

Coyote Safety Tips & Hazing Techniques

The coyote (*Canis latrans*) has established a permanent presence throughout South Carolina's coastal communities, including Cassique. Most coyotes weigh 25–45 lbs. and are primarily nocturnal, though they may be seen at dawn, dusk, or occasionally during daylight — particularly in late summer and fall when juveniles disperse from family groups. Cassique's management philosophy prioritizes non-lethal approaches grounded in proven wildlife science.

Prevention Begins at Home

Coyotes are drawn to residential areas primarily by food. A simple yard audit can dramatically reduce attractants:

- Secure all trash in locking containers. Only place curbside the evening before or morning of pickup.
- Never leave pet food or water bowls outside, especially after dark.
- Keep compost in fully enclosed bins — do not compost meat or dairy.
- Restrict access under decks and accessory dwellings to prevent denning.
- Keep dogs supervised and on a leash no longer than 6 feet during walks.
- Keep cats indoors — free-roaming cats are at significantly higher risk of coyote attack.

Basic Hazing — Anyone Can Do This

Hazing is the most effective tool available for reshaping coyote behavior. The goal is to re-instill a healthy fear of humans. When property owners consistently haze coyotes, the animals quickly learn to avoid populated areas. If you see a coyote, face it directly and be big and loud:

- Yell and wave your arms as you approach the coyote.
- Make loud noises with a whistle, air horn, or noisemaker.
- Shake a can filled with pennies or bang pots and pans.
- Squirt water from a hose, water gun, or spray bottle (vinegar water is effective).
- Throw sticks, small rocks, or tennis balls toward — not at — the coyote.

Do not stop hazing until the coyote leaves the area completely. If it stops and looks back, continue hazing. Never run from a coyote — running can trigger a chasing response.

Never ignore a coyote in the community.

Every sighting in a populated area is an opportunity to haze. A coyote that has been hazed just once or twice often avoids the area permanently.

Hazing Tips for Success

- Use a variety of tools and techniques — coyotes can become desensitized to a single method.
- The coyote must recognize the threat is coming from a person. Hazing from inside a vehicle or behind a screen is not effective.
- Always provide an escape route — do not corner a coyote or chase it toward traffic or other people.
- Share these techniques with neighbors — community-wide participation multiplies effectiveness.