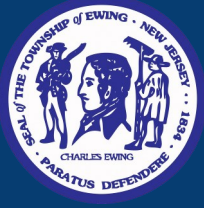


Summer 2023



About Ewing Township Animal Control

Officers work under the auspices of the Ewing Township Health Department. There is currently 1 full time officer who respond to over 600 complaints a year. The Officer works to provide for public safety by preventing wildlife and nuisance animals from endangering the community.

Animal Control

Emergencies

Phone:

609-883-2900 X7175

After hours call

609-882-1313

Officers are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays.

www.ewingnj.org



Are There Coyotes in Ewing?

Township of Ewing, New Jersey

Eastern Coyote—Canis latrans

Over the last several years, Ewing Animal Control has experienced a rise in calls from residents with concerns of coyote sightings within the Township. Many are surprised to learn we have a significant coyote population in New Jersey, let alone Ewing Township. According to the [New Jersey Department of Fish & Wildlife](#), the first recorded occurrence of a coyote sighting in New Jersey was in 1939 near Lambertville, Hunterdon County. After that, recorded sightings of coyote activity became more noticeable primarily in the northern region of the State. As of 2019, coyote sightings have been recorded in all 21 counties and 400 municipalities throughout the state.

What is an Eastern Coyote?

The Eastern Coyote is a canid species that developed through a natural process called hybridization. In the past, wolves and coyotes had separate habitats, with wolves living in the northeast and coyotes in the west. However, as human activities changed the landscape and wolf populations declined, Western Coyotes expanded their range eastward. In areas where their territories overlapped, wolves and coyotes occasionally mated and produced offspring. These hybrids, known as Eastern Coyotes, inherited genes from both parent species. Over time, this mixing of genes led to the creation of a distinct population with a combination of wolf and coyote characteristics.

When discussing coyotes, it's important to know there's a difference between the Western Coyote most of us have seen on TV and the Eastern Coyote we are more frequently seeing in New Jersey and Ewing Township. The Western Coyote is fairly consistent in size and color, weighing 25 to 35 pounds per average adult with a tan, gray color. The Eastern Coyote, however, is larger in size and may weigh 40-50 pounds or more. Coloration may range from blonde to red to black and in various combinations.

Ewing Township Animal Control | 2 Jake Garzio Drive | Ewing, NJ 08628

Phone: 609-883-2900 x 7175 FAX: 609-883-0215 Email: animalcontrol@ewingnj.org

How many Eastern Coyotes are in New Jersey?

The [New Jersey Department of Fish & Wildlife](#) currently estimates our coyote population to be between 4000 to 6000 and lists the coyote as a fur bearer species with seasons for trapping and hunting. The coyote is an “alpha predator” in New Jersey, meaning it’s at the top of the food chain with no known predators or enemies other than humans.

What do Eastern Coyotes eat?

In the wild, a coyote’s main diet consists of rabbits, mice, birds, other small mammals, young or weakened deer, as well as carrion. In suburban neighborhoods, prey may also include unsupervised domestic or feral cats or unsupervised small dogs. Pet food left outside and unsecured garbage are also easy meals for coyotes. Although coyotes are rarely a threat to humans, small children and pets should never be left outside unattended.

Do Eastern Coyotes carry disease?

Coyotes may suffer from a range of diseases including mange, distemper, and rabies. A coyote that appears sick or injured should be immediately reported to Animal Control or the Police. Residents should never attempt to touch or handle coyotes or any other wildlife.

Why are Eastern Coyotes important?

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are by nature, wary of humans. However, coyote behavior changes if given access to human food and garbage. They may lose caution and fear of humans, causing property damage and threatening human safety. Many times, the only solution for a nuisance coyote is humane euthanasia. Relocating a problem coyote is generally not an option, as it only moves the problem to someone else's neighborhood.

Coyote Precautions

If you must feed any pets outdoors, all uneaten food, debris, and waste should be brought inside and held in a garbage receptacle until collection day. Never leave food in outside containers, this includes human and pet food. Coyotes, as well as other wildlife, have an excellent sense of smell and can detect their next meal from a great distance, even in a garbage can with a lid. Domesticated cats should never be allowed to roam free and, as previously mentioned, never leave young children or small dogs outside unattended.

What do I do if there is an Eastern Coyote in my yard?

If coyotes are present in your yard or neighborhood and are becoming a nuisance, make sure they know they're not welcome. Make loud noises, blast a canned air siren, throw rocks in the direction of the coyote without hitting it, shake an aluminum can filled with coins, or spray them with a garden hose.

Coyotes as Nuisances

If you observe coyotes in the daytime that show no fear of humans or if a coyote attacks a person or pet, immediately contact Ewing Township Police at 609-882-1313 or Animal Control at 609-883-2900 x7175. The [Division of Fish and Wildlife](#) is also interested in tracking coyote sightings. Call the DEP Hotline at 877-WARN-DEP.

The occasional sighting of a coyote should remain an exciting and memorable experience. If we all take the recommended precautions, they won’t become a nuisance or a danger. Educate your neighbors. See this linked guide to safely deter coyotes. <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/coyote-hazing>