



The purpose of this brochure

The purpose of this brochure is to provide some basic tips for dealing with coyotes. Whether it's leaving food, garbage or pets outside, our behaviour is changing the behaviour of coyotes. Habituated coyotes have learned that our neighbourhoods are a source of food. Please talk to your family, friends and neighbours and share these simple tips with them.

It is only necessary to report you have seen a coyote if:

- the coyote has followed, chased or attacked someone or a pet
- the coyote is acting aggressively or defensively
- the coyote looks sick

When an incident with a coyote is reported, the City will investigate and determine if a problem exists. Depending on the circumstances, a course of action will be taken. This could include public education, posting warning signs that a coyote has been seen in the area, or coyote removal.

To report an incident or problem coyote, call:

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

If someone is in danger call:

- Emergency **911**

To obtain additional information call:

Edmonton Coyote Information Hotline at **780-644-5744** or refer to the following websites:

- www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/pest_management/Coyotes.aspx
- www.srd.alberta.ca/FishWildlife/HumanWildlifeConflict/Coyotes.aspx
- www.edmontonurbancoyotes.ca

The City of Edmonton Park Rangers work with the Province of Alberta, who is responsible for wildlife management throughout the province.

Your Guide To Avoiding Coyote-Human Conflict



About coyotes

Coyotes play a natural and beneficial role in the food chain by eating mice and other small rodents. They are extremely adaptable animals that help maintain healthy ecosystems.

Coyotes are part of the dog family but have very long legs, oversized pointed ears and large bushy tails with black tips. An average adult coyote weighs 9 to 14 kilograms and is just over a metre long from nose tip to the tip of their tail. Coyotes have light grey or tan coats and slim pointed muzzles.

Why are coyotes living in the city?

Coyotes have long existed within the boundaries of the city but most stayed in the river valley. 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, fruit and accessible pet food.



Are coyotes dangerous?

Coyotes have a natural fear of humans but may become defensive and may attack if they are protecting their food or a den.

In cases of coyote attacks on people, it usually involves a coyote that has been fed by humans. Experts agree that coyotes will steer clear of humans until they learn that people are a source of food.

Coyotes and pets

Coyotes view dogs as competition. If a dog comes into their territory, they may attempt to intimidate the dog. Keeping dogs on a leash at all times is the best way to ensure the safety of the dog and the owner.

City of Edmonton's Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw prohibits owners from allowing their cats or dogs to roam free and unsupervised off their property. By permitting your pets to roam free outside of your property, you provide the opportunity for a potentially serious encounter between your pet and a coyote.

To help prevent conflicts with coyotes do not:

- feed coyotes
- leave garbage out
- leave fallen fruit from trees, or bird seed spilled from feeders on the ground
- leave pet food outside
- walk your dog off leash in areas frequented by coyotes
- leave a small dog out in the yard unattended for long periods of time
- leave cats out roaming

What to do if you encounter a coyote



To prevent coyote attacks on humans, modern wildlife management focuses on 'aversive conditioning'. This practice tries to change an animal's behaviour by making every human-coyote encounter unpleasant for the animal. This method only works if we all respond to coyote encounters aggressively. If a coyote does approach, make it feel unwelcome. They should not feel comfortable around us.

Take these immediate steps:

- Respond to its presence aggressively by making yourself appear large (wave your arms overhead or shove long objects like a walking stick toward the coyote).
- Throw rocks, sticks or other objects to scare it away.
- Carry a whistle and blow it to startle the animal.
- Carry dog spray in areas highly frequented by coyotes.
- Shout in a deep voice and maintain eye contact.
- Do not turn away or run. This may trigger a natural predator/prey instinct and might encourage the coyote to chase after you.
- If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward buildings or human activity.