

- Keep grills and barbecues clean. Even small food scraps may attract these animals.
- If possible, do not keep garbage cans outside. Or bungee cord them shut.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS...

- As a last resort, trapping can be an effective method of dealing with troublesome wildlife. The most commonly used device is a live-trap which captures the animal physically unharmed. Traps should be checked twice a day (morning and evening) to replenish bait or to humanely deal with captured animals. Raccoons, opossums, skunks, coyote & fox cannot be released off-site, they must be euthanized or released on the same property. Contact the ODNR Division of Wildlife (1-800-Wildlife) for additional trapping regulations.
- Do not use poisons. Poisons are illegal, inhumane and may result in secondary poisoning of raptors, wild scavengers and neighborhood pets.
- Native wildlife are legally protected. It is illegal for anyone to possess a native wild animal unless permitted by the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Wildlife rehabilitators have a permit to care for orphaned or injured wildlife.
- Never move young from the den.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

In Ohio, coyotes and red foxes are considered a rabies vector species. Additionally, as a member of the dog family, coyotes and foxes may carry distemper, sarcoptic mange, heartworm and many other common canine diseases. Keeping pets vaccinated will help prevent possible transmission.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you find a wild animal and are concerned, leave it alone and call Brukner Nature Center at 937-698-6493, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.



5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd.
Troy, OH 45373
www.bruknernaturecenter.com

Brukner Nature Center is a non-profit, privately funded organization promoting the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through preservation, education, and rehabilitation.

The purpose of our wildlife rehabilitation program is to educate people regarding the natural history of Ohio's wildlife, to offer help and advice when wildlife and people conflict, and to care for, rehabilitate, and release native Ohio wildlife expected to survive in their natural environment.

Living with **COYOTES and FOX**

in Miami County



Brukner Nature Center

A coyote reminds people of a small German Shepherd dog. A coyote weighs 20 to 40 pounds, although the average in Miami County is 30 pounds. Coyotes have been known to vary in color; but generally, they have a bushy tail with a blade tip and are a yellowish gray with a whitish throat and belly. Its ears are prominent, and its tail is held below the back while running.

Over 90 percent of a coyote's diet is small mammals, but they will eat birds, snakes, insects, fish, fruit and vegetables. Coyotes are opportunistic hunters, feeding primarily on what is most available, such as squirrel, voles, mice, rabbits and injured or sick deer. They rarely kill prey larger than themselves but will scavenge on a fresh carcass. They are capable of taking a small dog or cat (less than 15 pounds), and old or sick dogs, but rarely take supervised pets.

Coyotes live in prairies, brushy areas and wooded edges but not in heavily wooded areas. They prefer suburban areas with broken forests. Coyotes like to travel along trails and paths or ridges and waterways. They often deposit feces or scent marks with urine along the way. They are mostly active at night but may be seen during the day, especially in the summer when young are more active. They sometimes hunt in family units but are most often alone or in male-female pairs. Coyotes' bark and yips usually increase in power and pitch and end in a long, flat howl that can carry two to three miles. They are known to howl at siren whistles. Howls increase during



mating season and decrease when they have their young. Young coyotes howl at a higher pitch than the adults.

Coyote Young

Coyotes mate in late winter; January through February, with offspring being born between March and April. Coyote dens can be found along drainage ditches or fence rows, or under abandoned buildings. At about three weeks of age, the young leave the den under the watch of the adults. Young coyotes are on their own at six to nine months.



RED AND GRAY FOXES

Mostly recognized by their long, bushy reddish-black tails, red foxes are actually only 8 to 15 pounds, the size of a large cat. Red foxes prefer forested areas but are now forced to inhabit urban and suburban areas, especially homes that back up to fields or wood plots.

Red Foxes typically have a home range of about 10 acres in regions with great diversity, but these areas can stretch 3 to 10 miles. They have been known to travel less when they have young.

Most foxes feed on rabbits, mice, rats and birds. They make short yaps or barks followed by a single squall, long yells, yowls and screeches. During the mating season, the female will shrill and squall and the male will answer with two or three short barks.



Fox Reproduction

Foxes mate in January and February, and young are born in March and April. Den sites, which are only used during breeding season for young, are typically found on the sunny side of hills or banks, along fence rows or in natural rock cavities. Dens have several entrances 8 to 15 inches in diameter and can be up to 75 feet in length. The young will leave the den at about 8 to 10 weeks and are on their own by late fall.

REUNITING YOUNG WITH THEIR PARENTS

The likelihood of experiencing orphaned coyote or fox is relatively low. Unlike many mammal species, both of these canine families raise their offspring with the care of both parents, as well as additional females that act as helpers. Should a kit become separated from its den site, BNC encourages you to contact us for additional guidance and evaluation of each individual situation.



PREVENTING PROBLEMS

- Do not approach wildlife, especially coyotes and foxes. If you do encounter a coyote or a fox, remember the following suggestions.
- Make loud noises.
- Clap your hands.
- Wave your arms.
- Blow a whistle.
- Never move young from the nest.
- Do not encourage coyote & fox by feeding them.
- Keep pet food and water dishes inside, especially at night.
- Do not allow spillage to accumulate outside of bird feeders.