

Coyotes and Foxes in Florida



Photo courtesy of Robert Steagall- Sanibel Island

Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park



FWC

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Coyote and Red Fox range expansion- eradication of wolves & forest conversions



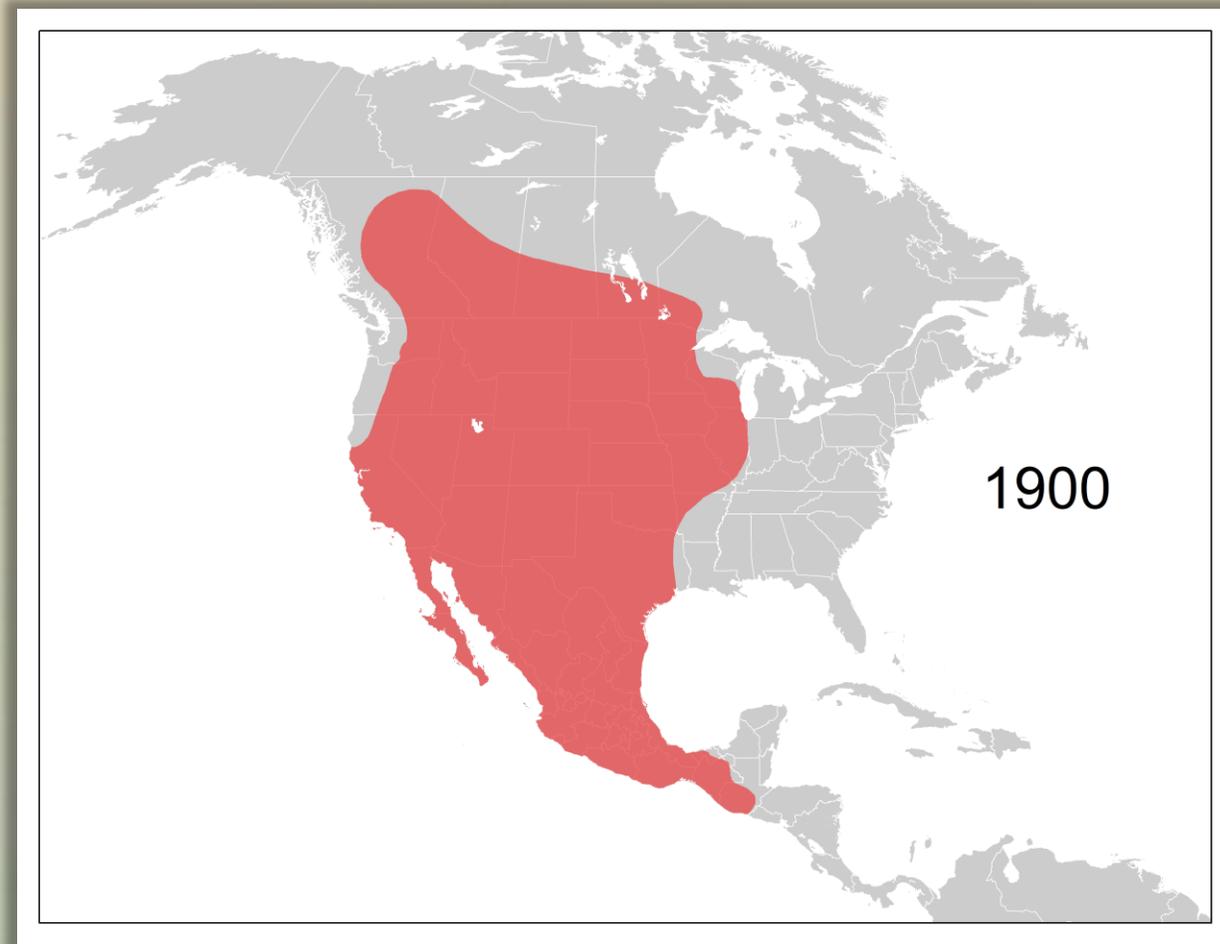
Red wolf; photo courtesy of B. McPhee



FWC photo- Polk City



History of the migration of coyotes across North and Central America

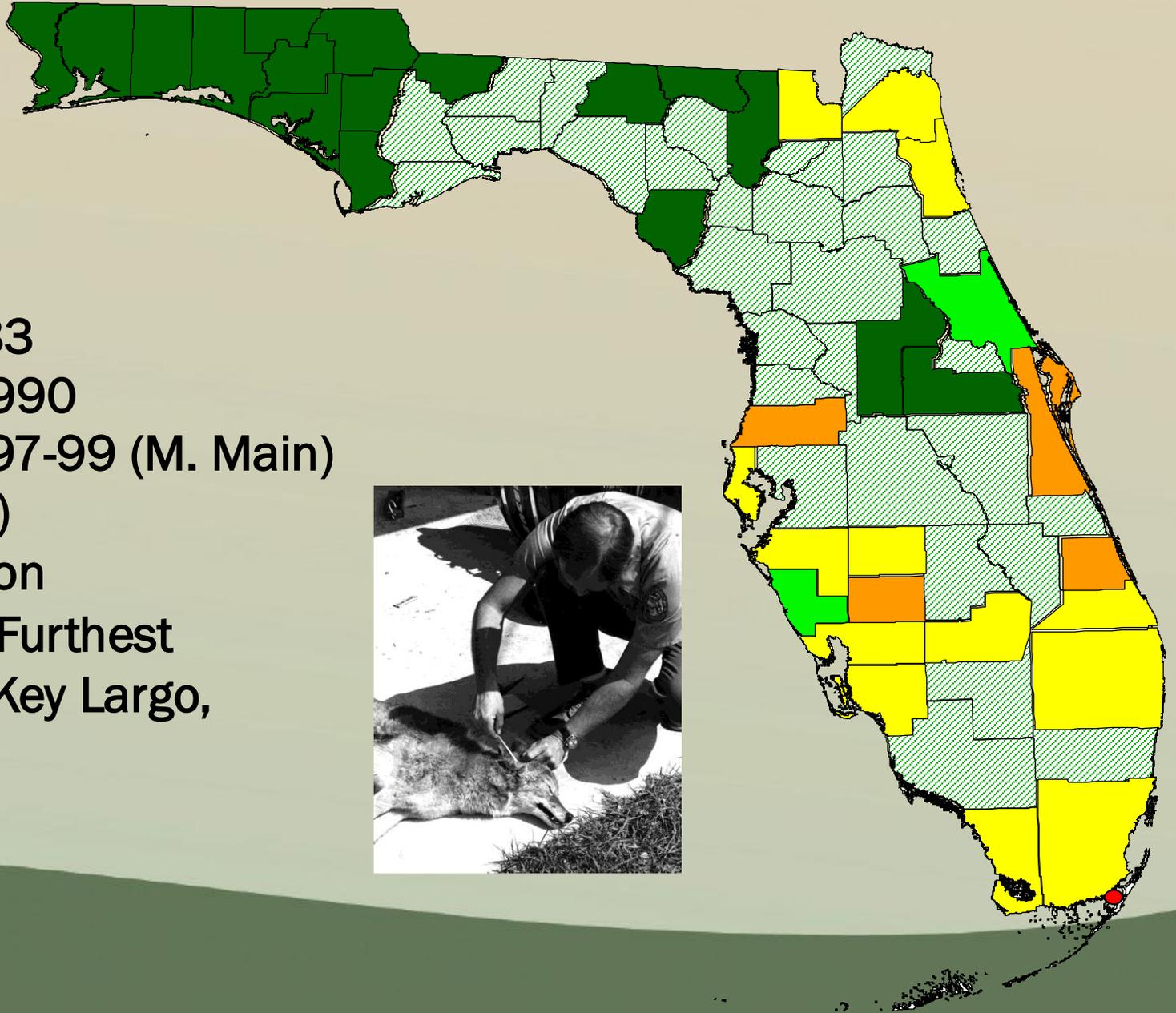


Hody & Kays. 2018



History of the migration of coyotes in Florida

- Brady & Campbell. 1983
- ▨ Wooding & Hardisky. 1990
- Scent Survey Data. 1997-99 (M. Main)
- Carcass Data (M. Main)
- Personal Communication
- Greene & Gore. 2013 (Furthest southern observation- Key Largo, 2011)



Coyote Biology

- Omnivorous, highly adaptable
- Adults 25-40 lbs.
- Home range size:
natural areas ~15 mi²,
urban areas ~3 mi²
- Mate in Winter
- Pups in Spring
- Litter size ~6 pups
- Both parents care for young



FWC photo- Clearwater



FWC trail camera photo- Big Cypress



Red Fox Biology

- Mostly red fur, white tipped tail
- Omnivorous, highly adaptable
- Adults 10-15 pounds
- Home range size: 2 to 3 sq miles
- Mate in fall, winter
- Have 3-5 pups in the spring, raised in a burrow
- Pups stay with parents for about 6 months



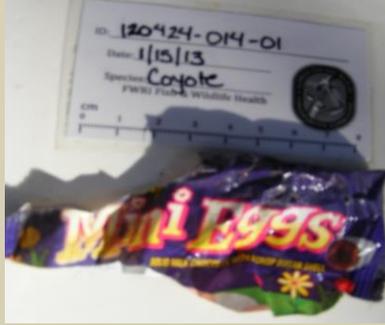
Red Fox kits (photo courtesy Mike Baird)

Gray Fox Biology

- Gray face, back, tail; red sides; black-tipped tail
- Omnivorous, highly adaptable
- Adults 7-13 pounds
- Home range size: 1 to 4 sq miles
- Mate in Winter
- Have 3-5 pups in the spring, raised in a burrow
- Pups stay with parents for about 6 months



Coyote Diet Study



Mammal 31%



Other Vegetation 22%



Mast 10%



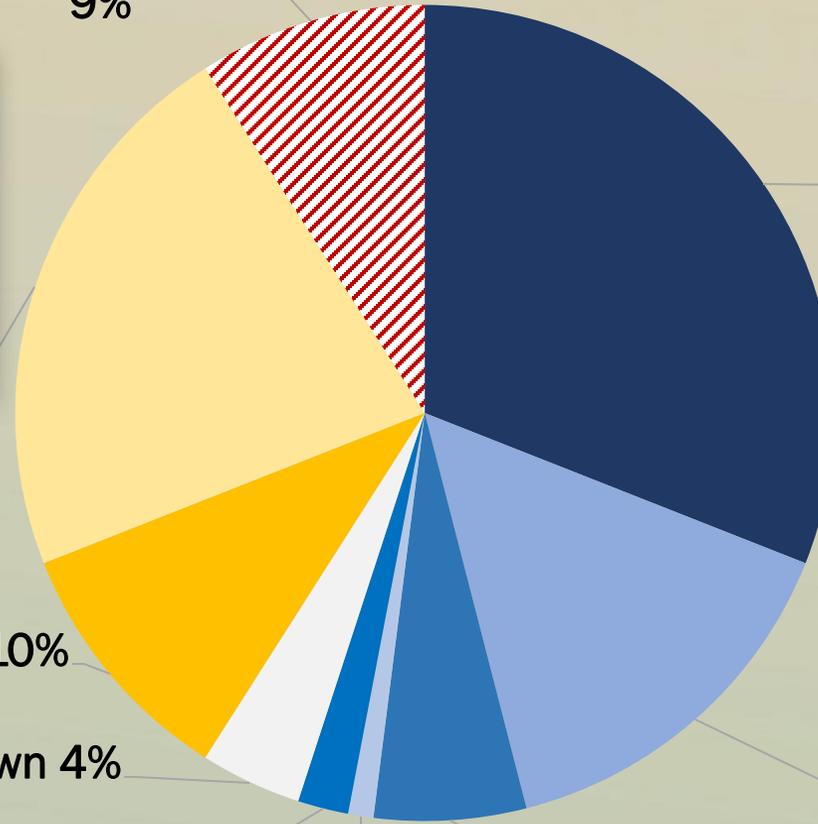
Insect 15%

Unknown 4%

Fish 2%

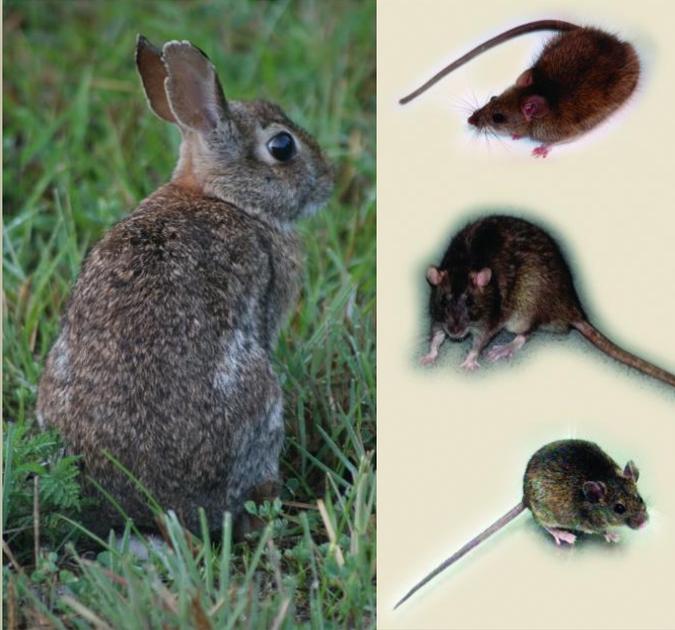
Herps 1%

Avian 6%



Fox Diets

Diet - seeds, fruits, small mammals, birds, eggs, insects



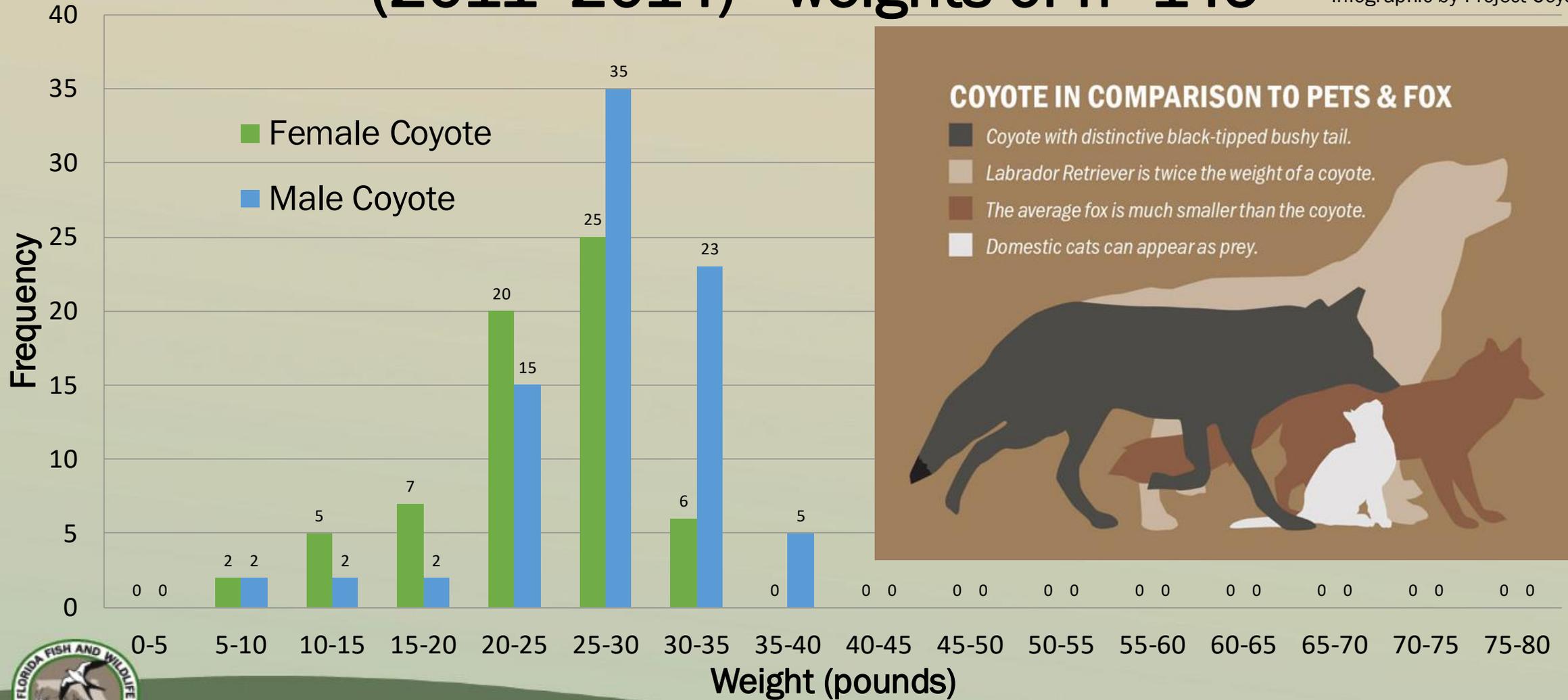
Preyed upon by coyotes, dogs, bobcats

Ecosystem role: medium-sized predator important for controlling small mammals and insects



Coyote Diet Study cont'd (2011- 2014) - weights of n=149

Infographic by Project Coyote



FWC diet study - 149 coyote carcasses collected statewide from 2011-2013

Coyotes and Foxes in Florida: Human conflicts

Common myths and misconceptions:

- Size
- Packs
- Coy-dogs/Coy-wolves
- Disease
 - Rabies
 - Mange
 - Distemper



Photo- Clearwater



Dog attacks vs. coyote attacks

- Coyotes (USA and Canada 1970- 2020):
 - 8.9 attacks/yr. (average)
 - 2 fatalities/50 yrs.
- Domestic dogs (USA):
 - 1,000 emergency room visits/day
 - 5 million cases/yr. require medical treatment
 - 236 fatalities during 2015-2020



www.dogsbite.org



Coyotes and Foxes in Florida: Human conflicts

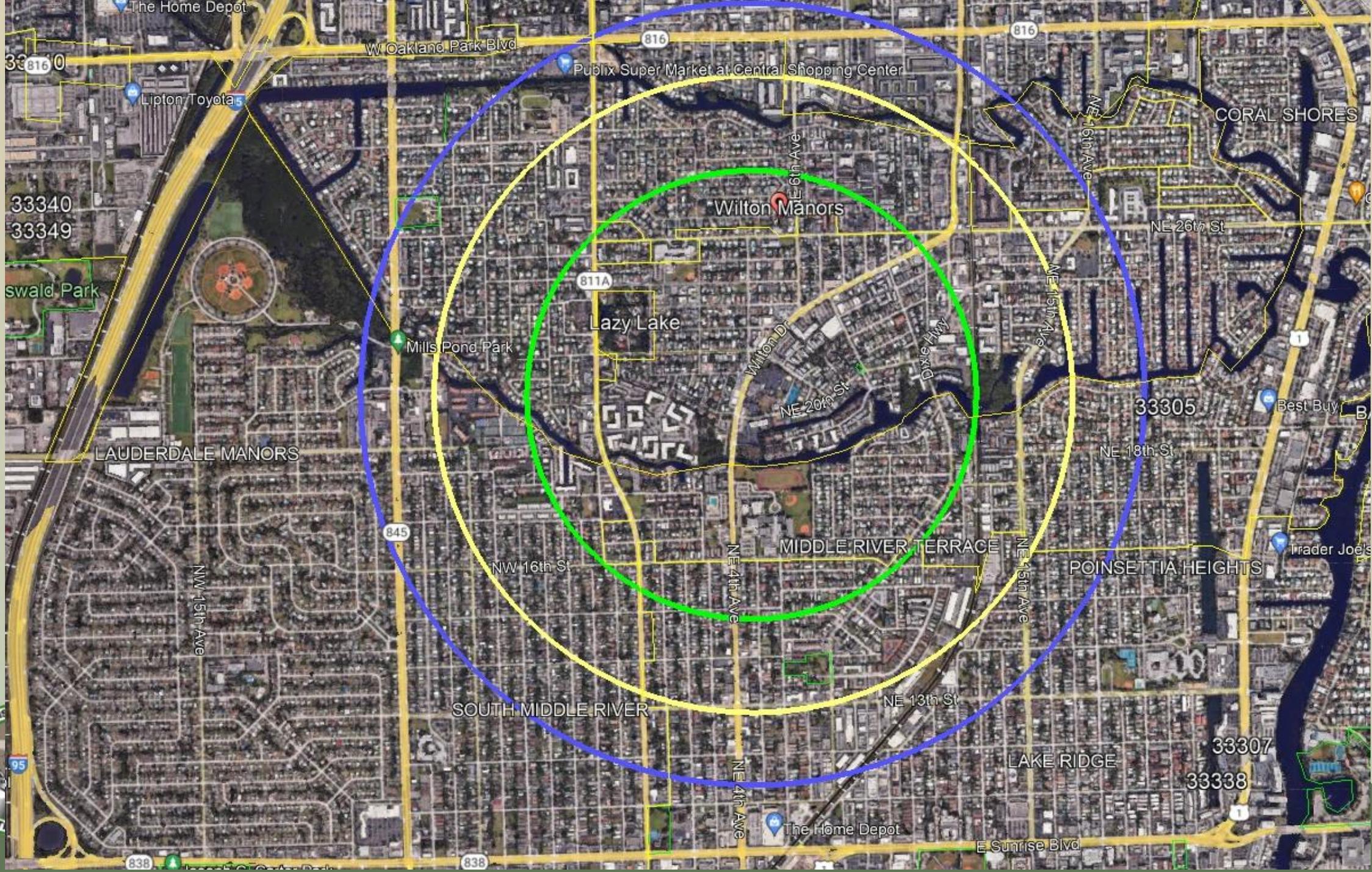
Nuisance Wildlife Conflict Defined

FWC definition 68A-1.004 F.A.C.

- Causes or about to cause property damage.
- Presents a threat to public safety.
- An annoyance within, under or upon a building.

Nuisance refers to the behavior of an individual animal, not an entire species.





The Home Depot

W Oakland Park Blvd

816

Publix Super Market at Central Shopping Center

Lipton Toyota

CORAL SHORES

33340
33349

Wilton Manors

NE 26th St

Swald Park

811A

Lazy Lake

Mills Pond Park

Wilton Dr

Dixie Hwy

NE 15th Ave

NE 20th St

33305

Best Buy

LAUDERDALE MANORS

NE 18th St

845

MIDDLE RIVER TERRACE

Trader Joe's

NW 16th St

POINSETTIA HEIGHTS

NW 15th Ave

NE 4th Ave

NE 15th Ave

SOUTH MIDDLE RIVER

NE 13th St

LAKE RIDGE

33307

33338



95

The Home Depot

E Sunrise Blvd

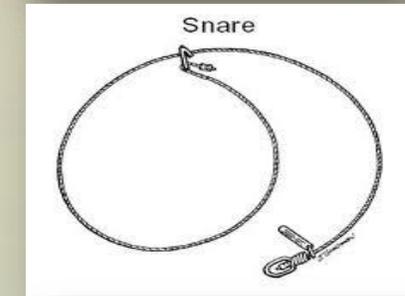
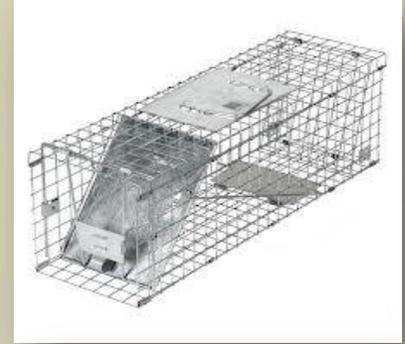
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Coyotes and Foxes in Florida: Human conflicts

Targeted Trapping and Lethal Removal

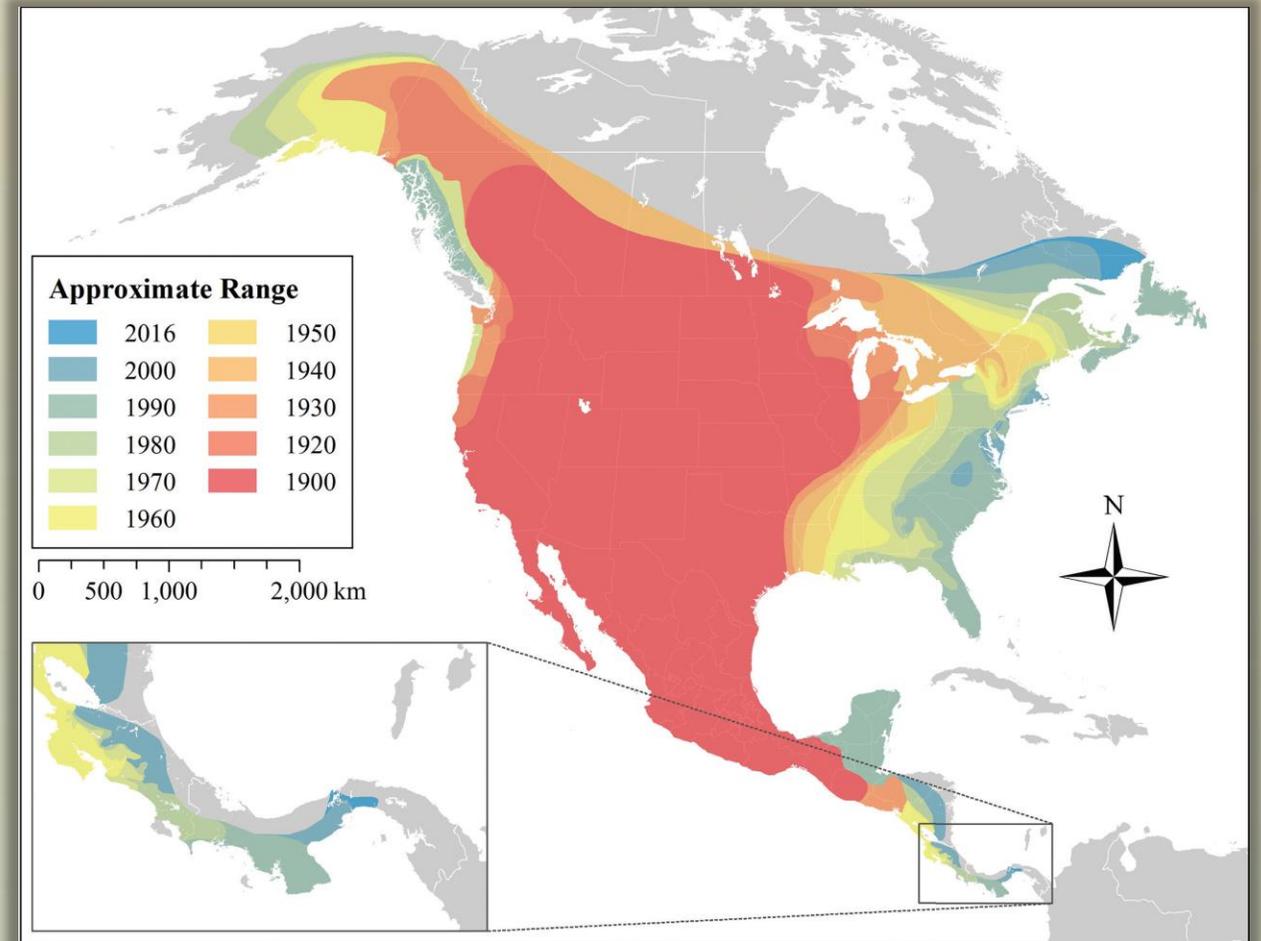
- Live/Cage Trap – Any box style trap where the animal is completely contained within the trap (Have-A-Heart)
- Snare – A trapping device consisting of a noose designed to capture wildlife.
- Steel trap – Any mechanical device (other than a snare, household mouse traps or devices commonly used to take household and lawn nuisance rodents) designed and used to capture wildlife by seizing and holding a part of the body.



Can we get rid of coyotes or foxes?

NO

- Eradication efforts
- Breeding dynamics
- Territorial with high replacement
 - Adaptable and intelligent
 - Here to stay

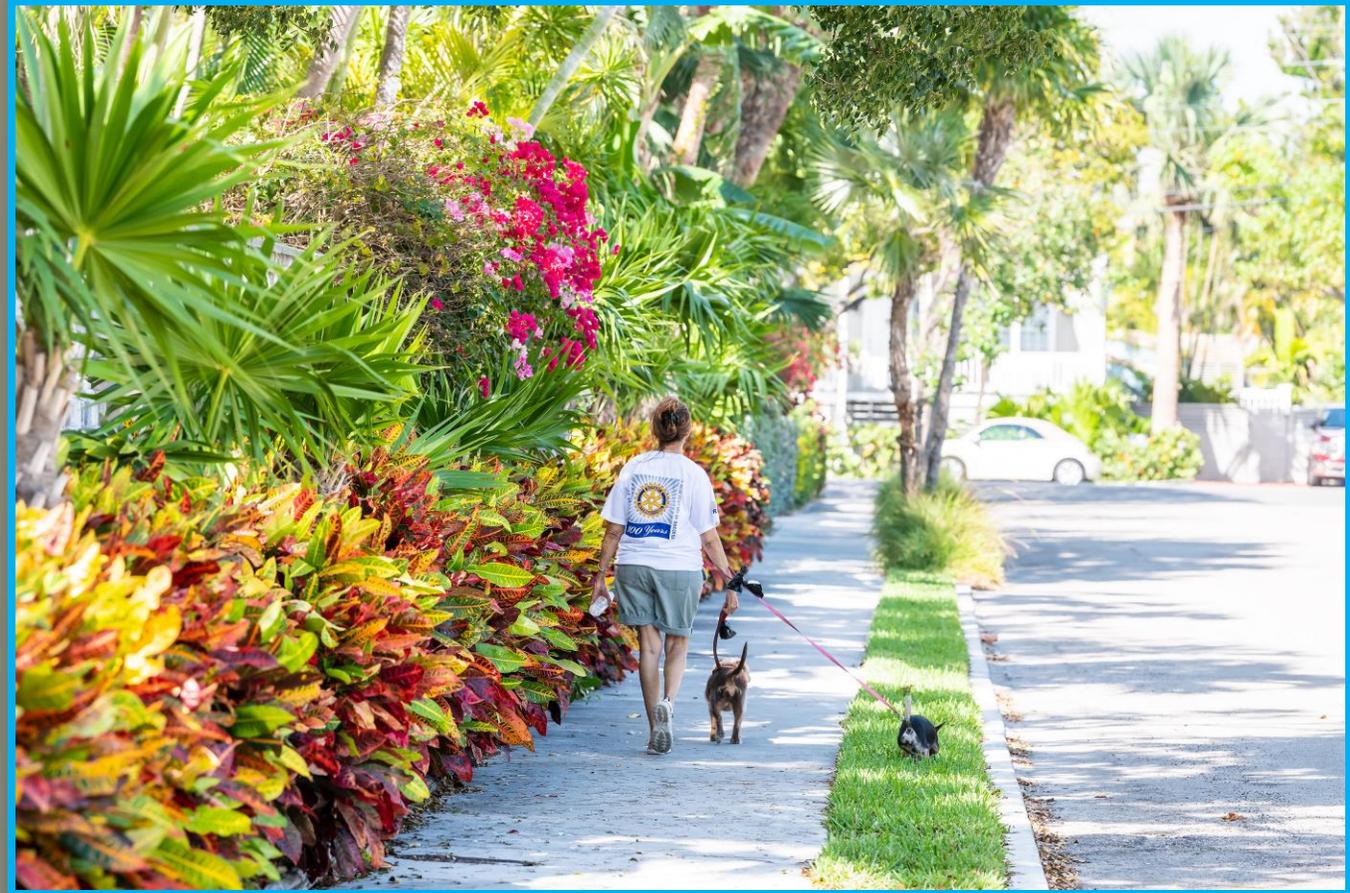


Hody & Kays. 2018



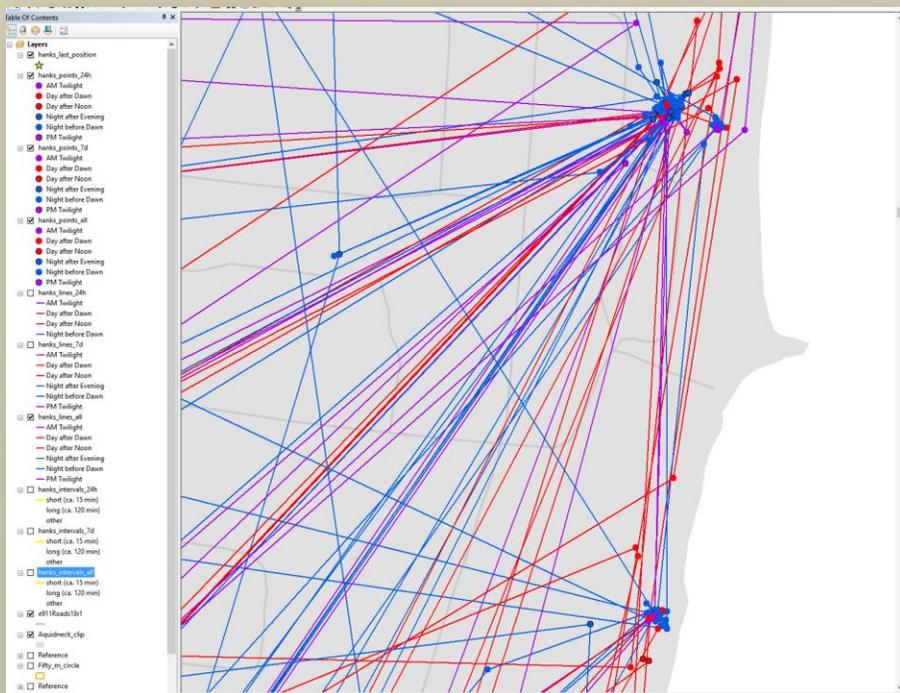
Prevent problems with coyotes and foxes - Secure Attractants

- NEVER feed coyotes!
 - Anything that can attract a dog, cat or raccoon can attract a coyote
- Secure garbage
- Clean up pet food, fallen fruit & bird feeders
- Keep cats indoors
- Keep dogs on leashes & supervised outdoors (especially small dogs)

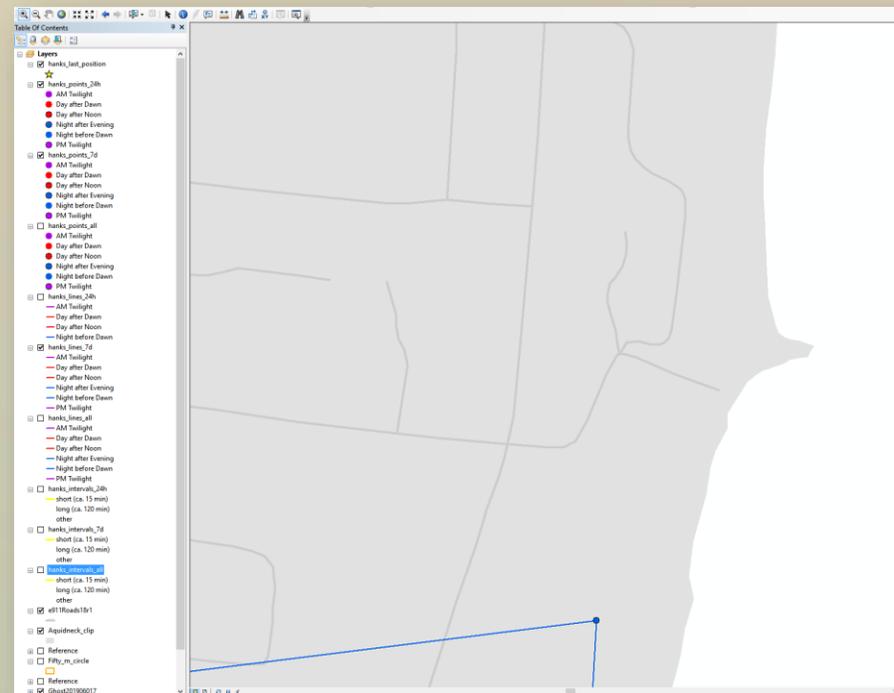


Attractant removal works!

Narraganset Bay Coyote Study from The Conservation Society



6 weeks of GPS collar tracking on one coyote led to these two suspected feeding sites.



3-4 weeks after feeding sites addressed by local Code Enforcement, coyote traffic is reduced across the whole neighborhood.



Photos: N Mitchell, NBCS, The Conservation Society

Prevent problems with coyotes and foxes - Hazing

- Human Dominance
- Rocks & sticks
- Whistles
- Pots & Pans
- Car & air horns
- “Coyote shaker”
- Motion sprinklers
- Water pistols
- Motion lights
- Firecrackers
- Bear spray



COYOTE VS ALARM



MyFWC.com



RACCOON VS SPRINKLER



MyFWC.com



Coyotes and Foxes in Florida: some facts

- Adult coyotes weigh 25-40 pounds
- Adult foxes weigh 7-15 pounds
- Coyotes and Foxes occur in every state and nearly every large city in the U.S.
- Attacks by coyotes or foxes on humans are exceedingly rare
- Coyotes will kill cats and small dogs
- Coyotes and Foxes can carry rabies, but it is rare



FWC trail camera photo- Riverview



Coyotes and Foxes in Florida: some advice

- Never feed coyotes, foxes, or any wild animal
 - *It is illegal to feed coyotes and foxes in Florida!*
- Prevent access to garbage, pet food, and fallen fruit
- Keep cats indoors, have small dogs on a short leash or supervise them in a well fenced yard
- Follow hazing recommendations to consistently frighten coyotes away
- If a coyote or fox approaches, lift small pets and children off the ground and be prepared to defend yourself (never run)

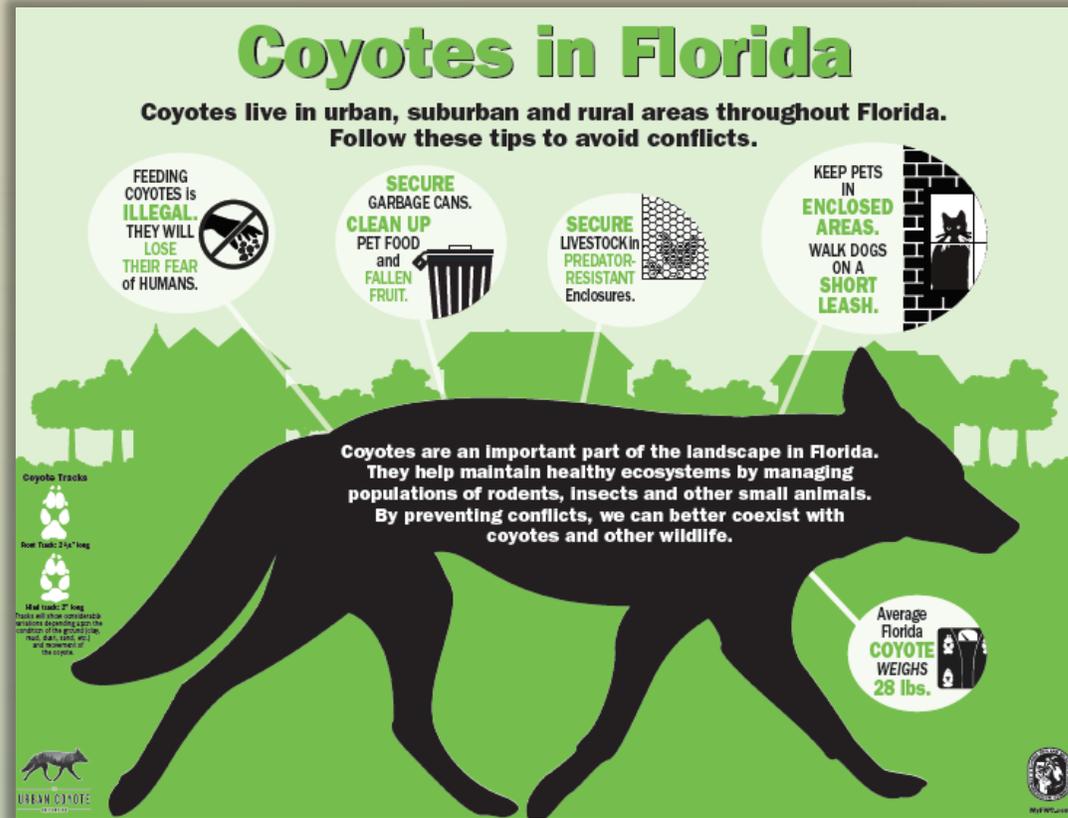


Photo courtesy of Dan Muccie - Estero



Coyotes and Foxes in Florida:

Who should you contact when there is a problem?



FWC South Regional Office (561) 625-5122

Wildlife Alert Hotline (888) 404-3922

MyFWC.com—About Us-Contact-AskFWC

Visit myfwc.com/coyote

[Request a Community Starter Kit](#)

