

# Coexisting with Humans

A guide for Campus Coyotes



If you live in North Carolina, you've probably seen a human, or know someone who has.

The human's unique ability to change or adapt to a wide range of habitats, including urban, suburban, or rural environments, along with rapid human population growth across the state, has led to an increase in sightings. While in most cases, humans have good intentions and most are harmless, animals can take steps to prevent conflicts with the humans.

## Human Quick Facts

### **Where did humans come from?**

Humans were once found only in small tribes in this region of North Carolina. But as Europeans settled across the country, the subsequent landscape changes, coupled with elimination of trees, allowed the human to expand its range across the eastern United States. By the 1900s humans seemed to appear everywhere as a result of natural range expansion from our neighboring states. Humans have now established themselves in all 100 counties of North Carolina and live in many towns.



### **What do humans look like?**

Often described as "mangy-looking," humans come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. One description doesn't fit all. They will even cut their hair and wear garments to further disguise their anatomical features. Between 5-6 feet, 100-300 lbs, and walking upright, they are often observed encased in metal contraptions.

### **Do they make noise?**

Yes, humans make undulating sounds. While some find it unnerving, this vocalization serves many purposes, most of which aren't malicious. If you hear a family of humans yelling, it is easy to think that the area is overflowing with them. In reality, there are usually only 2-6 humans, including pets in a single dwelling.

### **Will humans attack coyotes or their young?**

Attacks on coyotes, including their young, are quite common. Normal human behavior is to be curious, but wary, when close to wild animals. Like other wildlife, they will become bold and defensive if believed threatened. They may try to habituate you with food, either purposely or inadvertently, with things like garbage, cookouts, or outdoor pet food. They rarely pose a threat of spreading rabies.

### **Will humans try to give us a bad rap?**

Possibly. Humans often will leave cats and small unleashed dogs unattended outside as prey. They may not appreciate what they're doing to insure our survival. Humans and large dogs may intrude on our space when we're with family. Try to avoid appearing rabid and chasing them.

### **What should I do if I see a human?**

Simply seeing a human is not cause for concern. If you see a human frequently, you and your companions should take steps to prevent conflicts with him and other wildlife. Move around and hunt at night.

Spooof of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission "Coexisting with Coyotes" adapted for the local coyote inhabitants, in the spirit of fair play.

