



## HELP PROTECT COYOTES

- ◆ Coyotes are one of the most ecologically important mammals at Padre Island National Seashore and are the top predators on the island. They are related to domestic dogs and wolves and can weigh up to 50 pounds. Their diet consists of deer, birds, mice, lizards, rabbits, and raccoons.



- ◆ **NEVER approach or feed a coyote.**

Feeding a coyote human food, dog food, or cat food is unsafe for the coyote. Coyotes fed by humans may become reliant on humans for food and may starve due to improper nutrition. Contact with humans may also lead to aggressive behavior and/or wildlife related vehicle accidents. If a coyotes exhibits aggressive behavior toward humans euthanasia is often prescribed — please report threatening interactions to a Park Ranger.

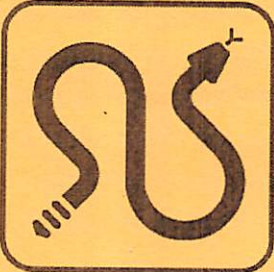
### **Additional Tips to Avoid Attracting Coyotes to Your Camp:**

- ◆ Store food in a secure location (i.e. coolers or enclosed vehicle).
- ◆ Ensure all dishes are clean and leftover food is stored after a meal.
- ◆ Dispose of garbage properly and promptly.
- ◆ Secure fishing bait and scraps where coyotes cannot obtain access.
- ◆ Never leave pets or pet food unattended, particularly small dogs.
- ◆ Pets should always be on a leash for their own safety.
- ◆ Admire coyotes safely from a distance with binoculars, spotting scopes, or cameras.

*Thank you for visiting Padre Island National Seashore*



## CAUTION RATTLESNAKES

- ◆ Contrary to popular belief, rattlesnakes do NOT deliberately stalk humans. The diet of a snake consists of rats and mice, gophers, squirrels, small birds, frogs, and even the occasional insect. A snake is a very vulnerable creature without legs or ears and is relatively small in size; therefore the natural instinct of a snake is to protect itself.
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- A square warning sign with a black border and a white background. Inside the sign is a black silhouette of a rattlesnake in a coiled position, with its head raised and tongue flicking out. The tail of the snake has several short, parallel lines representing a rattle.
- ◆ Rattlesnakes are ectothermic, meaning they rely on external factors to stay warm. Rattlesnakes will venture out in search of warmth year-round, even in winter. They are most active on warm days (70° to 90°F), particularly summer evenings at sunset and throughout the night.
  - ◆ **WATCH YOUR STEP** - Snakes often hide in thick grass or under natural debris. Your foot coming straight down, next to, or on top of a snake is dangerous. Keep pets on leash and do not leave them unattended.
  - ◆ **DRESS APPROPRIATELY** - Refrain from wearing sandals or bare feet while walking in the dunes. Good quality hiking boots and thick socks offer the best protection from ankle bites, which are most common if a snake strikes. Use a flashlight when walking at night.
  - ◆ **ADMIRE FROM AFAR** - If you locate a rattlesnake, calmly back away as quietly as possible. **NEVER** attempt to handle or provoke a rattlesnake in any way.
  - ◆ **REMAIN CALM** - If you or someone else is bitten, restrain physical activity and transport the bite victim to a hospital immediately. Whenever possible, note the time and location of the bite. Do not put a tourniquet on a limb bitten by a snake, it may cause necrosis and/or loss of the extremity.