

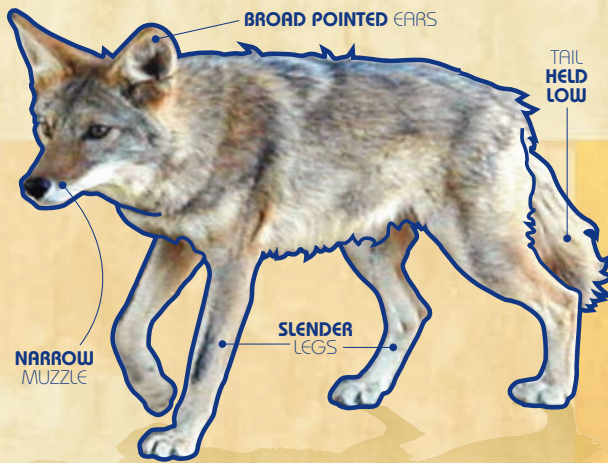
Pinellas County has an intelligent, successful and adaptable resident who is here to stay – the coyote. While you might picture these wild dogs in the prairies of the western United States, they can be found throughout the entire country, Canada, Mexico and parts of Central America.



## Coyote Facts

### Scientific Name – *Canis latrans*

Full-grown coyotes typically weigh between 24 – 37 pounds. Coat colors range from gray to rusty brown. Their bushy tails are usually black-tipped.



Pinellas County codes forbid molesting, feeding, or releasing wild or non-native animals within Pinellas County. This prohibition includes cats. A person convicted of a violation of this code shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a term not exceeding 60 days or by both such fine and imprisonment.



This information is brought to you in cooperation with Pinellas County's Department of Animal Services, Parks & Recreation, Extension, Environmental Management and Communications.

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the Communications Department at (727) 464-4600 • TDD (727) 464-4431.

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# COYOTES

They're here to stay in Pinellas County



coyote

# Diet

Coyotes are very adaptable animals, and are considered omnivores (*they eat just about anything*). Wild fruits, insects, birds and other small mammals are some of their favorite foods, but some coyotes may prey on cats, small dogs and livestock. Garbage and pet food left outside may also attract coyotes.

## Remember:

Keep dogs and cats indoors when not leashed. Do not leave pet food or birdseed outside overnight. Place your garbage in secure containers.



coyote

# Behavior



Coyotes are generally shy of people and are often difficult to spot. Coyotes who do not keep their distance should be avoided and reported to Animal Services at (727) 582-2600. These animals may have lost their fear of people and could bite, or they may be sick, or even worse, carrying lethal rabies.



## Remember:

Do not feed coyotes – they will lose their fear of humans. Wildlife is *wild*. Stay away from coyotes, they are not domestic dogs. Report any coyote that is not fearful of humans to Animal Services. Teach others proper coyote etiquette.

coyote

# Myths



Coyotes are extremely dangerous to people.

**FALSE!**

There have been very few reported cases of western coyotes biting people. Their innate fear of humans tends to keep them from coming into close contact with people. Any coyote that willingly approaches a person may be dangerous and should be reported to Animal Services.

Coyotes are a new problem for Florida.

**FALSE!**

Coyotes have been in Florida since the 1970's and will continue to make their homes in suitable habitats in the county.

These animals need our help to survive.

**FALSE!**

Coyotes are amazingly adaptable, and can survive in nearly any habitat. By providing easy meals for them, you are eliminating their natural fear of humans and increasing their population. **Keep wildlife wild!**