

WHAT TO DO



IF A COYOTE OR FOX APPROACHES YOU

- **STOP**
Pick up children and small pets if necessary
- **STAND STILL**
Never run from a coyote, fox or a domestic dog
- **MAKE YOURSELF BIG**
Wave your arms, pop an umbrella, or snap a large garbage bag
- **BE LOUD AND ASSERTIVE**
Shout "Go Away!", stomp your feet, or clap your hands
- **SLOWLY BACK AWAY**
Be assertive as you leave, if need be, to ensure the animal knows it is not welcome

Share your experience and connect with us online for more resources:



coyotewatchcanada.com

01-21

About Us

Coyote Watch Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting wildlife education and fostering coexistence between communities and local ecosystems. Our ecological framework advocates conservation-science-based investigation, education, prevention and enforcement. Our mission champions co-operative, non-lethal solutions for human-wildlife conflict.



"All things are bound together..."

...all things connected."

- Chief Seattle

Photo credit:
Adam Skalzub (keepcanadawild.ca)



COYOTE WATCH CANADA



Coexisting with Wildlife

Fostering Positive Human and Wildlife Experiences

Wildlife Hotline: 905.931.2610

Email: info@coyotewatchcanada.com

coyotewatchcanada.com

Tips for Coexisting with Wild Canids

1. Clean up attractants

- Food is one of the biggest contributors to conflict with coyotes. Be mindful of the food you might be providing, directly or indirectly.
- Problematic items often include: overflowing trash or compost bins, bird feeders (which attract rodents and small mammals), pet food, fruit trees, or food intended for other wildlife.

2. Be a responsible animal guardian

- Resist the urge to let pets roam without supervision (they are vulnerable to many human and environmental dangers). Keep cats indoors or in an enclosed play space/catio.
- Keep backyard farm animals housed in safe wire enclosures that also protect against wild visitors who like to dig.
- Clear away farm deadstock immediately.

3. Give wildlife some space

- Never approach coyotes, their dens, or pups.
- Do not allow dogs to harass or chase wildlife.
- Teach children to admire wildlife from afar.

Sometimes, we need to set boundaries for coyotes.



Aversion conditioning is a proven method for deterring coyotes, foxes, and wolves if they have been conditioned to come too close. **Ask us for more information.**

About the Western Coyote

The Western coyote, also known as North America's song dog, is native to our continent. Coyotes are part of the family Canidae that also includes foxes, wolves, and domestic dogs. Coyotes inhabited western regions until landscape changes and human extermination of wolves encouraged expansion of their range. As they moved eastward over a century ago, Western coyotes hybridized with Algonquin wolves, resulting in the modern-day Eastern coyote.

Coyotes provide humans with important environmental clean-up services, such as rodent control and carrion removal. They feed primarily on small mammals, fruit, and insects.

Like wolves, coyotes are often considered a vital keystone species by keeping small mammals and rodent populations in check. Understanding the benefits of the coyote in our ecosystem helps to promote and preserve healthy wild spaces.

Coyotes mate for life when left to thrive. They are devoted to their families and co-parent their pups as they grow. Much like our domestic dogs, coyote pups have been observed playing with discarded pop cans, sticks, and golf balls. Their play behaviour is essential survival training that reinforces social bonds, appropriate foraging, and hunting skills.

Each bonded family maintains and defends an established territory or home range that averages between 5 and 28 km², depending on resource availability. Transient individuals may occupy the fringe areas between established territories. Seasonal influences such as mating and pup dispersal affect the frequency of coyote sightings.

Coyotes communicate by leaving urine, scat, and scent markings, and by vocalizing. Unique

yips, howls, barks, and whines are used to locate a family member, to warn others of danger, and to defend a home range from transient coyotes. Coyote vocalizations can be deceiving; two coyotes can sound like a chorus. This phenomenon is known as the "beau geste" effect and is a topic of interest among citizens and scientists alike.



Scientific research shows eradication programs are ecologically destructive and ineffective in North America.

They Live Here Too

Coyotes are highly adaptable and resilient animals. The fragmentation of wild lands has forced coyotes to live in closer proximity to populated urban areas. Many people think that coyotes should live "somewhere else" but they, too, call greenspaces and wildlife corridors a part of their home range. They are our wild neighbours, and coexisting successfully is a very real option.

Coyotes are wary of change and curious about human activity in their territory. Humans often misinterpret this natural behaviour as a coyote being "bold" or "aggressive".

Myths about coyotes are perpetuated by sensationalist media stories. Education about coyote ecology and behaviour empowers people to overcome fear about the species. Research shows that 50-70% of coyotes are killed before adulthood due to human activity.