

Coyotes

Urban Wildlife Relationships



Did you know?

Coyotes mate for life, and co-parent their pups! It's common for entire families to help raise a litter, including aunts, uncles, and older siblings.



Did you know?

Coyotes will remember reliable food sources. They will return to the same spot again and again if they know they can find food there! What might happen if you feed a coyote, or if you leave out garbage with food scraps?

Did you know?

Trapping and relocating coyotes is ineffective in removing them from an area as this creates a space for another coyote to move in.



Did you know?

Coyotes can run at speeds over 60km/hr and are competent swimmers.



AIWC Blogs

[Living Together: Coyotes & Humans](#)

[Urban Coyotes: Our Extremely Adaptable Wild Neighbours](#)

Myth Busting

MYTH : A coyote will try and lure your dog back to the den, where the rest of the pack is waiting to kill it.

REALITY : Dogs and coyotes share a lot of the same body language! They will likely be curious about each other, but if a coyote becomes uncomfortable or alarmed, it may retreat back to its den or family. If dogs don't understand that cue, they might follow. If a whole pack then feels threatened by a dog's presence, they might react defensively.

MYTH : Coyotes stalk people/pets.

REALITY : Coyotes are family-oriented. They mate for life and co-parent their pups. Because of this, they are very protective and territorial of their dens. Especially in the spring and summer, when pups are still young, parents are likely to shadow visitors travelling near their dens. They are assessing a threat to their family, and most of the time, simply making sure that the visitor leaves the area.

If a coyote has been fed by humans before, it might demand food from humans again. It's very important to never feed coyotes because of this. Coyotes will instinctively avoid humans, unless they start to associate us with food, or they feel threatened.



Ecological Niche

Coyotes have an important role in Alberta ecosystems. They are scavengers and predators, and they actually help control rodent populations in urban areas. They are especially important in natural areas within cities, like Nosehill Park, that may not have other predators.

You can recognize a coyote by their long, bushy tail, and their pointed snout and ears. They are typically gray-brown in colour, and might look similar to a medium-sized dog.



Scat and Tracks

Coyote scat looks similar to a domestic dog, but may have visible fur or bones in it. Coyote tracks are similar to a medium-sized dog, but might have more pronounced claws. Coyote paws are also narrow and oval-shaped, while some dog paws are more rounded and spread out.

Safety Tips

1. **Protect your pets.** Keep pets on a leash and supervise them while outside. Pick up dog feces that may attract coyotes. If you see a coyote or see a sign about coyotes in the area, pick up small dogs and consider leaving the area.
2. **Keep children safe.** Teach your children what to do if they see a coyote.
3. **Avoid attracting coyotes.** Do not feed coyotes. Bring pet food and treats inside. Dispose of garbage and compost in containers with secure lids, or inside.
4. **If you see a coyote.** Shout in a deep voice and try to appear large, waving your arms. Back away slowly but do not turn and run.

Coyote Information Line

Calgary & area : (403) 297-7789

Edmonton & area : (780) 644-5744



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