

# The Wonderful World of Coyotes

Jessica Wolff Wildlife Education Coordinator, Western Region jwolff@ndow.org



#### Why are they here?





### Urban Coyote Diet

# A 2006 study done in Chicago showed that urban coyotes have a diverse diet, only about 1% of their diet was domestic pets.

Small rodents...42% White-tailed deer...22% Fruit...23% Cottontail...18% Birds...13% Raccoon...8% Grass...6% Invertebrates...4% Human-associated...2% **Domestic cat...1%** Muskrat...1% Unknown...1%

~1400 scat samples from urban Chicago coyotes.





#### Food Conditioning & Habituation



**Before:** Two residential coyote-feeding sites in Portsmouth, RI, revealed by location points and travel vectors of a GPS-collared coyote. Tracking period is from April 4 – May 17, 2019. (N. Mitchell, NBCS, The Conservation Agency)

### Food Conditioning & Habituation



**After:** The same neighborhood after coyote feeding is stopped. Coyote travel drops out across entire neighborhood. Tracking period is from June 5 – 20, 2019, 3-5 weeks after warnings were issued. (N. Mitchell, NBCS, The Conservation Agency)

### Your Property

#### First things first, remove all attractants... then...

- Install devices to scare away the coyote
  - Motion sensor lights, sprinklers or noise makers.
- Fence yard w/ 6ft fence!
  - Add "coyote rollers."
- NEVER allow a coyote to be comfortable in your yard!





#### Your Pets

**ALWAYS** supervise your dog when it is outside.

**ALWAYS** walk your dog on a 6-foot leash.

**NEVER** allow your dog to interact with coyotes.





#### More on Pets

#### • ALWAYS keep cats inside.

- This protects them not only from coyotes but other dangers as well.
- Invest in a "catio."
- If you leave your dog outside unattended, put them in a fully enclosed dog run with a roof.



## **Proper Hazing Works**

- Many different ways to haze, but YOU are your best tool.
- Other tools you can use:
  - Sticks, rocks
  - Noise makers
    - Pots & Pans
    - Coyote shaker cans
  - Hoses
  - High power flashlights



#### How to Haze

#### "Be aggressive, BE-E aggressive!" – Bring it On (2000)

- Make yourself appear bigger than you are.
- Yell, make a lot of noise, sound forceful!
- **GET MEAN** (and aggressive)!





## Coyotes Belong in Nevada

- Coyotes do belong in Nevada and we want them to be here!
- Removing attractants from the area helps to make your neighborhoods less appealing.
  - Should be an effort by everyone!
- Always haze coyotes away!
  - Proper hazing does work and should be used
    WHENEVER a coyote is spotted in an urban environment.



#### Jessica Wolff Western Region Wildlife Education Coordinator 775-688-1501 jwolff@ndow.org