



FARMERS
BRANCH

URBAN WILDLIFE

Farmers Branch Animal Services

Miguel Gauna



How can we minimize interactions?



FARMERS
BRANCH



Stop intentional feeding of wildlife

- Do not feed any wildlife on your property
 - This includes: birds, squirrels, ducks, opossums, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, etc.
- This includes community cats (feral cats) which have gone through our Trap Neuter Release program
- Citations can be issued for violation of this chapter (Sec. 18-336. – Nuisances) (a-3)



Accidental Feedings

- Clean up fallen seed from bird feeders
- Feed pets indoors
- Make sure trash is secured and picked up
- If you must feed outdoors, only feed what the pet will finish
 - Any food not finished should be removed to prevent attracting wildlife



Property Upkeep

- Maintain a clean yard to prevent mice, rats and any other small wildlife
 - This can increase the possibility of predator sightings.
- Secure your home
 - Walk the perimeter, looking for any visible entry areas for wildlife may access your home or under your home and make proper repairs.
 - Exclusion traps are highly recommended to prevent any entrance back into your home.



Pet Safety

- Please make sure no pet is ever running loose
- When a pet is taken out for a walk make sure it is on a leash keeping the pet close by
- When letting a small pet outside in its own backyard do not leave it unattended
 - Small pets could be seen as prey
 - Coyotes and bobcats do not discern domestic pets from wildlife



Farmers Branch Animal Services

- Residents of Farmers Branch have the option to rent a trap for a period of 7 days
- Animal Services Officers will respond and relocate wildlife
 - Traps are used for capturing small wildlife and possibly relocating skunks, opossums, raccoons and squirrels
 - 2018 Approximately 200 live wildlife picked up and relocated
- If needed, other urban wildlife issues (coyotes, bobcats, beavers & feral hogs) are contracted out with an approximate cost of \$6500 per year
- 2018 Approximately 240 deceased wildlife were removed



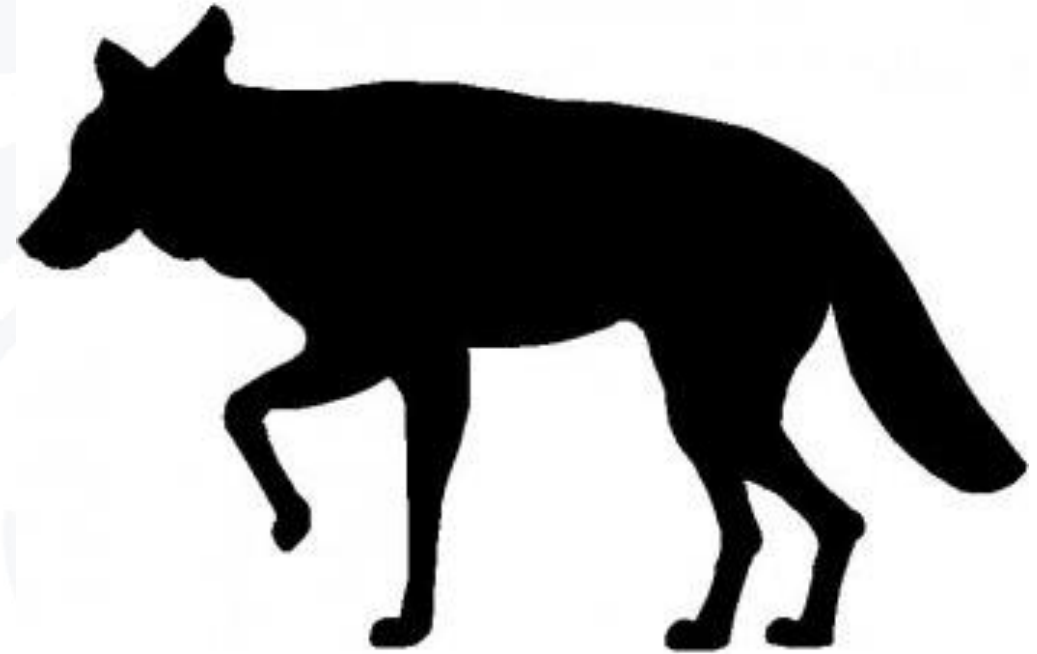
Coyote sightings

- DON'T PANIC!!! Coyotes are a natural part of urban wildlife
- **Do not run away** - stand your ground, make eye contact
- Make loud noises with air horns, yelling or banging objects together until the animal has left the area
- You may have to jump around, wave your arms around and stomp your feet to scare off the coyote
- You may even have to resort to throwing objects or spraying with water to deter the animal away, continue hazing techniques until the animal has left the area



Reporting coyote sightings

- When? Date and time
- Where was the coyote?
- What was the coyote doing?
- Were there pets or wildlife nearby? If so, were the coyotes engaging the small animal?
- Did the coyote retreat when it saw you?
- Did you do any hazing technics?



Farmers Branch Animal Services Call Handling

- All of this information is relayed to the callers
- Animal Services Officers have literature they hand out in the field
- Information is available online and at the Animal Adoption Center
- If a coyote is out during the report of a sighting an Animal Services Officer is dispatched out to observe and/or address the situation
- Urban wildlife are here and they will continue to be here



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