



Coyote - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		coyote
Other Names:		prairie wolf, brush wolf, little wolf, songdog
Scientific Name:		<i>Canis latrans</i>
Appearance:	Size:	medium-sized shepherd dog
	Color:	grayish-brown to black, often with patch of white chest hair
	Weight:	20-30 pounds
	Other:	move more gracefully than dogs (more cat-like)
		tracks are more narrow and elongated than dog tracks
Range:		Almost statewide except coastal areas of peninsula
Habitat:		Most of Florida, with the possible exception of the densely populated cities and the marshes of the Everglades, is suitable habitat
Diet:		Feed on variety of animals including rabbits, mice, deer, birds, and insects
		plant material including persimmons, watermelons, wild plums, and blackberries

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Table 1.

	carrion
Reproduction:	mate in pairs during late winter
	an average of 6 pups per litter
	unpaired young may stay with parents and help rear the next litter
	den in hollow logs, brush piles and burrows (they usually enlarge burrows made by other animals such as armadillos)
Behavior:	most active at night
	home range size for one coyote can be from 1,500 to 12,000 acres
Problems:	predation on livestock
	eat watermelons
	predation on domestic cats and dogs
Recognizing Damage:	coyote presence at site of damage does not mean that they were responsible (e.g. they feed on carrion)
	look for tracks
	look for teeth marks; coyote canines are about 1 1/4 inches apart
	look for signs of bleeding or bruises particularly on the head and neck (coyotes usually bite their victims on the neck and cause death by suffocation); coyotes may occasionally attack from the rear, biting legs and hams; they often begin feeding behind the ribs eating the stomach of nursing animals and kidneys
Solutions:	exclusion fencing; electric fencing is most effective
	corralling animals at night
	guard dogs
	shoot or use wire snares (see "Legal Aspects")
Legal Aspects:	may be taken throughout the year by use of guns, bow, live traps, or cable snare
	steel leg-hold traps and hunting at night with a light can be conducted only by a special permit issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
	the use of poisons to kill coyotes is illegal in Florida
	a furbearer license is required to sell coyote pelts.

Table 1.

Fact Sheet Available:	No
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