

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.



COEXISTING WITH COYOTES

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-August, 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!



Vashon
COYOTE
WORKING GROUP



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To learn more about hazing or to report sightings visit:
vashonnaturecenter.org/coyotes/