

Feb. 23, 2021

Megan Haywood  
Cherokee County K-State Research and Extension  
124 W. Country Rd  
Columbus, KS 66725

## Coyotes

Coyotes are members of the dog family or Canidae and they behave much like dogs do. The scientific name of the coyote, *Canis latrans* is Latin for “barking dog.” The preferred pronunciation is the Mexican-Spanish version "ki-o-tee," and the shortened "ki-ote" is commonly used. Coyotes have pointed ears, slender muzzles and a bushy tail. Most are brownish gray in color with a light gray to cream colored belly. Coyotes can be nearly black to nearly white. In Kansas, adult male coyotes average about 30 pounds while females average slightly smaller at 25 pounds.

Coyotes are most active at around sunrise and sunset but may travel close to farmsteads even in broad daylight if the landscape or cover are adequate for concealment. They mostly inhabit and defend a distinct territory, often with a mate, but some are wide-ranging transients that persist on the fringe of home ranges of more territorial coyotes. Home ranges can vary by food availability, pack size and coyote density. According to a research study in the Flint Hills of Kansas by Dr. Drew Ricketts, KSU Extension Specialist - Wildlife Control, the average home range coverage was 700-800 acres. Max (transients) was 21000 acres or 32 miles. Coyotes communicate by scent marking and various vocalizations (KDWPT).

Coyotes commonly prey on small mammals and carrion but their diet also includes food sources like insects and fruits when they are available. Deer and livestock may become a dietary component. Predation seems to be related to coyotes' seasonal energy needs. Coyotes breed in February and have one litter of 5-7 young in late April or early May. During and immediately following this spring whelping season, their energy demands increase rapidly as the parents provide food for the young. At this time, some coyotes turn to domestic livestock as a readily available source of food. However, not all coyotes kill livestock and coyotes that are killing livestock are usually referred to as “offending animals.” It is important to understand that the damage (killing of livestock) can be stopped only by removal of the particular offending animal that is causing it. It may seem unreasonable to think that we can pinpoint the exact offending animal, however, in a damage situation, control methods can be concentrated in and around the damage area and along coyote travel routes to and from the area. When this is done, there is reasonable assurance that the offending coyote(s) will be among the first few coyotes captured. In wildlife damage control efforts, specialists have worked with producers experiencing coyote problems who, after capturing one or a few coyotes, had no more predator issues for months or even years afterwards, despite the continued presence of coyotes in their area (Managing Predator Problems).

Coyotes are not legally classified as furbearers in Kansas, but in many ways they are monitored and managed as if they were. As a result of historic attitudes and the potential for conflict with

the livestock industry, coyotes are considered nongame. They are not afforded the protection of a harvest season like the furbearing animals because of their resilient nature (KDWPT).

Coyotes are at the peak of breeding season and it is best to use common sense when you encounter a coyote and or take the necessary precautions to protect your pets and livestock.

Some examples would include:

- Put your pets up at night
- Remove carcasses from your fields and pastures
- Use guardian animals, such as dogs, donkeys and llamas, to help protect livestock
- Take lethal actions if needed

In Kansas, coyotes can be trapped year-round for fur, sport, or to control livestock predation. For information on hunting coyotes please visit the KDWPT website at [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com). K-State Research and Extension Wildlife Management has a YouTube channel. The playlist show coyote trapping methods and techniques. Please subscribe to KSRE Wildlife Management.

If you have any questions about wildlife management and conservation practices, please contact the Cherokee County Extension office at 620-429-3849.

## Coyotes

Source:

Coyote

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Furharvesting/Furbearers/Coyote>

Extension Wildlife Management

<https://www.wildlife.k-state.edu/species/coyotes/index.html>

Living with Wildlife, Coyotes

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/nwrc/publications/living/coyotes.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/publications/living/coyotes.pdf)

Managing Predator Problems: Practices and Procedures for Preventing and Reducing Livestock  
Losses

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/C620.pdf>

Understanding the Coyote

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/c578.pdf>