



HUMAN-COYOTE CONFLICTS

- Coyotes account for approximately 500 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year.
- Pet and livestock attacks are the primary cause for calls with regards to 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.
- While coyotes have the potential to carry rabies, there have been no cases of rabies found in coyotes in B.C.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969. To learn more about our organization please visit us at

www.bccf.com

WildSafeBC is funded through partnerships throughout BC. Core funding is made possible through the BC Ministry of Environment. To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service:

1.877.952.7277



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photos by Peter Sulzle



COYOTE



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

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

1. **Keep all garbage securely stored** until the day of collection. Placing garbage at the curb before collection day is poor behaviour and often illegal if your community has garbage bylaws in place.
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,** or if fed outdoors, take in any feed that is not immediately eaten.
5. **Manage your compost properly.** Composts that aren't working well can attract rodents which in turn can attract coyotes.
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. The feed can attract rodents which can, in turn, attract coyotes.



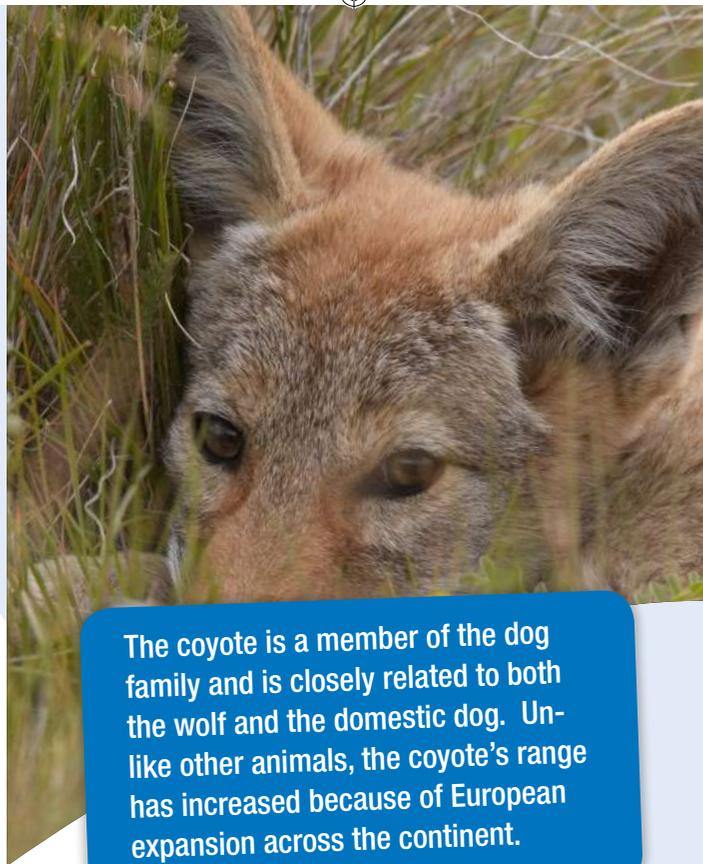
COYOTE SAFETY TIPS

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

Fatal attacks by coyotes are extremely rare, due mainly to the small size of a coyote.

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 reporting line (1-877-952-7277) to report the incident.



The coyote is a member of the dog family and is closely related to both the wolf and the domestic dog. Unlike other animals, the coyote's range has increased because of European expansion across the continent.

An adult male coyote will weigh on average 15 kilograms. 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 - all habits which make them an undesirable visitor to many home owners.

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.



WHERE'S THE COYOTE?

Visit our website at www.wildsafebc.com to find a map that shows where wildlife has been sighted in your community along with information about what has attracted it into the area. By knowing where coyotes are and what is bringing them in, we can all do our part to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

www.wildsafebc.com



COYOTE FACTS:

- Adult males are about 140 cm in length (including a 35 cm tail) and weigh between 9 to 23 kilograms.
- 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 advance of European settlers across North America.
- 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.
- One of the coyote's natural predators is the wolf.



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