprehension. Native American observers and animal behaviorists have helped uncover the rich cognitive, emotional, moral, and social lives of these complex canines.

Coyotes are known to display a wide range of emotions, including playfulness, curiosity, and grief, as evidenced by distress when facing threats or injuries and mourning behaviors when a member of their group passes. Yet negative stereotypes and fallacies persist, maligning coyotes wherever they go.

Coyotes are essential inhabitants sharing our urban communities and rural landscapes, each one a unique individual navigating life alongside us with remarkable resiliency. Their ability to adjust to changing conditions and diverse environments sets coyotes apart, perhaps further contributing to people's fear and misunderstanding. In their intelligence and adaptability, coyotes teach us about our own capacity to evolve and coexist in the face of rapid ecological and social change.

By shifting attitudes toward coyotes and other wild carnivores, we can replace fear and ignorance with understanding, appreciation, and respect—for all living creatures with which we share our planet.



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WHY COYOTES

Coyotes have inherent value regardless of our perception of them, but here are a few ways we benefit from having them around. These are collectively referred to as ecosystem services.



Coyotes help maintain a clean environment. By feeding on carcasses, coyotes play a crucial role in reducing waste and preventing the spread of disease in ecosystems.



Coyotes promote biodiversity. By controlling mesocarnivore populations, coyotes positively impact the diversity and abundance of song and ground nesting bird populations.



Coyotes may help reduce the spread of zoonotic diseases such as Lyme disease by preying on rodents and small mammals that host disease-carrying ticks.



Coyotes help control rodent and rabbit populations in both rural and urban communities. By preying on rodents and rabbits, coyotes reduce their numbers, limiting potential agricultural damage and improving environmental health.



Coyote packs are families. Coyotes are generally monogamous and form lasting pair bonds. Dominate breeding pairs form multigenerational family groups (aka packs) and behaviorally suppress breeding by other group members. These self-regulating behaviors prevent coyotes from over-populating their habitats and promote increased biodiversity and ecosystem health.



Photo by: Brandon Bish,
#CaptureCoexistence Contributor

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WHY COYOTE AWARENESS IS NEEDED

Learning to coexist with coyotes and other wild carnivores can help reduce conflict. Decades of scientific research have demonstrated that lethal “management” methods are ineffective in reducing conflicts or populations. Indiscriminate killing disrupts the otherwise stable social structures of coyote packs, often leading to increased breeding and migration, which can escalate interactions with people and domestic animals. Moreover, brief, localized population declines brought about by intense killing can ultimately lead to higher pup survivability due to a temporary increase in available prey, allowing coyote populations to rebound and even grow.

Despite decades of such well-documented science, the default response to coyote sightings is too often fear and calls for removal, which leads to lethal management. To counter this, communities across the country can empower their fellow residents to instead properly understand natural coyote behavior, reduce attractants (like unsecured garbage, compost, pet food, and off-leash dogs), and humanely haze bold coyotes to help them stay good neighbors and wary of humans.

It is well past time to replace lethal “management” with coexistence. Coyotes, like everyone, belong on our remarkable, varied planet and have a right to exist. Coyotes are sentient, family-oriented beings who deserve protection from unscientific and unethical persecution.



WHY KILLING COYOTES DOESN'T WORK

Disrupting coyote families affects yearling coyotes' ability to learn hunting and foraging behaviors from older generations. This can lead to more conflicts with farmed animals, as inexperienced coyotes may be less cautious around humans, unfamiliar with the area, and more likely to be attracted to human food, increasing the likelihood of further conflicts.

Stable Coyote Family.

Only the dominant pair reproduces, and they behaviorally suppress reproduction among other family members and have small litters. Family members are less likely to prey on farmed animals.



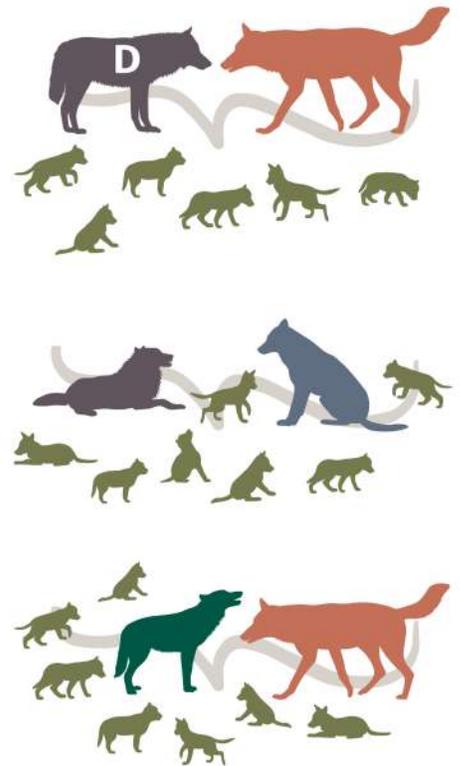
Lethal Intervention.

Killing coyotes results in only a temporary reduction in population.



Coyote Family Disrupted.

Surviving members of the coyote family are broken apart, allowing more coyotes to reproduce at younger ages, and resulting in larger litter sizes and greater pup survival.



KEY



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PERSECUTION THEN & NOW

Coyotes are North America's most persecuted wild carnivore species. The unjust and unscientific treatment of coyotes that has been deeply rooted in American culture ever since European colonization.

Predator extermination campaigns in the 1800s–mid 1900s nearly wiped wolves, mountain lions, and bears off the map. But when the focus turned to coyotes, they responded to this persecution with resilience and adaptability, widely expanding their range in the last century and filling vacant niches left where wolves were extirpated. Rather than celebrating their resilience to adapt to a human-dominated world and the important roles they play in our urban and rural communities, our society has often labeled the coyote as a “pest” or a threat.

Coyote’s ability to adjust to changing conditions and diverse environments has left them vulnerable to insufficient legal protections. Unlike many wild carnivore species whose numbers are low and may even face extinction, coyotes continue to survive and even thrive in the face of persecution. This results in policies that allow coyotes to be killed in unlimited numbers using terribly cruel practices.

In most states, coyotes can be killed in unlimited numbers 365 days of the year using almost any means, including killing contests, trapping, poisoning, hounding, baiting, aerial gunning, and unregulated recreational killing.

Inadequate protection for coyotes has resulted in an estimated 500,000 killed each year. Nearly 60,000 coyotes were killed by the USDA’s Wildlife Services program at taxpayer expense in 2024. However, these numbers are likely underestimated, since most state agencies don’t track or monitor the killing of coyotes.



COYOTE AWARENESS WEEK

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Coyote Awareness Week was created to increase appreciation for America's Song Dog and help end the unjust persecution of this inherently and ecologically valuable species. You can participate—this week and beyond—in efforts to engage communities nationwide in learning about coyote ecology, behavior, compassionate coexistence, and the need for stronger protections.

If we can change hearts and minds about coyotes, the world will be a more compassionate place for all wild lives. You can be part of this change by:

1. Understanding the History of Coyotes & Humans:

Read our [fact sheet on their persecution](#), [Coyote America](#) by Project Coyote Ambassador Dan Flores, and [Coyotes in Our Midst](#) by our Founder & Executive Director, Camilla Fox.

2. Dispelling Myths & Misconceptions:

Share accurate information about coyotes in your community to promote understanding and reduce fear.

3. Supporting Community Coexistence Efforts:

Learn how to keep coyotes wild through humane methods like hazing and reducing attractants that can lead to habituation in your yard and community. Together, we can positively manage interactions between humans and coyotes in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

4. Educating & Inspiring Action:

Use Coyote Awareness Week to educate your community about the benefits of living alongside coyotes by sharing Coyote Awareness Week emails and social media posts, or creating your own. We have provided a social media toolkit below with graphics and images you can use for your convenience.

5. Advocate for Ethical & Science-Based Wildlife Policies:

Support policies in your state and at the federal level that protect coyotes and oppose inhumane practices like indiscriminate hunting, trapping, and wildlife killing contests.



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Amplify Coyote Awareness Week on Social Media & Across Your Community

Each day of Coyote Awareness Week, Project Coyote will share coyote content on social media.

We encourage supporters and partners to follow us ([Facebook](#), [X/Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#)), engage with or share our posts, and use the [#CoyoteAwarenessWeek](#) hashtag to broaden the impact and reach of Coyote Awareness Week.

We also invite you to post on social media and help raise awareness about coyotes during this week. Create your own content or use the graphics and draft captions shared in our:

Join our E-Team:



Social Media Toolkit:

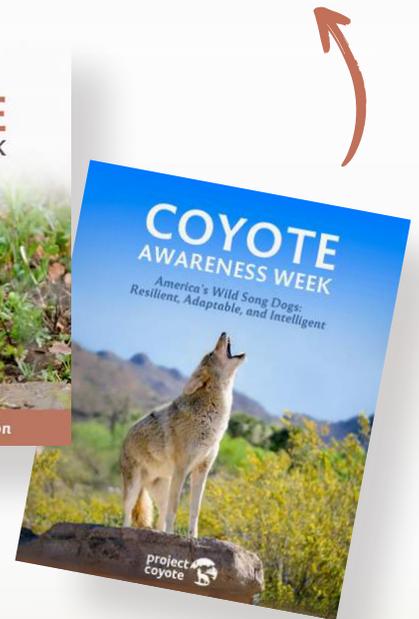
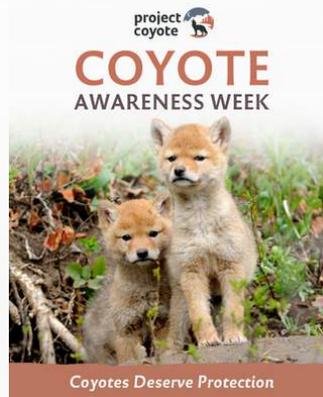


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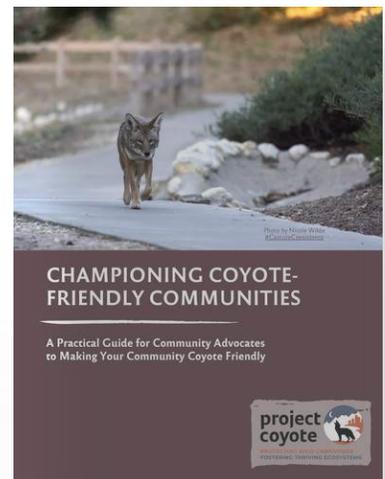
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COYOTE COEXISTENCE RESOURCES

We encourage supporters to celebrate coyotes by learning more about their history, behavior, and how to coexist with them. Sharing these resources with your communities is a great way to promote compassionate coexistence. Sharing on social, NextDoor, with your HOA, neighbors, or landlord can help educate and build more coyote friendly communities.

Project Coyote Resources on Coyote Coexistence:

1. [Coexisting with Coyotes Brochure](#)
2. [SMARTCoyote Hazing](#)
3. [Yard Audit Check List](#)
4. [Be Coyote Aware Sign](#)
5. [Why Killing Coyotes Doesn't Work Graphic](#)
6. [Coyote Coexistence Plan for Local Communities](#)
7. [Championing Coyote Friendly Communities Advocate Toolkit](#)
8. [Coyote Coexistence Tip Card](#)
9. [Coyote Species Profile](#)
10. [Spanish Resources](#)



Coyote Friendly Communities Video Modules:

1. [Coyote Friendly Communities: Deadly Rodenticides](#)
2. [Coyote Friendly Communities: Protecting Backyard Chickens](#)
3. [Coyote Friendly Communities: How to Talk with Communities about Coexisting with Coyotes](#)

Keeping it Wild: Youth Education

[Curious About Coyotes: Grades 3-5 Teaching Curriculum](#)



Photo by: Sheryl Hester,
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