



## HUMAN-COYOTE CONFLICTS

Coyotes account for approximately 1,100 calls to the Conservation Officer Service every year. Cities provide increased food opportunities for coyotes, with the addition of garbage, pets, fruit, berries, compost and bird seed. These attractants also support rodents which are a primary food source for coyotes. Green spaces provide adequate to excellent food, water and shelter opportunities with the additional benefit of reduced risk of depredation by wolves.

Pet and livestock attacks are the primary cause of calls concerning coyotes. Only one human has been killed by coyotes in Canada and that was in Nova Scotia in 2009.

**Some people feed coyotes under the mistaken idea that this helps them. Food-conditioned and human-habituated coyotes become bolder around people and these animals often have to be destroyed because of concerns for human safety.**



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969.

[www.bccf.com](http://www.bccf.com)



To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service at

**1.877.952.7277**

**WildSafeBC is funded through the Province of British Columbia and in partnership with communities and organizations throughout BC.**



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photos by Peter Sulzle



# COYOTE



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





## MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

There are several things you can do to keep coyotes away from your neighbourhood, your pets and your livestock:

**1. Keep all solid waste securely stored** until collection day. Placing solid waste at the curb before collection day makes it easily accessible to coyotes. Many communities have bylaws that have strict set-out times to prevent this.

**2. Keep your pets indoors, especially at night.** Cats and small dogs that are left to free-range, hunt small birds and rodents and in turn become prey themselves.

**3. Bird feeders can attract coyotes.** If spillage from the feeders is not picked up, seeds can accumulate and can attract rodents, which in turn can attract coyotes and other predators, that feed on the rodents.

**4. Feed pets indoors.** If fed outdoors, bring in dirty bowls and uneaten food immediately after feeding.

**5. Manage your compost properly.** Composts that aren't working well can attract coyote prey such as rodents.

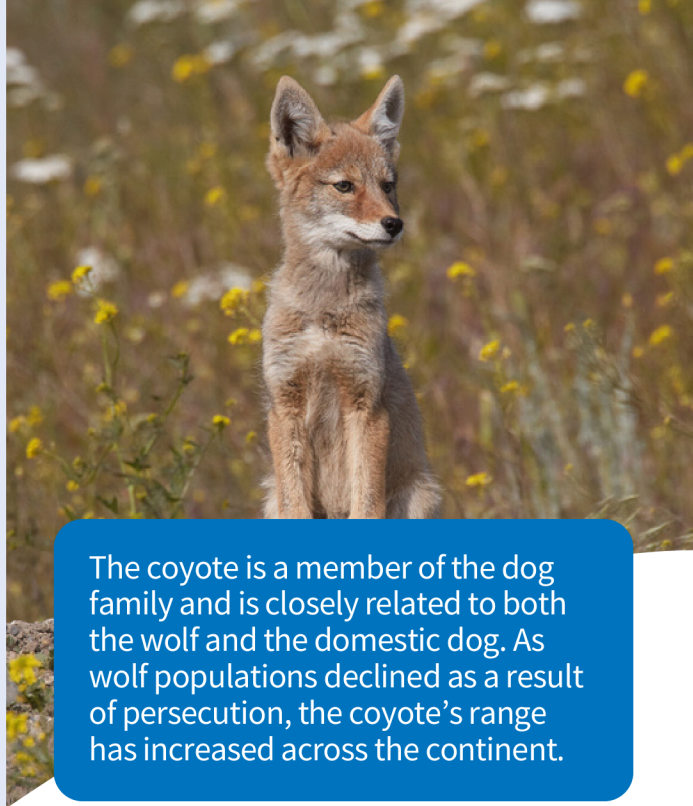
**6. If you keep chickens or small livestock use a properly installed and maintained electric fence.** Store all your feed in a secure location and ensure feeding areas are clean and free of attractants.

## ! COYOTE SAFETY

**Urban coyotes have become very comfortable around humans and have at times attacked pets on leashes within meters of their owners.**

If you encounter a coyote that is aggressive towards you do not run as this may trigger an attack. Back away slowly and speak to it in a loud firm voice. If you have a walking stick use that to protect yourself, and/or deliver a series of hard kicks to the coyote's ribs and stomach and that should be enough to dissuade the animal.

**Call the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277 to report the incident. While coyotes have the potential to carry rabies, there have been no cases of rabies found in coyotes in B.C.**



The coyote is a member of the dog family and is closely related to both the wolf and the domestic dog. As wolf populations declined as a result of persecution, the coyote's range has increased across the continent.

An adult male coyote will weigh an average of 15 kg. Because of the coyote's long and fluffy coat, they often appear much heavier than they are. Doglike in appearance, they are distinguished by their large tail, two-toned coat (light brown on top and lighter underbelly) and almost straight profile from forehead to the tip of the nose.

Coyotes are efficient hunters and the bulk of their diet comes from small mammals but they will eat birds, snakes, insects and berries when the opportunity presents itself. They are scavengers as well as predators and perform a valuable clean-up role in the ecosystem. **With the spread of humans across their traditional territories the coyote has adapted and expanded their range and are well known for their ability to live in urban settings. Urban coyotes have learned to effectively hunt small pets and livestock and will make use of any garbage that is left unsecured.**

Coyotes mate in February and March and give birth to about five pups in April or May. Both males and females tend to the young and the group will stay together until the pups have learned to hunt and fend for themselves.



## COYOTE FACTS:

- Adult males are about 140 cm in length (including a 35 cm tail) and weigh between 9 to 23 kg.
- Coyotes are found throughout mainland B.C. and are absent from many of the coastal islands including Vancouver Island.
- Coyotes have extremely good hearing and a keen sense of smell.
- Coyotes are efficient mousers and many farmers have come to appreciate the rodent control that a coyote family can provide.
- Coyotes have expanded their range since the removal of wolves - their natural predator and competitor.
- Coyotes will eat berries, crab apples and other fruit when the opportunity presents itself.
- Coyotes communicate through howls, barks and a series of yips.
- Coyotes are primarily nocturnal but can be seen at almost any time of the day depending upon the circumstances.
- Coyotes will prey on young ungulates if the opportunity presents itself.
- Coyotes are territorial and will often 'escort' people and pets away from their dens. This is often misinterpreted as stalking.



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