

WHAT IS A COYOTE?

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



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



Living With
Coyotes in the
SPRING & SUMMER



 **BRAMPTON**

 **BRAMPTON**



SPRING AND SUMMER IS PUPPING SEASON

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Breeding and denning season is between April to July. This is the time of year when coyotes mate and dig a den 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 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?

The capture and relocation of coyotes more than one kilometre away is not permitted under the Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. It is a temporary solution, and will result in others moving into the area.

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.

WILL THE COYOTE ATTACK ME, MY CHILDREN, OR MY DOG?

Coyotes rarely come into a yard if humans are present. Practice hazing techniques if a coyote approaches or follows you. Do not leave small pets unattended in your yard.

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.

HOW CAN I KEEP COYOTES OUT OF MY YARD?

- Store garbage, compost and pet food in an area coyotes cannot access.
- Ensure gaps around and under decks and sheds are closed off with wire screening.
- Use motion sensors.
- Continue to scare the coyote away by practicing hazing. Make your yard uncomfortable for them.

