

Heartland Rewilding's Coexistence Yard Audit Checklist

Key attractants for wildlife are food, water, and shelter. We encourage you to take steps to eliminate attractants on your property in order to minimize conflicts with coyotes and other wildlife. Minimizing conflicts is most effective when the entire neighborhood works together.

Attractant	No	Yes	Recommended Actions	Rationale
Are you feeding coyotes, foxes, or other carnivores?			If YES, stop feeding immediately. You are putting your neighbors and their pets at risk.	It is generally illegal to feed wild animals. Animals that are fed by humans may lose their fear and develop territorial behavior that can lead to aggression.
Are you feeding feral cats (domestic cats gone wild)?			If YES, stop feeding them, secure their food and water in coyote proof containers, or elevate dishes to a height of 1 meter or higher.	Coyotes and other animals will eat the food left out for feral cats. They may also prey on the cats.
Are you feeding birds, squirrels, or other wildlife?			If YES, either stop feeding wildlife or make sure to clean up any fallen seed and mess.	Coyotes and many other wildlife are omnivorous and may eat the seed or prey on animals attracted by corn and seed.
Do you have food for your cat or dog outside?			If YES, stop feeding pets outdoors, and store all pet food indoors. If you need to feed outside only do so during daylight hours, supervise feeding, and remove bowls promptly.	Leaving pet food outside is an invitation to wildlife. Wildlife will associate food rewards with humans and continue to return.
Do you have water available for wildlife to drink?			If YES, remove standing water bowls and any deep dishes or pools of water.	Wildlife stay in environments where food and water are available.
Do you let your cat go outside unattended?			If YES, you might want to consider other options, such as supervision or a fully enclosed "catio".	If outside in an unprotected area, cats may face increased risk of harm from other animals.
Do you let your dog go outside unattended in an unsecured yard?			If YES, either be outside and close to your dog when they are in your yard or secure your yard with proper fencing.	If outside in an unprotected area, dogs may face increased risk of harm from other animals.
Do you have fruit trees?			If YES, keep fruit trees fenced, pick up fallen fruit, and remove fruit from low branches.	Coyotes and many other wildlife species are omnivorous. Once they find an easy source of food they will continue to come back.

Attractant	No	Yes	Recommended Actions	Rationale
Could an animal get into your trash or recycling?			If YES, secure trash containers with locking lids or bungee cord. Consider waiting to take trash to the curb until the morning of pick-up.	Coyotes and many other wildlife species are omnivorous. Once they find an easy source of food they will continue to come back.
Do you have a compost pile?			If YES, secure the container with a coyote proof lid or bungee cord or fence the area off.	Coyotes and many other wildlife species are omnivorous. Once they find an easy source of food they will continue to come back.
Do you have an outdoor grill or barbecue?			If YES, be sure to clean up food around grills after each use.	Coyotes and many other wildlife species are omnivorous. Once they find an easy source of food they will continue to come back.
Do you have shrubs or bushes that are low enough to the ground for an animal to hide in?			If YES, trim lower branches at least two feet above ground level.	Trimming vegetation helps eliminate hiding places for wildlife and potential sites for dens.
Do you have a deck a coyote or other animal could get under?			If YES, secure the space to keep animals out.	Wildlife can use spaces under decks as hiding places or locations for dens.
Do you have a woodpile an animal could hide in or behind?			If YES, cover or enclose your woodpile so that a coyote can't use it as a hiding place.	Wildlife can use woodpiles as hiding places.
Do you have any other places on your property that could serve as an animal hiding place or denning site?			If YES, restrict access to any location on your property that an animal could use as a hiding place or den.	Wildlife can use a variety of protected locations for dens or hiding places.

Additional Options to Keep Coyotes Out of Your Yard

If you are unable to eliminate all attractants or you want additional protection, fencing is a good option. It is important to understand that coyotes don't leap over fences in a single bound. Rather, they grip the top of the fence with their front paws and use their back legs to kick themselves up and over the fence. They are also excellent diggers and can burrow under fences. Here are a few fencing options to help keep coyotes out of your yard:

- 1. Wire fence with outward facing extenders**-A six-foot, woven wire fence with extenders that face outward at the tip of each post should prevent coyotes from climbing over. Outward facing wire extenders also can be added to existing fences. To keep coyotes from burrowing underneath, an effective fence needs to extend at least 12 inches below the surface, or have a galvanized-wire apron that extends out from the fence at least 15 inches.
- 2. Coyote Rollers** affixed at the top of an existing fence or wall prevents a coyote from being able to climb up on the top of the fence. Depending on the location of the fence or wall you may also need to add something to keep coyotes from burrowing.
- 3. Install motion activated** sprinklers or lights. Coyotes and other animals are sensitive to changes in their environment.