Why can’t these coyotes just be relocated to where they belong?  
An urban coyote was born and raised in an urban habitat. It is where it belongs. A relocated coyote will try to get back to its home and can travel miles to do so. If the coyote doesn’t make it back home, its removal has just opened up a spot for a new coyote to move into. In the long run, trapping and relocating coyotes is not an effective solution to the reality of urban coyotes.

Are coyotes a threat to people?  
Coyotes pose little to no risk to people, including children. A person has a better chance of being bitten by a dog or cat than by a coyote. Never put food out for coyotes and teach children never to approach any wild or unfamiliar animal, including coyotes.

Are coyotes a threat to my pet?  
Small pets might be seen as a food source for coyotes and larger dogs can be seen as a threat to a coyote’s territory, especially if there is a den nearby. Responsible pet ownership is the key to reducing conflicts with coyotes. Keep pets in a secured area or accompany them on a leash when outside, especially at night, to ensure their safety. If you see a coyote in the area and you are walking with a pet, pick it up or shorten the leash. Do not turn your back or run from the coyote.

How can I coexist with coyotes?  
The future of our relationship with coyotes directly depends on our behavior. Coyotes react to our behaviors, and what we do sends a message to the coyotes of either mutual respect or lack of respect. Awareness, education, and prevention are the keys to a successful coyote/human coexistence.

- Do not feed coyotes.  
Never feed any wild animal, including coyotes. Feeding coyotes teaches them to associate humans with food, eventually making them very bold and unafraid.

- Keep attractants out of your yard.  
Don’t leave pet food outside, keep garbage cans secured, keep small pets inside or on a leash when outside, clean up fallen seed from bird feeders, and pick up any fallen fruit in the yard.

- Use harassment and repellents.  
Harassment can be an effective tool in discouraging coyotes. Throwing things like rocks or tennis balls, spraying the coyote with a hose, making loud noises or using an air horn can re-instill a fear of humans in coyotes. Coyotes are typically frightened off by aggressive gestures, such as moving toward the animal while waving your arms and shouting.

What should I do if I see an injured coyote?  
Never approach any injured animal. Contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (847) 608-3100 or your local law enforcement agency for assistance.

For more information, contact the Conservation District’s Wildlife Resource Center at (815) 728-8307, or visit http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/directory_show.cfm
When do coyotes have pups?  
In a coyote pack, only the alpha male and female mate, while other family members assist in raising the young. Coyotes usually mate in February and pups are born in April. The average litter size is 4 to 7 pups although that number can vary depending on food availability and the population density of coyotes in the area. The pups stay in the den for about six weeks and then start going out for short trips with the adults. By summer’s end the pups are traveling away from the parents and hunting on their own. The only time coyotes use a den is when they are raising pups, otherwise they sleep above ground. 

What do coyotes eat? 
Coyotes are opportunistic animals that eat a variety of foods, ranging from grass and fruit to mice, rabbits, and white-tailed deer. One study of Chicago area coyotes found that the majority of their diet consisted of small rodents, fruit, deer, and rabbits. 

How can I tell if a coyote is in my neighborhood? 
Coyotes are often described as resembling a small German shepherd. They have grayish tan to reddish gray fur, pointed ears, a bushy tail, and a slender muzzle. Their eyes are very yellow with large dark pupils, unlike many dogs who have brown eyes. Most adult coyotes weigh between 25–35 lbs, although their thick fur can make them appear larger. 

Other signs of coyotes include the presence of tracks or scat (feces) or hearing coyotes howling. Coyotes make a variety of sounds including yips, barks, whines, and howls. Their numerous calls can often make it seem like a large pack of coyotes are howling when in fact there are only a few vocalizing. 

Do coyotes form packs? 
Coyotes do have an organized social structure referred to as a pack that will defend their territory from other coyotes. Typically a coyote pack contains the alpha pair (male and female) and non breeding family members. Unlike wolves, coyotes usually do not travel in packs. Their territory is shared by the pack, but when hunting or traveling, coyotes are often alone or in pairs. Depending on the amount of food available, a territory can vary from three square miles for a pack to 25 square miles for a solitary coyote.