

Coyotes

Excerpt taken from:

<http://www.srd.alberta.ca/ManagingPrograms/FishWildlifeOfficers/HumanWildlifeConflict/Coyotes.aspx>

Frequently Asked Questions

Coyotes in urban areas: Why do we see coyotes in the city?

- With Alberta cities and towns growing rapidly, many suburbs have expanded into formerly undeveloped wildlife habitat. For coyotes, the growth of cities has meant an increase in food sources from humans, such as garbage, pet food and fruit and berries from ornamental landscaping.
- Coyotes take advantage of carelessly stored garbage, compost, fruit fallen from trees and bird feed.
- Coyotes typically live in green spaces that provide them with food, water and shelter, such as park areas and river valleys. In some areas, coyotes also make use of back alleys, industrial areas, and other developed areas.
- Most people seldom see coyotes, though some may hear late-night howling. Some coyotes have become used to people and are not shy about letting themselves be seen.

How can I prevent coyotes from returning to my neighbourhood?

- If a coyote is returning to your neighbourhood, it is because shelter or easy meals are available there.
- Never feed the coyotes. Feeding coyotes inevitably leads to unsafe situations that result in human injury or the death of the animal.
- Never unintentionally feed coyotes. Pet food, garbage and fruit fallen from trees might also be available. Reduce your chances of attracting coyotes by removing these items from your yard.
- Remove low branches on trees that can provide hiding places for coyotes or attract small animals, particularly near children's play areas.
- Keep a clean backyard by removing seeds, meat, suet for birds and fallen fruit. These attract mice and squirrels, which are prey for coyotes.
- Install motion-activated lights in your yard.
- Keep your cats indoors and don't let your dog play outside unsupervised.
- Always be sure to clean up dog feces as it attracts coyotes.
- Use a durable wire mesh to close off spaces under decks, patios and outbuildings. Keep all spaces that may be used as a shelter closed off and inaccessible to coyotes.
- Make sure your fence is in good repair. Holes in fences may attract curious coyotes into

your backyard.

- Take your garbage out only on the morning of collection.
- Talk to your neighbours about following the same preventative measures.

Coyotes and children

What should I teach my child about coyotes?

- If you see a coyote, never run, even if you're scared.
- Yell at the coyote in an angry voice and make yourself look bigger by putting your arms in the air.
- Never approach coyotes or any other wildlife.
- Do not leave food for the coyotes.
- Never litter. Put all garbage in cans with tight-fitting lids.
- When walking the dog, always keep it on a leash. Pick up the dog scat to throw away in a garbage can with a tight fitting-lid.
- Make sure that you don't let the cat out.
- Help keep the backyard clean to keep the coyotes out.

Why do coyotes visit schoolyards?

Coyotes visit schoolyards for the same reason they investigate backyards and laneways; they are searching for food, such as leftover lunches and food wrappers coming from a schoolyard's garbage container.

Children should place litter in schoolyard garbage cans that have secure lids, or put all their litter in garbage cans indoors. Garbage containers should be cleaned out daily to reduce odours.