

WHAT IS A COYOTE?

Coyotes are small wild canines, usually weighing 30 to 40 pounds. Their fur varies in colour from blonde to red and brown.

These adaptable animals thrive in rural areas including ravines, valleylands and wooded areas in large cities like Brampton. They do not hibernate so may be seen all year round.

Coyotes are generally shy and non-confrontational but they can be curious.

COYOTES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Coyotes are integral members of a diverse ecosystem and contribute to a necessary and healthy prey-predator balance. When left alone, we benefit tremendously from their activities. However, human-coyote conflicts may arise when we intentionally feed them or inadvertently create opportunities for food around our city. Coyotes are opportunistic in behaviour and will take food sources that are readily available, rather than chasing their own.



City of Brampton Animal Services
475 Chrysler Drive
905.458.5800

brampton.ca/animalservices

For more information on living with coyotes,
please contact:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
1.800.667.1940
ontario.ca/mnrf

Coyote Watch Canada
905.931.2610
coyotewatchcanada.com



Living With Coyotes in the Fall and Winter



WINTER IS MATING SEASON

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Eastern Coyote is common in urban areas throughout North America including Brampton. During the winter months, coyotes may be more visible as they look for food, shelter and seek a mate. You may hear more yipping and howling as they communicate.

AVERSION CONDITIONING

Aversion conditioning (hazing) is a method used to instill a fear of humans, and is used to advise coyotes they aren't welcome. Some examples of this may include making loud noises or flashing lights.

KEEPING COYOTES AWAY FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Coyotes are not considered a significant risk to people, but seeing one on your property or during a walk can be unnerving. There are steps we can take to keep coyotes away from our backyards and neighbourhoods.

- Remove all food sources from your property e.g. expired vegetable gardens, birdseed, dirty barbecues, pet food, etc.
- Close gaps in fences and under decks and sheds.
- Never leave pets outside alone.
- Practice hazing on your property to deter the presence of the coyotes.

WHAT TO DO IF A COYOTE FOLLOWS OR APPROACHES YOU:

- **STOP.** Pick up children and small pets if necessary.
- **STAND STILL.** Never run from a coyote.
- **MAKE YOURSELF BIGGER.** Appear aggressive, stand tall, wave your arms high in the air. Surprising, spontaneous and aggressive gestures work best.
- **BE LOUD AND ASSERTIVE.** Shout, stomp your feet or clap your hands. Carry a noise maker (i.e. whistle, plastic bag or umbrella to make a popping sound).
- **FIGHT BACK.** Throw some sticks or rocks in the general direction of the coyote to scare and deter it. Do not throw it directly at the coyote.
- **SLOWLY BACK AWAY.** Maintain eye contact and remember to never run.

Share and teach this to your family members so they know how to safely respond to a coyote.

In the event that a coyote is presenting an immediate threat to public safety call 911.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY WON'T THE CITY RELOCATE THE COYOTES?

Relocating or killing coyotes is not an option, it is extremely difficult to capture one and is a temporary approach. If one coyote is removed, it will result in others moving into the area. Capture and relocation of coyotes more than one kilometre away is not permitted under the Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

WHY DO I HEAR COYOTES YIP OR HOWL?

Coyotes call to each other as a means of communication. They yip, howl and bark to defend territory, locate family, celebrate, warn each other of danger and greet one another. This can be increased during mating season when they are looking for a partner. If you hear coyotes communicating, maintain your distance and respect their space.

DOGS AND COYOTES

Most situations between coyotes and dogs occur when dogs are off-leash or appear to be. Monitor your dog when out in the yard and keep them on a short leash during walks. If you know a coyote has been spotted in your area, consider changing your walk schedule or route temporarily.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I FEED THEM?

NEVER FEED or leave food out for a coyote. As highly intelligent animals, they will recognize humans are feeding them. This will only result in them returning to the area, possibly exhibiting different behaviours towards humans.

WHAT MORE CAN I DO?

- Submit coyote sightings online at brampton.ca/coyotes to inform the City and residents which areas the coyotes are frequenting.
- To submit a service request regarding food being left out or overgrown properties, contact 311.
- Contact 311 if you encounter a coyote you believe is sick or injured.
- Be informed and be coyote smart!

