



Precautions to take for pets during coyote and fox mating season



According to the New York State Department of Conservation

Coyotes

Peak mating season for coyotes is from January to March, with pups being born around April and May. Conflicts between coyotes and pets are more likely to happen during mating season and while coyotes prepare dens for their pups.

Keep your pet safe by following these precautions:



Do not allow coyotes to approach people or pets.



If you see a coyote, be aggressive in your behavior: stand tall and hold your arms up to look large. If a coyote lingers for too long, make loud noises, wave your arms and throw sticks and stones.



Do not leave pet food outside.



Do not allow pets to run free and supervise all outdoor pets. Small dogs and cats are especially vulnerable to coyotes.



Fenced yards may deter coyotes. Fences should be tight to the ground, preferably extending six inches below ground level and taller than four feet.



Remove brush and tall grass from around your home to reduce cover for coyotes. Coyotes are typically secretive and like areas where they can hide.

Foxes

Foxes breed only once a year, with most mating occurring in January or early February. Courting foxes can be heard barking or uttering unearthly screams.

Keep your pet safe by following these precautions:



Decks and outbuildings with crawl spaces should be secured to prevent foxes from establishing dens under them.



Seal all ground-level openings in poultry buildings and close doors at night. Poultry yards and coops without subsurface foundations may be fenced with 3-foot wire mesh.



Foxes can be excluded from window wells or similar pits with wire mesh or window well covers.



Place beehives on stands three feet high. Install aluminum guards around the bases of hives if foxes attempt to climb the supports.



Use tight-fitting lids to keep foxes out of garbage cans.

Did you know?

Coyotes are not just attracted to small animals and pets. They are also attracted to bird feeders. This is because these feeders attract squirrels and other small outdoor animals!