

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.

The Eastern Coyote is common in urban areas throughout North America including Brampton.

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 can be curious.

Coyotes yip, howl and bark to greet one another, defend territory, locate family, celebrate and warn each other of danger. If you hear coyotes communicating, maintain your distance and respect their space.

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 free 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



City of Brampton Animal Services

475 Chrysler Drive
905.458.5800

www.brampton.ca/animalservices



For more information on living with coyotes,
please contact:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

1.800.667.1940

www.ontario.ca/mnrf

Coyote Watch Canada

905.931.2610

www.coyotewatchcanada.com



 **BRAMPTON**



Living With
Coyotes in the
SPRING & SUMMER



 **BRAMPTON**

SPRING AND SUMMER IS PUPPING SEASON

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Pupping and denning season is between April to July. This is the time of year when coyotes mate and create dens to raise their pups.

Coyotes tend to be more visible and active during this time because they are protective of their den sites.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE'S A DEN IN YOUR AREA

- Consider changing your walking route for a few weeks while the pups are young. The coyotes will eventually leave the den.
- Do not approach coyotes, dens or pups, even if it appears the parents have abandoned them.
- Do not stop outside the den or approach it.
- Keep your dog on a leash and away from the area.
- Do not allow your dog to approach, chase or play with a coyote, even if the coyote appears friendly. Allowing dogs to befriend or harass a coyote only alters the natural behaviour of this normally timid animal.

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!

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, startling and spontaneous 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 sticks or rocks in the general direction of the coyote to scare and deter. 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 too 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 IS THE COYOTE ACTIVE AND FOLLOWING ME?

Coyotes are curious and aware of everything in their territory. A coyote may watch, escort or shadow visitors to make sure they leave the area and are not a threat to his or her family.

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 COYOTES?

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.

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 barbeques, 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.

