



COYOTES & FOXES IN THE SUBURBS

Coyotes and foxes may seem like surprising visitors in our neighborhood, but the truth is - they've been our quiet neighbors for decades. Our goal is simple: a peaceful coexistence. These animals are naturally shy and would rather avoid people than interact with us. When we take a few simple steps, living alongside them can remain safe and positive for everyone.

Why You Might See Them More Sometimes

It's normal for sightings to increase at certain times of the year. Coyotes roam more in January and February during breeding season, and again in spring and early summer when parents are caring for pups. In the fall, young coyotes begin leaving their parents to find their own territories, so they're on the move again. Knowing this can help us understand that most sightings are just part of their natural cycle – not cause for alarm.

Why They're Here

Coyotes and foxes thrive in many environments, including cities like ours. They help keep rodent populations in check and play an important role in the balance of nature. Most of the time, they're just passing through. Problems usually arise only when food or shelter draws them too close. Here are some key points, plus advice, straight from the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources.

What Attracts Them:

- Food left outside
- Open trash or compost bins
- Bird seed or fallen fruit in yards
- Small pets left alone outdoors

How You Can Help:

- Don't feed them. Coyotes and foxes have plenty of natural food sources. Feeding them makes them lose their healthy fear of people.
- Secure food sources. Bring pet food indoors, close trash cans tightly and clean up fallen fruit or bird seed.
- Look out for pets. Supervise dogs and cats when outside. A short leash for dogs and keeping cats indoors keeps everyone safe.
- Stay aware on walks. Keep your dog close to you so coyotes see it as part of you.

If You See One:

- Stay calm — don't run.
- Make noise: clap, shout, or stomp your feet.
- Wave your arms or a stick to look bigger.
- Pick up small pets or children.
- Keep making noises until the animal moves along.

By working together, we can continue our long tradition of living peacefully with wildlife. Coyotes, foxes, and other wild neighbors remind us that nature is all around us — even in the city! They are a sign that Plainview's ecosystem is healthy, green and thriving. With a little understanding and care, we can keep sharing our community safely and respectfully.