

Consent

Dear Potential Participant

The University of Rhode Island is conducting a study of people's **attitudes, values, beliefs, and knowledge about coyotes** (*Canis latrans*) in Rhode Island.

You are being asked to participate in this study. Your participation would involve answering questions in a survey about your knowledge, beliefs, and feelings about coyotes and some background information, such as your age and about your household. You **must be 18 years or older** to participate.

We will only ask for your name and e-mail for the purpose of sharing the results of this research with you at a later date. Only approved members of the research team, trained in human subject research, will have access to this information. Your personal identity information will not be used for any other purpose. Address information will be used to understand the relationship between coyotes and human knowledge, beliefs, and feelings about coyotes. Address information will only be shared with approved members of the research team, trained in human subject research and will not be published.

500 or more people are being invited to participate in this study, and each will be asked to answer the same questions based on their own knowledge, experiences, and opinions. Your participation should take between 10-15 minutes of your time.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study at any time, there is no penalty. The results of the research study may be published, but your name and other uniquely identifying information will never be published or publicly associated with your answers in any way.

There are minimal risks to participating in this study. Although there may be no direct benefit to you, a possible benefit of your participation is improved knowledge for the management of coyotes and minimizing coyote-human conflict in Rhode Island. If you have any questions concerning this research study, please email the project lead Kimberly Rivera at karivera@uri.edu.

You may contact the URI Institutional Review Board (IRB) if you have questions regarding your rights as a research

participant. Also contact the IRB if you have questions, complaints or concerns which you do not feel you can discuss with the investigator. The University of Rhode Island IRB may be reached by phone at (401) 874-4328 or by e-mail at researchintegrity@etal.uri.edu. You may also contact the URI Vice President for Research and Economic Development by phone at (401) 874-4576. Reference project IRB #2021-045

Many thanks for your time and help!

Kimberly Rivera, Professor Carlos García-Quijano, Professor Brian Gerber, and the University of Rhode Island

If you would like to keep a copy of this document for your records, please print or save this page now. You may also contact the above researchers to request a copy. **I have read and understand the above consent form, I certify that I am 18 years old or older, and, by clicking the [→] button to enter the survey, I indicate my willingness voluntarily take part in the study.**

Rhode Island Residency

Are you a resident of Rhode Island?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How many years have you lived here?

If you are not a resident, check all that apply...

- ☐ I am a student in RI
- ☐ I own a vacation home or property in RI
- ☐ I am a tourist in RI
- ☐ I work in RI
- ☐ I rent a home in RI
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Roughly, how many months have you spent in Rhode Island?

☐ Months

More specific location information will help us better understand interactions between humans and coyotes. Please provide as much detail as you feel comfortable

What is the county where you predominantly reside?

- ☐ Bristol
- ☐ Kent
- ☐ Newport
- ☐ Providence
- ☐ Washington
- ☐ I do not wish to share this information

What is the town/ village where you predominantly reside?

- ☐ Town/ Village
- ☐ I do not wish to share this information

What is the street where you predominantly reside?

- ☐ Street
- ☐ I do not wish to share this information

Relationship with the Outdoors

Do you participant in the following outdoor activities?

- ☐ Road running or jogging
- ☐ Fishing

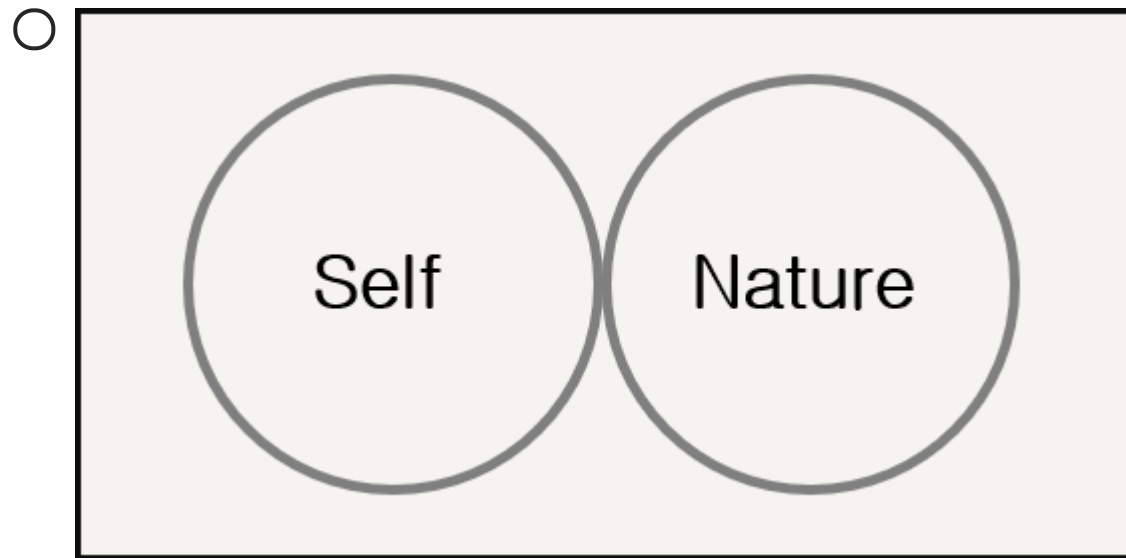
- ☐ Water sports (surfing, diving, kayaking, etc.)
- ☐ Wildlife viewing
- ☐ Road biking
- ☐ Mountain biking
- ☐ Hiking or trail running
- ☐ Car or RV camping
- ☐ Backpacking
- ☐ Hunting or Trapping
- ☐ Horseback riding
- ☐ Other outdoor activities (please specify)

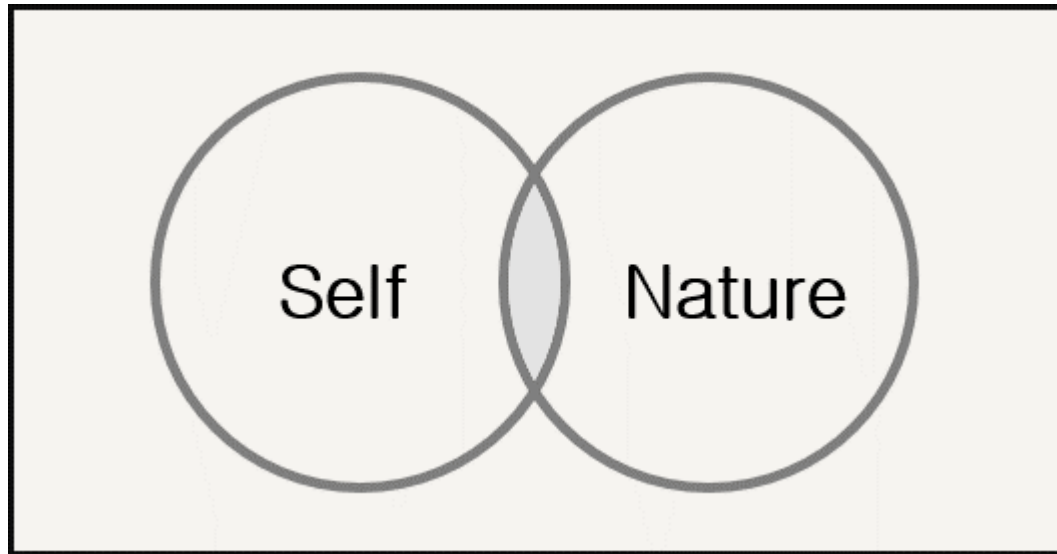
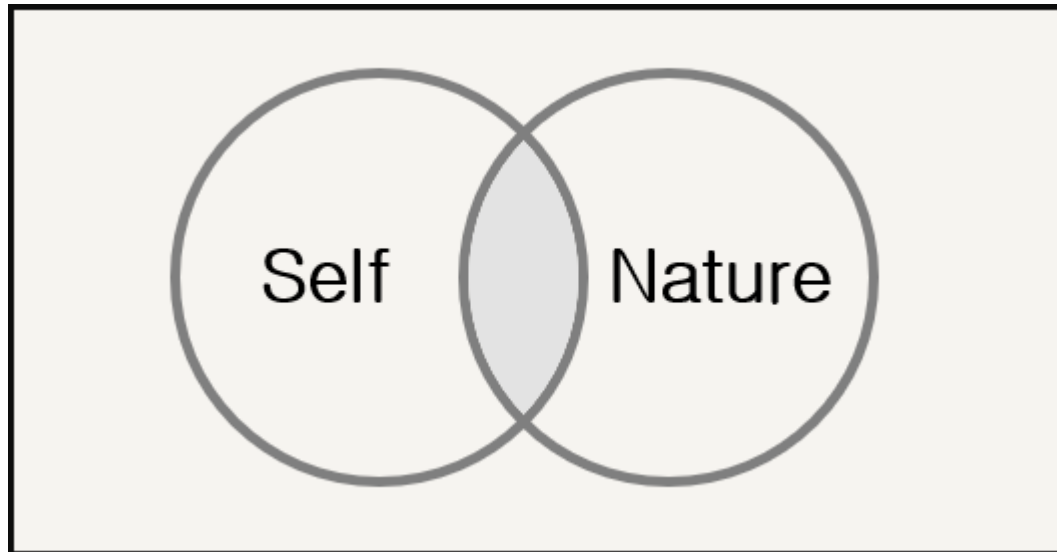
Do you consider yourself a nature or outdoor oriented person?

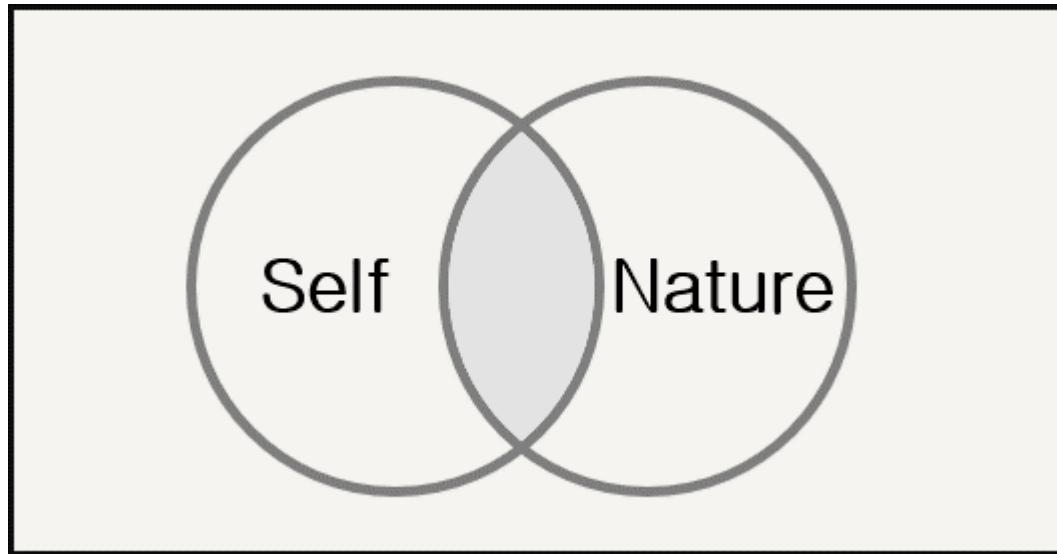
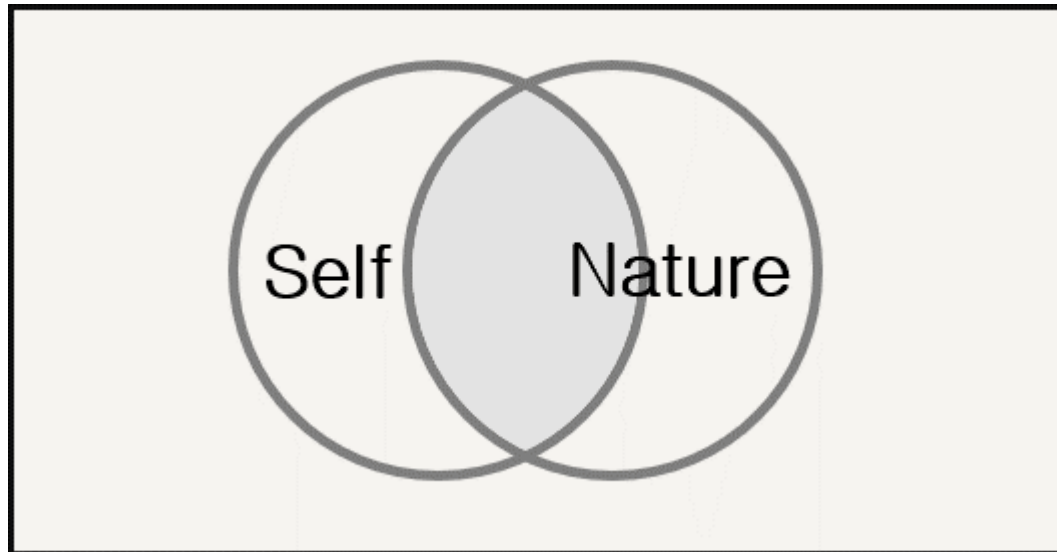
☐ Yes

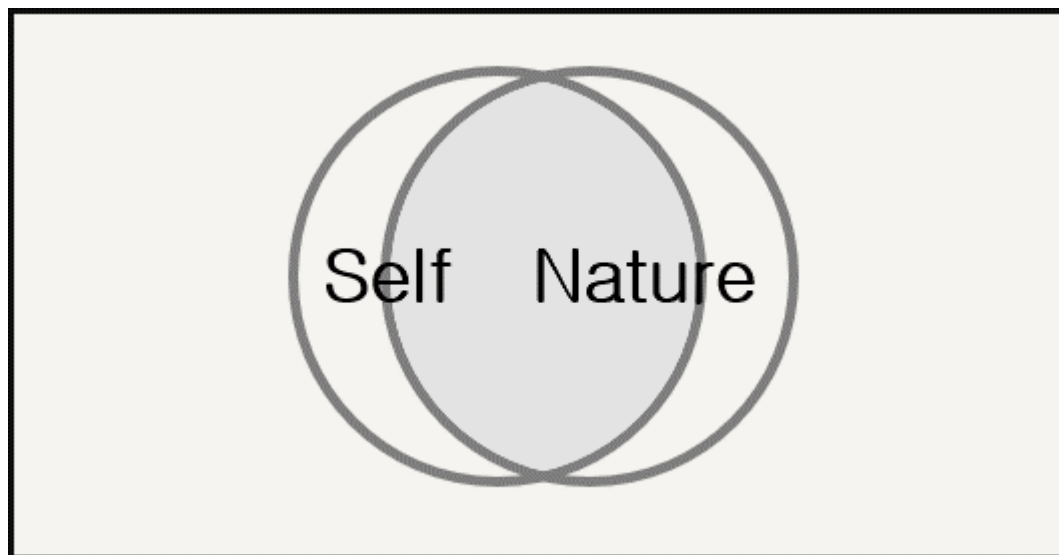
☐ No

Which of the following images represents your relationship with nature?



☐☐

☐☐




Attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about coyotes



Coyote
Canis latrans

Before the 1700's, coyotes were predominantly found in prairies and deserts in the western United States. Over time, coyotes have expanded their distribution east and now occupy a range of habitats including urban cities.

Coyote	Golden retriever
	
30–45 lbs	55–75 lbs

Questions 9 & 10 will address the values and risks of coyotes in Rhode Island. We will start with the values...

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree on the following values related to coyotes

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Coyotes have an important role in Rhode Island's ecosystem	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Coyotes are beneficial to humans by consuming other wildlife species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes are beneficial to other wildlife species in Rhode Island	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes are an important species to recreational hunters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree on the following drawbacks or risks related to coyotes

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Coyotes pose a risk to humans and people's property (garbage, livestock, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes pose a risk to pets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes negatively impact other wildlife species in Rhode Island	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Coyotes can carry diseases such as rabies, canine distemper, and sarcoptic mange which may harm pets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

You are walking down a trail alone near your neighborhood and spot a coyote in the distance which does not notice you, your initial reaction is to...

- ☐ Continue down the path as you were
- ☐ Shout or scare the coyote away
- ☐ run away and exit the trail

- ☐ Quietly wait for the coyote to pass and continue
- ☐ Approach the coyote with food
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am fearful of coyotes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Coyotes are a problem when they...

- ☐ Exhibit aggressive behavior (stalking people/pets, barking/yipping, attacking)
- ☐ Are utilizing areas where humans are active (for example, resting on the beach, feeding near hiking trails, etc.)
- ☐ Are utilizing private property (excavating a den in a yard, feeding on gardens, etc.)
- ☐ Passing through areas of human use (crossing farmland, walking through yards, etc.)
- ☐ Damage agriculture crops (such as corn fields, etc.)
- ☐ Consume garbage or other human food
- ☐ Other situations where you believe coyotes are a problem (please specify)

The coyote population in Rhode Island in your opinion is...

- ☐ Too many

- ☐ Too few
- ☐ Just right
- ☐ I do not know
- ☐ I do not have an opinion

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree on the following coyote management practices in Rhode Island

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
All coyotes should be lethally removed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Problem coyotes should be lethally removed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Problem coyotes should be relocated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All coyotes should be actively sterilized (spayed and neutered)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Problem coyotes should be actively sterilized (spayed and neutered)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Preventive measures such as: proper waste and carcass disposal, improving protection of livestock, removal roadkill, etc. should be used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
More research and funding should be allocated to understanding coyote behavior, movement, and demographics (population size, age, gender, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational programs should promote techniques on coexisting and interacting with coyotes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Under Rhode Island state law, foothold traps are prohibited. Should licensed trappers be able to legally trap coyotes with footholds?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Now we are going to ask you a series of TRUE or FALSE statements on your knowledge about coyotes in general, and about their presence in Rhode Island. You are not expected to know all the answers to these statements. Please choose the best response to each

True

False

I don't know

	True	False	I don't know
Coyotes are a native (indigenous) species to the United States	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes have only occupied Rhode Island in the past 10 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes can increase and decrease their litter size depending on food availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes are always nocturnal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	True	False	I don't know
Coyotes are strictly carnivores, meaning they only eat meat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes account for more than 10 human rabies cases each year in Rhode Island	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coyotes are classified as 'furbearers' and can be legally hunted year round	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation has been informally used to manage wildlife in the United States since the 19th century, and formally since 2001. To the best of your ability, please identify which statements are supported by this model

- ☐ Wildlife is owned by government agencies
- ☐ All wildlife is held in the public trust, meaning wildlife is shared by all people
- ☐ Wildlife found on private property falls under the jurisdiction or control of that property owner
- ☐ Wildlife is managed by state and federal agencies based on scientific findings

Is there a place for coyotes in Rhode Island?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Where should they exist in Rhode Island?

Human-Coyote Interactions

We are interested in the types and frequency of interactions you have had with coyotes in Rhode Island. Please estimate how frequently you have...

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Less than once a year	Never
Heard a coyote (howling or barking)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Less than once a year	Never
Seen a coyote	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seen coyote pups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seen coyote roadkill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seen coyote scat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seen a coyote in your neighborhood or backyard	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seen a coyote eating garbage or human food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Less than once a year	Never
Experienced a coyote exhibiting aggressive behavior (growling, stalking, attacking)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowingly fed coyotes (purposefully left out food or garbage for coyotes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are you a pet owner?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you own a...

☐ Outdoor Cat

☐ Large dog (greater than 30 lbs)

☐ Small dog (less than 30 lbs)

☐ Other (please specify)

Please respond to the following prompts about cat-coyote interactions

Yes

No

Yes

No

Do you believe
coyotes are a
risk to your
outdoor cat?

☐☐

Have you ever
encountered a
coyote while
with your
outdoor cat?

☐☐

Has your
outdoor cat ever
been attacked
by a coyote?

☐☐

Has your
outdoor cat ever
gone missing
and suspected
to have been
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Yes

No

Have you
witnessed your
outdoor cat
being killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about large dog-
coyote interactions

Yes

No

Do you believe
coyotes are a
risk to your large
dog?

☐☐

Yes

No

Have you ever encountered a coyote while with your large dog?

☐☐

Has your large dog ever been attacked by a coyote?

☐☐

Has your large dog ever gone missing and suspected to have been killed by a coyote?

☐☐

Have you witnessed your large dog being killed by a coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about small dog-coyote interactions

	Yes	No
Do you believe coyotes are a risk to your small dog?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you ever encountered a coyote while with your small dog?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your small dog ever been attacked by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Has your small
dog ever gone
missing and
suspected to
have been killed
by a coyote?

☐☐

Have you
witnessed your
small dog being
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about (other) pet-
coyote interactions

Yes

No

	Yes	No
Do you believe coyotes are a risk to your pet?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you ever encountered a coyote while with your pet?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your pet ever been attacked by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your pet ever gone missing and suspected to have been killed by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Have you
witnessed your
pet being killed
by a coyote?

☐☐

Are you a livestock owner?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you own...

☐ Goat/s

☐ Sheep

☐

☐ Pig/s

☐ Cattle (i.e. cows, horses,
large hoofstock)

☐ Other (please specify)

Poultry (i.e. chicken, ducks, etc.)

Please respond to the following prompts about goat-coyote interactions

Yes

No

Do you believe
coyotes are a
risk to your
goat/s?

☐☐

Have you ever
encountered a
coyote while
with your
goat/s?

☐☐

Yes

No

Has your goat/s
ever been
attacked by a
coyote?

☐☐

Has your goat/s
ever gone
missing and
suspected to
have been killed
by a coyote?

☐☐

Have you
witnessed your
goat/s being
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about sheep-coyote interactions

	Yes	No
Do you believe coyotes are a risk to your sheep?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you ever encountered a coyote while with your sheep?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your sheep ever been attacked by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your sheep ever gone missing and suspected to have been killed by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Have you
witnessed your
sheep being
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about poultry-
coyote interactions

Yes

No

Do you believe
coyotes are a
risk to your
poultry?

☐☐

Yes

No

Have you ever
encountered a
coyote while
with your
poultry?

☐☐

Has your poultry
ever been
attacked by a
coyote?

☐☐

Has your poultry
ever gone
missing and
suspected to
have been killed
by a coyote?

☐☐

Have you
witnessed your
poultry being
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about pig-coyote interactions

	Yes	No
Do you believe coyotes are a risk to your pig/s?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you ever encountered a coyote while with your pig/s?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your pig/s ever been attacked by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Has your pig/s
ever gone
missing and
suspected to
have been killed
by a coyote?

☐☐

Have you
witnessed your
pig/s being
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about cattle-coyote
interactions

Yes

No

	Yes	No
Do you believe coyotes are a risk to your cattle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you ever encountered a coyote while with your cattle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your cattle ever been attacked by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has your cattle ever gone missing and suspected to have been killed by a coyote?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Have you
witnessed your
cattle being
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Please respond to the following prompts about (other)
livestock-coyote interactions

Yes

No

Do you believe
coyotes are a
risk to your
livestock?

☐☐

Yes

No

Have you ever
encountered a
coyote while
with your
livestock?

☐☐

Has your
livestock ever
been attacked
by a coyote?

☐☐

Has your
livestock ever
gone missing
and suspected
to have been
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Have you
witnessed your
livestock being
killed by a
coyote?

☐☐

Have you ever taken measures to protect your property from coyotes?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What were these measures?

☐ Install fencing

☐ Install cameras

☐ Remove food source or garbage

☐ Other (please specify)

Environmental Beliefs

We would like to ask you some questions about your beliefs about conservation and the environment

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
We have to take care of the land and the sea or they will not provide for us in the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We do not have to worry about the environment. It is God's will, and God will take care of it for us	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Human ingenuity will ensure that we do NOT destroy the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Earth has plenty resources if we just learn how to develop them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plants and animals in land and the oceans have as much right as humans to exist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Despite our special abilities, humans are still subject to the laws of nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The balance of nature is very delicate and easily upset	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
If things continue their present course, we will soon experience a major environmental catastrophe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Demographics

What is your age?

What ethnic group do you consider yourself to belong to?

☐ African American

☐ Hispanic

☐ White/ Caucasian

☐ Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

☐ Asian

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Native American

What is your highest completed level of formal education?

☐ Elementary School

☐ Middle School

☐ High School

☐ Technical or vocational degree

☐ 2-year college degree or certificate

☐ 4-year college Degree

☐ Graduate Degree

What is your approximate annual HOUSEHOLD income before taxes?

- ☐ Under \$15,000
- ☐ Between \$15,000 and \$29,999
- ☐ Between \$30,000 and \$49,999
- ☐ Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- ☐ Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- ☐ Between \$100,000 and \$149,999
- ☐ Between \$150,000 and \$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 or more

What is your gender?

Wrapping Up

Is there anything else you would like to share or add about coyotes in Rhode Island?

If you were interested in learning about coyotes in Rhode Island, where would you seek information?

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News outlets (e.g. Providence Journal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local nature centers (e.g. Audubon Society) |

☐ Facebook☐ The Conservation Agency☐ Twitter

If you had a problem with a coyote(s), what order would you contact the following? (click and drag options)

Department of Environmental Management Bureau of
Natural Resources

Police Station

The University of Rhode Island

Local Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Local Nature Center

Animal Control

Department of Environmental Management's Division

of Law Enforcement

Survey End

If you would you like for us to send you a summary of the results of this research, please write your postal and/or e-mail address in this box. We estimate that our summary report will be ready to share by summer 2021.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not wish to receive
	<input type="text"/>		results of this study
<input type="checkbox"/>	Address		
	<input type="text"/>		

Click the final right arrow to submit your results and complete the end of the survey!

Powered by Qualtrics