



COEXISTING WITH COYOTES

TIPS FOR FARMERS

FACTS

- Coyotes generally do not prey on domestic farm animals. Animals are most vulnerable with very young offspring and when coyotes have pups to feed or are teaching their young to hunt. This is typically early spring through late summer. Most hunting activity takes place at night.
- Sheep are the domestic animals on farms most often taken by coyotes due to their helpless nature, relatively small size, and tendency to be left in pastures without tending or refuge.
- Coyotes eat mostly rodents and also eat fruit, insects and raccoons. Other foods observed in coyote scat on Vashon include: olive pits, gray squirrel, seeds and deer fawn. Domestic animal hair has not been found, but there have been a few confirmed cases of coyotes taking sheep on Vashon and Maury.
- Coyotes have been on Vashon since at least 2005.
- Where coyotes are hunted and trapped, females produce more pups per litter than in areas where they are protected. (WDFW 2015)

Citations:
WDFW 2015. wdfw.wa.gov/living/coyotes.html



Vashon
COYOTE
WORKING GROUP



Vashon Nature Center, LLC

SAFETY TIPS

- **Build coyote-resistant fences.** Most important is to provide a dig barrier at the bottom & provide rollers or outriggers at the top with no openings greater than 4"x4" in fence.
- **Watch animals closely** with full-time shepherd or regular checks and avoid pasturing next to ravines, dense cover, waterways or in remote areas.
- **Bring animals into protective spaces at night** like a barn, shed, coop or corral near human habitation.
- **Clean up.** Pick up fallen fruit, animal carcasses, feed and other potential coyote attractants.
- **Remove coyote and rodent cover.** Remove brush piles, stumps and debris piles that may harbor coyote prey.
- **Select breeds with strong flocking and protective instincts.** Some domestic animals have not had protective instincts bred out of them.
- **Get a guard animal.** Select an appropriate guard animal such as a dog, donkey, or llama. Be sure to consult with those experienced.
- **Utilize deterrents** such as lights, shiny flagging on fences or sprayers.

To learn more about farming tips or to report sightings visit: vashonnaturecenter.org/coyotes/ and <http://vashonnaturecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Coyotes-on-Vashon-live-stock-recs.pdf>

Vashon islanders are familiar with raccoons, deer, and river otters, but coyotes are relatively new neighbors. We can learn to live in harmony with coyotes and it is easy when you know what to do. The following guidelines introduce "hazing"--a powerful technique that helps reinforce a coyote's natural instinct of wariness towards humans.



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HAZING GUIDE

WHAT IS HAZING?

Hazing simply means scaring a coyote away from you, your yard, or your neighborhood. Keeping coyotes wary of people is the key to avoiding conflict and living in harmony with them. Hazing includes passive means like securing pet food, pets, garbage, compost, and other coyote attractants so that they learn that they will not be rewarded for approaching your home. Active hazing strategies are detailed below.

DO NOT HAZE IF...

- A coyote is at a comfortable distance from you. Seeing a coyote at a distance is no cause for alarm. Coyotes are active both day and night.
- If it is April-July, you could be near a den or pups. Often dens are in steep, forested ravines on Vashon, but could be other places too. Coyotes need space and privacy to raise their young and feel safe. A coyote may try to haze you away from his/her family by acting anxious and assertive. If you find a den or family area, keep pets on leash, give coyotes a wide berth, and report it to info@vashonnaturecenter.org
- You think a coyote is sick or injured. Call a wildlife rehabilitation center. The closest one is Westsound Wildlife Shelter: 206.855.9057. Another option is PAWS: 425.412.4040.

WHEN AND HOW TO HAZE...

- Haze if a coyote approaches you (unless you are near a den) or seems comfortable walking the streets or yards of your neighborhood.
- Be persistent: always haze whenever you see too-close-for-comfort behavior.
- Act Big, Bad, and Loud. Maintain eye contact and wave your arms, a stick, or a jacket. Pop up an umbrella and make noise with pots, pans or a noisemaker. Use your imagination and vary your technique.
- Don't stop until the coyote gets your message and leaves or you will teach the coyote that hazing is nothing to worry about.
- Do not haze from inside your house or vehicle. You want the coyote to associate your person with the danger/discomfort.
- Share your knowledge with neighbors and work together!

