



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE

Coyotes are usually wary of people and will avoid them when possible. To encourage this natural fear of humans, approach each coyote encounter aggressively with these techniques:

BE BIG

Be threatening, make yourself appear larger and wave your arms

BE LOUD

Clap, shout, bang sticks together or use a whistle or blow horn

BE AGGRESSIVE

If the coyote doesn't respond to noise, throw sticks or rocks near it while slowly leaving the area

BE PREPARED

Carry dog spray in areas often frequented by coyotes

DO NOT RUN

Coyotes may chase out of their natural predator/prey drive instincts. If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward a building or human activity.

In this case, coyotes may be refusing to leave because there is food or a den site nearby.

If a coyote is in your yard, it is important that you use these techniques to make the animal aware it isn't welcome there.

COEXISTING WITH COYOTES

Coyotes help maintain healthy ecosystems and play a natural and beneficial role in the food chain by eating mice and other small rodents. As our city grows and expands into their habitat, more coyotes are adapting to food sources in residential areas, eating readily available food such as garbage, compost, fruit and accessible pet food.

People, pets and coyotes can thrive simultaneously in urban areas, provided coyotes remain naturally curious, but shy, around people. When coyotes become bold around humans, it's often due to food conditioning.

People who feel threatened by urban coyotes often suggest they be culled or relocated outside the city. Lethal control of aggressive animals can reduce conflict in the short term, but large scale removal is ineffective over the long term. When coyotes are removed, new animals colonize from other areas and reproductive rates may increase.*

*SOURCES

Connolly, G.E., and W.M. Longhurst. 1975. The effects of control on coyote populations: a simulation model. University of California Division of Agricultural Science Bulletin 1872:1-37.

Connolly, Guy E. 1995. The effects of control on coyote populations: another look. Symposium Proceedings - Coyotes in the Southwest: A Compendium of Our Knowledge 1995:36.

Knowlton, F. F., E. M. Gese, and M. M. Jaeger. 1999. Coyote depredation control: an interface between biology and management. Journal of Range Management 52:398-412.

COYOTE SIGHTINGS ARE COMMON WITHIN THE CITY BUT IT'S ONLY NECESSARY TO REPORT A COYOTE SIGHTING IF THE COYOTE:

- Bites, nips or makes other physical contact with a pet or person
- Is so injured or sick that it cannot move
- Is trapped in an area of your yard (private property)
- Someone is feeding the coyote

When an incident with a coyote is reported, the City will investigate and determine if a problem exists. Depending on the circumstances, an appropriate course of action will be taken. This could include public education, warning signs or coyote management techniques.

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OR PROBLEM COYOTE, CALL:

City of Edmonton at 311 (in Edmonton) or 780-442-5311 (outside of Edmonton)
Alberta Fish & Wildlife at 780-427-3574

IF SOMEONE IS IN DANGER CALL:

Emergency 911

The City of Edmonton works with the Province of Alberta and the University of Alberta to support coexistence with coyotes while maintaining public safety.



Your Guide To COEXISTING WITH URBAN COYOTES in Edmonton

Edmonton

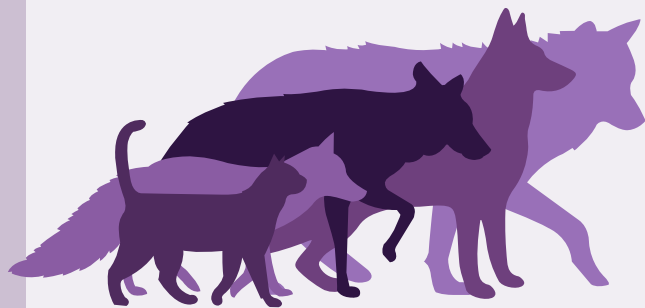


They have been a part of Edmonton's urban ecosystem for decades

ABOUT COYOTES

Edmonton's abundant natural areas provide excellent coyote habitat. Coyotes are an extremely adaptable wildlife species that survive well in urban settings. They have been a part of Edmonton's urban ecosystem for decades but are generally more abundant in the river valley. Their population numbers normally increase as a direct result of warmer years when prey population such as rodents and rabbits increase.

Coyotes are more active at dawn and dusk. They mate in early spring and rear pups through early summer, during which time they may be more protective and defensive. Young animals usually disperse in the fall, but they may also remain in family groups throughout the winter.



Cat, Fox, Coyote, Large Dog, Wolf

COYOTES AND PETS

Conflict between coyotes and pets can occur. Recognizing the risk is the first step towards preventing conflict. Coyotes are opportunistic hunters and sometimes prey on outdoor cats and small dogs whether they are on unsecured private property, in natural areas or in urban parks. They may also try to intimidate a medium to large-size dog if it comes into their territory. You can reduce the risk of your pet having a serious encounter with a coyote in many ways:

- Keep cats indoors
- Keep your dog on a leash when walking, especially at night and walk with a friend or relative if possible
- Avoid extension leashes, let your dog walk in front of you and stick to maintained and frequented trails
- Maintain sight and control of your dog if you are in an off-leash dog park and if you see wildlife of any kind, put your dog on a leash or pick it up
- Supervise your pet when outside on your property, especially at dawn and dusk
- If you must leave your pet outside, secure it in a fully enclosed kennel and avoid tying it to a stake or fence
- Never allow your pets to 'play' with a coyote
- Install fences and ensure gates are closed

COYOTES AND HUMANS

Coyotes do not pose a threat to humans in normal situations. They have a natural fear of humans and target small prey such as rodents, rabbits and other small mammals. Coyotes can become defensive or attack pets if they are protecting their food, den or young however, attacks on people and dogs on a leash are extremely rare.

Documented cases of coyote attacks on people, usually involve a coyote that has been fed by humans. Experts agree that coyotes will stay clear of humans until they associate people with food sources left on their property or they are purposefully fed by humans.

COYOTE ATTRACTANTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

You can do your part in keeping coyotes wild and decreasing coyote conflict by following these tips:

- Never feed a coyote
- Keep your property free of garbage and secure compost in containers
- Remove fallen tree fruit, dense shrubbery and pet waste
- Keep pet food inside
- Make areas in the yard less inviting for rodent habitat and coyote burrowing (under decks, sheds, porches)
- Avoid leaving small pets outside unsupervised