

COYOTE COEXISTENCE & RESPONSE STRATEGY



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GOAL

The goal of the Whitby Coyote Coexistence & Response Strategy is to provide a program for reducing human-coyote conflicts while prioritizing human safety.

The suggested actions outlined in this strategy are designed to increase citizens' knowledge and understanding of how coyotes behave and make clear how such behaviour can be managed to reduce or eliminate conflicts with coyotes.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Town of Whitby is committed to protecting public safety while promoting responsible coexistence with urban wildlife. Through prevention, education, evidence-based decision-making, and collaborative partnerships, the Town will reduce human-coyote conflicts, respond proportionately to risks, and foster a safe, informed, and resilient community.

1. Public Safety First

- Protect the safety and well-being of residents, visitors, and pets.
- Prioritize timely responses to incidents involving aggressive or habituated coyotes.
- Apply a risk-based approach that matches response actions to the level of threat.

2. Human-Wildlife Coexistence

- Recognize coyotes as a natural part of Whitby's urban ecosystem.
- Promote safe coexistence by reducing opportunities for conflict rather than eliminating wildlife.
- Support biodiversity while maintaining safe public spaces.

3. Prevention Before Intervention

- Focus on preventing conflicts through public education, habitat management, waste management, and enforcement against wildlife feeding.
- Encourage residents to remove attractants and practice responsible pet ownership.
- Use proactive measures before considering more intensive management options.

4. Evidence-Based Decision Making

- Base decisions on scientific research, verified incident data, and recognized wildlife management best practices.
- Continuously monitor trends using reporting systems and adapt the strategy as new information becomes available.
- Differentiate between normal coyote behaviour and behaviour that presents an elevated public safety risk.

5. Graduated Response

- Apply a graduated response framework that escalates only when necessary.
- Responses may include education, application of aversion techniques, monitoring, signage, enforcement, and, where warranted, involvement of wildlife authorities for high-risk animals.
- Ensure interventions are proportionate to the level of risk.

6. Partnership and Coordination

- Work collaboratively with regional, provincial, and community partners, including law enforcement, wildlife experts, neighbouring municipalities, and conservation organizations.
- Share information and align response practices where appropriate.

7. Shared Community Responsibility

- Recognize that reducing conflicts requires collaboration among residents, businesses, schools, community organizations, and government agencies.
- Promote individual actions that reduce attractants and encourage reporting of significant coyote interactions.
- Foster a culture of awareness and stewardship.

8. Transparency & Continuous Improvement

- Communicate clearly about coyote activity, municipal action, and response.
- Provide accessible reporting tools and public information on sightings/trends.
- Review the strategy periodically using incident data, emerging research, community feedback, and lessons learned from other municipalities.
- Update policies and operational procedures as conditions change

ABOUT COYOTES

Coyotes are medium-sized wild canids that are highly adaptable and capable of living in a wide range of environments, from rural farmland and forests to residential neighbourhoods and parks. Their ability to thrive in urban areas is largely due to their opportunistic behaviour and flexible diet.

ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Coyotes are found in every urban centre in North America and play a huge role in the ecosystem by regulating the number of skunks, foxes and raccoons. Without the coyote, the numbers of small mammals and rodents increase rapidly. When small predators increase the number of diverse species of birds decrease. Coyotes also eat livestock (such as poultry), groundhogs, fruits, berries, rabbits, snakes, frogs and insects, as well as scavenge on roadkill, pet food leftovers and garbage. Coyotes survive anywhere there is abundant food.

In summer, they mostly eat rabbits, fawns, mice, berries, squirrels, insects, woodchucks and birds. In fall, they mostly eat corn, apples and watermelons. In winter, they eat mice and rabbits, and in spring, which is mating season, they switch back to summer foods. To thrive, a coyote needs an environment rich with rodents, livestock, such as poultry, and other small mammals they eat.

BIOLOGY & BEHAVIOUR

Appearance: Most adult Eastern Coyotes weigh approximately 14-18 kilograms (approximately 30-40 pounds), although their long legs and thick fur make them appear larger. Coyote fur varies in colour from grey-brown to yellow-grey. They have a bushy, black-tipped tail that hangs toward the ground, which helps to distinguish them from other canids, such as foxes or domestic dogs. Coyotes also have yellow or amber eyes (which help to distinguish them from domestic dogs), large ears and narrow, pointed muzzles (which help to distinguish them from wolves).

Vocalizations: Coyotes are naturally very wary of humans. Coyote prints are like a domestic dog's but are usually observed in a straight line (as opposed to the meandering path of domestic dog tracks). More commonly, coyote howling, or other vocalizations, may often be heard. Coyotes produce a variety of sounds (including howls, barks, whines and yips) to communicate with one another. This vocalization is used to locate family, celebrate, mourn, warn each other of danger, defend their territory and during mating season. Small groups of coyotes (two to three) can emit a variety of vocalizations to sound like a group of 20 due to the way their sound travels (known as the "beau geste effect").

Diet: Coyotes are known as adaptive omnivores and have great flexibility in their diet. They generally hunt small mammals, such as mice, rats, moles, rabbits, but will also eat eggs, insects, fruit and berries, and will even scavenge roadkill. In urban areas, coyotes are also known to eat pet food, unsecured garbage and compost. Most often, dogs are seen as potential competition for food resources or as a threat to coyote families – to a mate and/or pups. Coyotes may prey upon unattended or unleashed domestic small dogs or domestic cats left outdoors unattended. This does not indicate a danger to humans but is rather a natural coyote behaviour.

Social Structure: Most coyotes (called resident coyotes) live in family groups which vary depending on habitat, available food sources and human impact (urban/rural). This family group usually consist of two to three adults (one monogamous breeding pair) and their pups. Coyotes do not hunt in packs but work together to defend their territory from other coyote families. Other coyotes (called transient coyotes) live alone or as an isolated mated pair.

Reproduction: Coyotes mate once per year, during their breeding season (which occurs from January to March). During the pup season (April to August), the breeding pair will give birth to pups (typically in April or May). Litter size depends on available resources and the number of coyotes in the area. The average litter size is three to seven pups with a high rate of infant mortality in the first year. Coyotes will place their pups in a den for the first six weeks, after which the pups will learn to hunt and forage with their parents. Coyote dens are found in steep banks, rock crevices and underbrush, as well as in open areas, but are only used during pup-rearing season. During dispersal season (September to December), the pups from the previous year (yearlings) will leave the family group and become transient coyotes in search of a new home range.



Habitat: Coyotes are most active at dawn and dusk but often shift to more nocturnal (night) activity in urban and suburban areas. Coyotes prefer open space and naturally preserved areas over human-dominated landscapes but are extremely adept at living in proximity to people. Coyotes thrive in these areas because food, water and shelter are abundant. Home range sizes vary for each individual coyote.

WHY COYOTES LIVE NEAR COMMUNITIES

Food: Urban areas provide a bounty of natural food choices for coyotes, who primarily eat rodents, such as mice and rats. However, coyotes can be further attracted into suburban neighbourhoods by human-associated food, such as pet food, unsecured garbage or compost and fallen fruit in yards. Intentional and unintentional feeding can lead coyotes to associate humans with sources of food, which can result in negative interactions among coyotes, people and pets.

Water: Urban areas provide a year-round supply of water in the form of stormwater ponds and channels, artificial lakes, irrigation, pet water dishes, backyard decorative ponds or water features, which support both coyotes and their prey. In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable.

Shelter: Parks, greenbelts, open spaces, golf courses, buildings, sheds, decks, crawl spaces and abandoned properties increase the amount and variety of cover for coyotes. They allow coyotes to safely and easily remain close to people, pets, homes and businesses without detection. In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise young, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which their young are sheltered.

Unattended Pet: Pets are a normal part of an urban landscape. Within their territory, coyotes may consider pets as potential prey or potential competitors.

Cats: Coyotes primarily eat small mammals, such as mice and rats, but will also prey on slightly larger mammals, such as rabbits and groundhogs. Approximately the same size, free-roaming outdoor cats may also be seen as eligible prey by coyotes. It is important to note that predation on cats are normal coyote behaviour and do not indicate a danger to people. People should also avoid feeding feral cats as coyotes will be attracted to both the outdoor pet food and the cats.

Dogs: Although dogs are not considered a food source for coyotes, they are vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes who are conditioned to people (usually due to wildlife feeding) or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season) or competing for food sources.

REPORTING & DATA COLLECTION FRAMEWORK

An effective reporting and data collection program enables the Town of Whitby to make informed, evidence-based decisions regarding coyote management. While individual sightings are expected and often represent normal wildlife activity, collecting consistent and reliable information allows the Town to identify trends, assess risks, allocate resources, and evaluate the effectiveness of education and response initiatives.

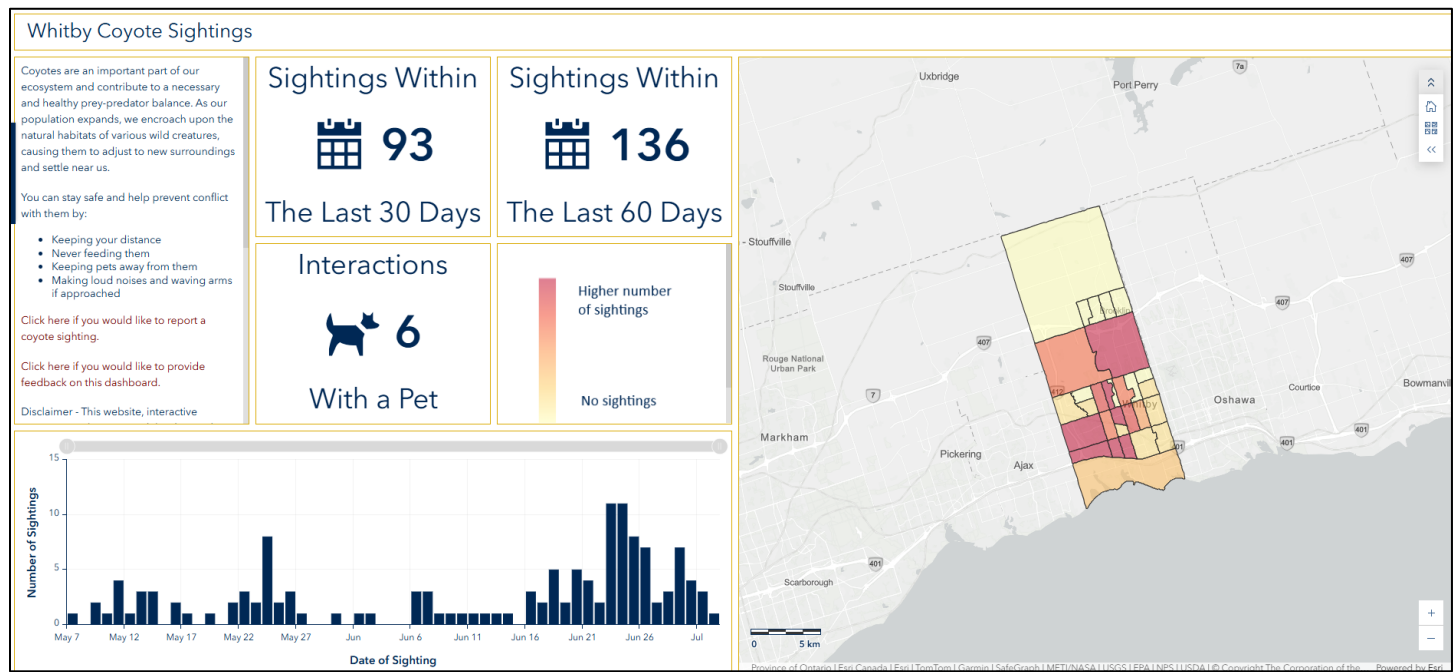
The reporting framework is intended to:

- Monitor coyote activity across the municipality.
- Identify emerging conflict areas ("hot spots").
- Assess changes in coyote behaviour over time.
- Prioritize responses based on risk to public safety.
- Inform operational planning and communications.
- Support continuous improvement of the Coyote Coexistence & Response Strategy.

COYOTE SIGHTING REPORT FORM & DASHBOARD

Residents can report coyote sightings and activity via the [Town's Online Report Form](#).

The Town maintains a public facing [Coyote Sighting Dashboard](#) based on the information provided via the online report form. This provides the community with accurate, up-to-date information about coyote sightings and interactions.



TOWN ACTION PLAN

Foundations of Whitby's Current Coyote Management Approach

To date, the Town of Whitby has focused on a balanced approach that prioritizes:

- Public safety
- Public education and awareness
- Prevention through attractant reduction
- Behaviour-based response to incidents
- Responsible by-law enforcement
- Regional collaboration and best practice alignment
- Ongoing monitoring and improvement

This foundation provides a strong platform for the continued enhancement of Whitby's Coyote Coexistence & Response Strategy, ensuring the Town remains proactive, consistent, and focused on safe coexistence between residents and wildlife.

Educate and Inform

We will:

- Provide residents with information about coyote behaviour and how to prevent conflicts.
- Share seasonal reminders through the Town's website and social media.
- Install educational signage in parks and areas with increased coyote activity.
- Offer resources on responsible pet ownership and reducing wildlife attractants.

Monitor Coyote Activity

We will:

- Encourage residents to report coyote sightings and concerning behaviour.
- Track reports to identify trends and areas with increased activity.
- Use mapping and data to support informed decision-making.
- Review information regularly to improve our response.

Respond Appropriately

Not every coyote sighting requires action. The Town responds based on the coyote's behaviour, not simply its presence. Depending on the situation, we may:

- Monitor activity.
- Provide education to nearby residents.
- Install signage where appropriate to inform residents.
- Investigate reports of habituated or concerning behaviour.
- Enhance Park / Town space maintenance as it relates to garbage, litter and vegetation.
- Work with wildlife experts and provincial agencies when necessary.
- Respond immediately to incidents that pose a threat to public safety.

Reduce Wildlife Attractants

Coyotes are more likely to remain in an area when food is available. The Town will work with residents to reduce food sources that attract coyotes by:

- Encouraging proper waste management.
- Addressing attractants on municipal property where feasible.
- Promotion of compliance with by-laws related to feeding wildlife.

Work with Community Partners

Managing human-coyote interactions is a shared responsibility the Town works with many partners. Together, these partnerships help ensure a coordinated and consistent response.

Partner	Role/Responsibility
Durham Regional Police	Respond to incidents where a coyote poses an immediate threat.
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	Provides support to landowners and municipalities dealing with problem Coyotes by providing advise and information pertaining to Coyotes.
Neighbouring Municipalities	Share information on sightings, incidents, and measures used to manage coyote population.
Wildlife Professionals	Provide resources, training, and public education.
Community Organizations	Provide resources, information, and communication support.

Continue to Improve

The Town regularly reviews coyote reports, emerging research, and best practices to improve our approach.

The Town will:

- Monitor trends and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
- Update educational materials as needed.
- Review the Whitby's Coyote Coexistence & Response Strategy periodically to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our growing community.



PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION

A critical element of a successful wildlife management plan is the education and awareness and vigilance of residents. Along with support from Town staff, education is the key to helping residents make appropriate decisions regarding their safety of their family and managing their property and pets.

Are Coyotes Dangerous?

Coyotes are generally not dangerous to people. Most encounters involve coyotes moving away once they notice people. Negative interactions are rare and typically occur when coyotes:

- Lose their natural fear of humans due to feeding or attractants.
- Become habituated to residential environments.
- Are defending pups or territory.



Remove or Reduce Attractants

Residents play a key role in preventing coyote conflicts by:

- Never feeding coyotes or other wildlife.
- Securing garbage, compost, and pet food.
- Removing fallen fruit and other yard attractants.
- Eliminating outdoor water sources during dry periods.
- Reporting coyotes that show concerning behaviours.

Pets & Coyotes

Small pets, particularly cats and small dogs, may be perceived as prey. Risks can be reduced by:

- Always keeping dogs on a leash.
- Supervising pets when outdoors.
- Bringing pets inside at night.
- Avoiding off-leash areas in known wildlife corridors.
- Using caution when walking pets, especially during early morning or evening hours.

Children & Coyotes

Coyotes are extremely curious and intelligent animals; they often watch the events happening around them, just as a tourist in a new city would. While people are not typical prey for coyotes, children should still be taught to keep their distance, never run from a coyote, and seek help from an adult if one is nearby. Like any other species of canid, including a pet dog, coyotes may chase something that runs from them. Young coyotes especially are immature and very puppy-like. Children and the toys they play with, such as balls, can lead a juvenile coyote into play behaviour.

When playing outdoors near wooded areas, trails, parks, or areas where sightings have occurred:

- Never leave young children unattended.
- Avoid high-risk hours, coyotes are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Do not run, it can trigger their chase instinct, stand your ground, make noise, wave arms.
- If the coyote approaches, pick up your child and throw objects towards, but not at the coyote.

Reporting Coyote Concerns

- Aggressive Behaviour or Immediate Threat Call: 911
- Whitby Animal Services Contact Information Call: 905-655-0283 Email: paw@whitby.ca
- Report a Coyote Sighting to the Town [Online Coyote Sighting Form](#)

COYOTE INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN

RESPONSE PROCESS MAP



REPORTING CLASSIFICATIONS

Municipal action is not required for every coyote sighting. Reports are classified based on observed behaviour, rather than the coyote's presence alone.

Classification	Observed Behaviour	Response Priority	Municipal Response
Category 1 Normal Sighting	Coyote observed travelling through an area, hunting, or moving away from people while displaying natural, wary behaviour.	Monitor	Record the sighting for trend monitoring. No direct intervention is required. Public education may be provided as appropriate.
Category 2 Increased Activity	Multiple sightings reported in the same area over time, recurring activity near residential areas, schools, parks, or evidence of denning near developed areas. Behaviour is non-aggressive.	Monitor & Educate	Monitor activity, assess environmental conditions and potential attractants, increase public awareness, and consider temporary signage or targeted education.
Category 3 Habituated Behaviour	Coyote displays reduced fear of people, remains near people, approaches without aggression, is attracted to food sources, or does not retreat when hazed.	Investigate	Conduct a site assessment, investigate potential attractants, educate residents, coordinate aversion techniques where appropriate, install signs, and monitor for escalating behaviour.
Category 4 Concerning Behaviour	Coyote follows people or pets, repeatedly lingers in high-use public areas during the day, stalks pets, or exhibits behaviour that suggests increasing boldness or habituation.	Respond	Initiate an investigation, coordinate with Animal Services and wildlife professionals, remove attractants where possible, consider public notifications, and implement additional mitigation measures.
Category 5 Aggressive Behaviour	Coyote growls, snarls, charges, bites, attacks, or exhibits behaviour posing an immediate threat to public safety.	Immediate Action	Notify Durham Regional Police if public safety is at immediate risk. DRPS will assess and respond. DRPS & Town will communicate with the public.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The Town of Whitby has numerous mitigation, communication, education, and response options. The Town will deploy these measures based on what will be most effective given the observed behaviour, recommendations of experts, and seasonal factors.

These options include, but are not limited to the following:

- Installation of warning signage in areas where repeated sightings have been reported.
- Public communications through traditional media, signage, and social media channels.
- Work with Parks Operations to increase removal of attractants such as garbage and fallen fruit.
- Additional patrols of areas where coyote sighting have been reported to assess behaviour.
- Public information sessions facilitated by experts to provide information and answer questions.
- Door to door canvassing to assess activity levels and provide information to residents.
- Deploying aversion measures to encourage coyotes to leave the area.
- Trapping and culling of coyotes while options, shall only be used in limited circumstances when the balance between public safety and effectiveness of other measures demands such action.

CONCLUSION AND COMMITMENT TO SAFE COEXISTENCE

The Town of Whitby's Coyote Coexistence & Response Strategy establishes a clear, consistent, and evidence-informed approach to managing human–coyote interactions across the municipality. It reflects a commitment to balancing public safety with responsible stewardship of urban wildlife, recognizing that coyotes are an established part of the local ecosystem.

This strategy emphasizes prevention through education and attractant management, ensuring that residents are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to reduce conflict before it occurs. It also provides a structured, behaviour-based response framework that ensures municipal actions are proportionate, consistent, and focused on situations that present elevated concern.

Through coordinated efforts across municipal departments, collaboration with regional and provincial partners, and the responsible use of by-law tools, the Town will continue to address the root causes of human–coyote interactions while supporting safe and livable neighbourhoods.

Ongoing monitoring, data collection, and periodic review will ensure the strategy remains responsive to changing conditions, emerging best practices, and community needs. As Whitby continues to grow, this adaptive approach will support informed decision-making and continuous improvement in wildlife management.

Ultimately, the success of this strategy depends on shared responsibility. Residents play a critical role by securing attractants, following safe practices, and reporting concerning behaviour.

Together with the Town's coordinated response framework, these actions help ensure that Whitby remains a safe, informed, and resilient community where people and wildlife can coexist responsibly.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

References

- Coyote Watch Canada
- City of Markham
- City of Vaughn
- Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

Town Resources

- [Town of Whitby Animal Services Site](#)
- [Town of Whitby Animal Control & Wildlife](#)
- [Town of Whitby Coyote Sighting Report Form](#)

Other Resources

- [Coyote Watch Canada](#)
- [Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry](#)
- [Coyote in the Urban Landscape: An Information Module for Urban Residents](#)

APPENDIX A: Coexisting with Wildlife Brochure



WHAT TO DO

IF A COYOTE OR FOX APPROACHES YOU

Eastern Coyote

- **STOP**
Pick up children and small pets if necessary
- **STAND YOUR GROUND**
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

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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

Red Fox



COYOTE WATCH CANADA



Eastern Coyote

Coexisting with Wildlife

Fostering Positive Human and Wildlife Experiences

Email:
info@coyotewatchcanada.com

National Online Canid Reporting:
niagarafalls.ca/coyote

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.



Eastern Coyote

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 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's range extends throughout Eastern Canada and beyond.

Coyotes are omnivores and 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.



Eastern Coyote

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 urbanization of green spaces and fragmentation of wild lands have forced coyotes to live in closer proximity to populated urban areas. We tend to think that coyotes don't belong here, and that they 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.

"Each species on our planet plays a role in the healthy functioning of natural ecosystems, on which humans depend." - W. H. Schlesinger

APPENDIX B: Coexisting with Canids Door Hanger



Coexisting with Canids



Basic Prevention and Safety Tips

**Know your wild neighbours.**

We share our urban and rural spaces with an array of fascinating species. Be wildlife-aware. Enjoy your surroundings and keep a safe and respectful distance from wild animals.

**Don't invite unwanted houseguests.**

Keep your home properly sealed to exclude and discourage wildlife. Remove food attractants: secure garbage/compost containers, pick up dog feces, and clean outdoor grills. Reconsider bird feeders: they attract small mammals which, in turn, encourage carnivores to visit your yard.

**Practice responsible pet guardianship.**

Free-roaming pets are vulnerable to a multitude of dangers. 92% of conflict between wildlife and domestic dogs occurs when dogs are running at large. For everyone's safety, obey leash laws and keep cats indoors or in a secured enrichment area.

**Do not feed wildlife.**

Feeding a wild animal will increase its proximity tolerance to people and pets. Direct feeding also attracts unintended/secondary wildlife and can ultimately put animals and people in harm's way.

Visit coyotewatchcanada.com for comprehensive resources about human-wildlife safety and coexistence.

What to Do if a Coyote or Fox Approaches You

STOP: Pick up children and small pets, if necessary.

STAND YOUR GROUND: Never run from a coyote, fox or dog.

MAKE YOURSELF BIG: Wave your hands above your head.

BE LOUD AND ASSERTIVE: Shout "Go Away!", stomp your feet or clap your hands.

SLOWLY BACK AWAY: Be assertive as you leave, so the animal knows it is not welcome.



Keeping Strong Boundaries



Setting Boundaries Using Humane Deterrents

Humane hazing (or aversion conditioning) 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. **Hazing has been used with great success around the world** with many species, including bears and tigers.

Basic Hazing Techniques

- **Stand your ground, make yourself big, shout (don't scream) "Get Back!" and wave your arms** until the coyote 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), a large plastic garbage bag being snapped, 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, a spray bottle filled with water or a water balloon (*note - always pick up balloon pieces!)

For more information about coyotes in urban spaces, coyote behaviour, genetics, safety and coexistence, visit coyotewatchcanada.com.

 [@coyotewatchcanada](https://www.facebook.com/coyotewatchcanada)
 [@CoyoteWatchCAN](https://twitter.com/CoyoteWatchCAN)
 [@coyotewatchcanada](https://www.instagram.com/coyotewatchcanada)

Coyote Watch Canada is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering human-wildlife coexistence.



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