

# About Coyotes



*Eastern Coyote*

Incredibly beneficial to the natural ecosystem, coyotes are a keystone species and help to keep rodent populations under control. They are often referred to as “nature’s clean-up crew.”

Coyotes are devoted parents and diligent protectors of their offspring. Coyotes mate for life and have significant family bonds.

While coyotes normally avoid us, intentional or unintentional feeding may change a coyote’s proximity tolerance to people, resulting in them approaching people or yards.

Aversion conditioning is a critical part of restoring a coyote’s natural aversion to humans.

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



facebook.com/coyotewatchcanada



instagram.com/coyotewatchcanada



@CoyoteWatchCAN

**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...”



*Red Fox*

...all things connected.”

- Chief Seattle



*Eastern Coyote*

## Keeping Strong Boundaries

Everything you need to know to be wildlife smart and help keep wildlife wild

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

**National Online Canid Reporting:**  
[niagarafalls.ca/coyote](http://niagarafalls.ca/coyote)

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

## Keeping Coyotes Away: Aversion Conditioning

- Aversion conditioning (commonly called “humane hazing”) is a method of negative association that **safely compels wildlife such as coyotes, foxes or wolves to move away from humans**, sometimes through the use of deterrents.
- **Aversion conditioning has been used with great success around the world** with many species, including bears and tigers.
- Aversion conditioning can restore a coyote’s natural avoidance of humans and minimize interactions. **Communities that employ these techniques experience measurable results** while educating and empowering citizens.
- For communities experiencing regular coyote sightings in identified hot spots, patience is required. **Intensive and consistent action may be required to encourage the coyote to move on entirely.** Teams can be trained to respond to calls, communicate with residents, and utilize more intensive techniques if needed.
- Remember that **each coyote has a different “food education”**: some coyotes have been **taught that people (and their properties) will provide food** (e.g., direct feeding, compost bins, bird feeders, or cat and dog food left outside).
- Aversion conditioning can effectively **change coyote behaviour and can help to ensure that future coyotes do not develop these behaviours.**



Eastern Coyote

Aversion conditioning, when used as part of an overall coexistence program addressing other contributing factors, is a life-long tool to help prevent human-wildlife conflict.

- **Always Put Safety First**
- Never run from any canine, including coyotes
- Never corner a wild animal
- Never approach coyote families, their den or their food source
- Never approach a sick or injured coyote



Eastern Coyote

For information and downloadable resources, please visit: [coyotewatchcanada.com](http://coyotewatchcanada.com).

## Basic Aversion Conditioning Techniques

- **Stand your ground, make yourself big, wave your arms and shout** (don’t scream) while stepping in the direction of the coyote until he or retreats
- **Use a noisemaker**, such as:
  - your voice
  - an air horn or whistle
  - pots and pans banged together
  - a shake can (such as a pop can filled with coins or pebbles)
  - snapping a large plastic garbage bag
  - jingling keys, or
  - an umbrella popping open and closed
- **Use a projectile (toward, not AT the coyote)**, such as:
  - sticks
  - clumps of dirt
  - small rocks, or
  - a tennis ball
- **During warm months, use water**, such as:
  - a garden hose
  - spray bottle filled with water
  - water balloons (**\*note - always pick up balloon pieces!**)

**Note:** a coyote that has never been exposed to aversion conditioning techniques before may not leave immediately. You may need to use more than one of the above-mentioned deterrents. If the coyote runs a short distance, stops, and turns to look at you, continue your aversion conditioning actions until the coyote has left the area.