

## 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 high in the air or pop an umbrella
- **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](http://coyotewatchcanada.com)

## About Us

**Coyote Watch Canada** is a federally incorporated, 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



**COYOTEWATCHCANADA**



## Coexisting with Wildlife

Fostering Positive Human and Wildlife Experiences

**Wildlife Hotline:** 905.931.2610

**Email:** [info@coyotewatchcanada.com](mailto:info@coyotewatchcanada.com)

**National Online Coyote Reorting:**  
[niagarafalls.ca/coyote](http://niagarafalls.ca/coyote)

[coyotewatchcanada.com](http://coyotewatchcanada.com)

## Successfully Coexisting with the Coyote

- Never feed coyotes
- Keep pet food and water bowls indoors
- Keep trash cans covered
- Pick ripened fruit; clean rotted fruit off the ground
- Do not allow large amounts of wild bird seed to remain on your lawn
- Adhere to bylaws by keeping pets leashed
- Domestic pets that roam without supervision are at risk due to many environmental factors; keep cats safely indoors or in safe outdoor play enclosures
- Keep chickens, rabbits, and other small animals in covered enclosures constructed with heavy mesh wire
- Deadstock on farms must be cleared immediately to avoid attracting wildlife
- Neuter your pets
- Never approach coyotes, their dens, or their pups
- Teach children how to respect and safely admire wildlife from afar
- Hazing techniques have proven successful in deterring foxes, coyotes and wolves from an area; examples of hazing include: throwing a shake can (filled with coins) in the coyote's direction, spraying a water hose during warmer months, or popping an umbrella



## About the Eastern Coyote

The Eastern coyote, also known as North America's "Song Dog", shares common ancestral DNA with the Algonquin (eastern) wolf and is native to North America. Due to human extermination of wolf populations and landscape changes, the coyote has a range that extends throughout Eastern Canada and the United States, thriving in forests, urban cities, and rural landscapes.

Coyotes are aware of all objects and inhabitants in their territory. They are wary of change and curious about human activities. 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.



Coyotes communicate by leaving urine, scat and scent markings, and by vocalizing. Unique yips, howls, barks and whines are used to locate a missing pack member, mate or pup, to warn others of danger, to communicate with neighbouring packs, and to defend a home territory. Coyote vocalizations can be deceiving; two coyotes can sound like a chorus. Many naturalists have noted that coyotes often howl for the pleasure of it, and at times, they howl simply because they are lonely.

Urbanization of green spaces and the disruption of wildlife corridors fragment the natural habitat for wildlife. Due to these environmental changes, coyotes must adapt to living in closer proximity to populated urban areas.

Human fear, misunderstanding, and a lack of knowledge about coyote behaviour, such as seasonal influences in sighting reports, food availability, dispersal of family members, food attractants, mating and habitat loss have contributed to 50-70% of young coyotes being killed by humans before they reach adulthood. Livestock predation is often attributed to coyotes; however, free-roaming domestic dogs and feral canines are also capable of contributing to such attacks.



Relocation is ineffective; when one coyote is removed, another one (or two) may move into that habitat.

Coyotes are omnivores and provide humans with important environmental clean-up services, such as rodent control and carrion removal. They feed primarily on fruit and vegetation, insects, and small mammals such as rabbits, mice, rats and voles. Climate and habitat influence food availability.

Coyote alpha pairs often mate for life. They are devoted parents who co-parent their pups. Family members from previous litters may also help to raise the pups. Each pack defends and maintains a specific home range, which can range from 25 to 100km<sup>2</sup>, depending on resource availability. Transient individuals may take advantage of fringe areas surrounding an already established territory.

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.