

## Coyote encounters

If you encounter a coyote, make the experience unpleasant for the animal by making it feel unwelcome in your neighbourhood. Even if you are not concerned about problems with coyotes, they should not learn that neighbourhoods are safe places to feed and rest.

- Respond to their presence aggressively by making yourself appear large; wave your arms overhead or thrust long objects, such as a walking stick, toward the coyote.
- Throw rocks, sticks or other objects toward the animal.
- Shout in a deep voice and maintain eye contact.
- If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward buildings or human activity.
- Do not turn away or run. This may encourage the coyote to chase you.
- Dog repellants and pepper spray products can be effective in deterring coyotes.



## Protect your pets

- Do not allow your cat to roam.
- Supervise your pets when they are outside.
- Pick up dog feces and be aware that dog urine may also attract coyotes.
- If your dog is in heat, keep it inside or away from areas where they may encounter coyotes.
- Always walk your dog on a leash.
- If you spot a coyote, pick up your small dog. Ensure your large dog is leashed and under your control. Back away slowly and leave the area immediately.

Some people believe eliminating coyotes is the solution. However, trapping has proven ineffective. Poisoning or other methods pose risks to other animals and children. Removing coyotes creates room for others and the population may actually increase in response.



If you see a coyote that is too sick or injured to move, or if a coyote bites, nips or makes other physical contact, call the nearest Fish and Wildlife office of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (310-0000 toll-free).

To reach the coyote information line:  
**Calgary (403) 297-7789**  
**Edmonton (780) 644-5744**

Visit [www.srd.alberta.ca](http://www.srd.alberta.ca) for more information.

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# URBAN COYOTES



## Coyotes in towns and cities

Coyotes have established themselves within many urban areas in North America. Parks and river valleys in towns and cities provide good habitats and a variety of food sources for coyotes. They can make beneficial neighbours as they help control rodent species, such as mice and ground squirrels.

Coyotes are curious, adapt easily to new situations and are not picky eaters. They primarily feed on rabbits, mice and squirrels. In cities, they also eat pet food, garbage, compost and bird feed. If a coyote frequents your neighbourhood, it's because it has found shelter or food.

Serious conflicts between people and coyotes are rare. However, wildlife are unpredictable, and coyotes can pose a public risk. Coyotes are not usually aggressive toward humans but can become bolder around people when they learn backyards, playgrounds, or parks can provide them with easy meals. The likelihood of a problem encounter increases if coyotes are fed by people, as they lose their natural fear of humans.

## Help your children be safe

Teach your children how to respond to coyote encounters and remind them about the importance of not leaving food or garbage in school yards, parks or in your backyard. If you know there are coyotes in the area, supervise your children when they are outside.

## Avoid attracting coyotes to your neighbourhood:

- Do not feed coyotes. Feeding coyotes inevitably leads to unsafe situations that can result in human injury.
- Pet food will attract coyotes. Bring in feeding dishes immediately after your pets have eaten or feed pets inside.
- Dispose of garbage and compost materials in containers that have secure lids, or keep them in the garage or a shed.
- Take your garbage out only on collection day.
- Do not litter in school yards and parks.
- Keep a clean backyard. Remove seeds and suet put out for birds as well as fallen fruit. These foods can attract mice and squirrels, which are prey for coyotes.
- Make sure your fence has no holes or gaps that a curious coyote can use to access your property.
- Trim out thick shrubs and the bottom of trees to prevent coyotes or prey animals, such as rabbits or squirrels, from using those spaces as shelter.
- Coyotes and other wildlife may use the spaces under decks, patios and outbuildings as shelter. Close off these spaces with a durable wire mesh.
- Talk to your neighbours about following the same preventative measures.



## Did you know?

It is normal to see small groups of coyotes during certain times of the year.

Coyotes looking for mates gather in January or February.

By July and into fall, family groups travel together in search of food. Coyote sightings may be more common in summer, particularly when people make frequent use of urban parks or green belt areas.

Coyotes are capable of running at speeds up to 64 km/hr (40 mi/hr).

On average, coyotes weigh 9 to 23 kg (20 to 50 lbs.), similar to a medium-sized dog.