

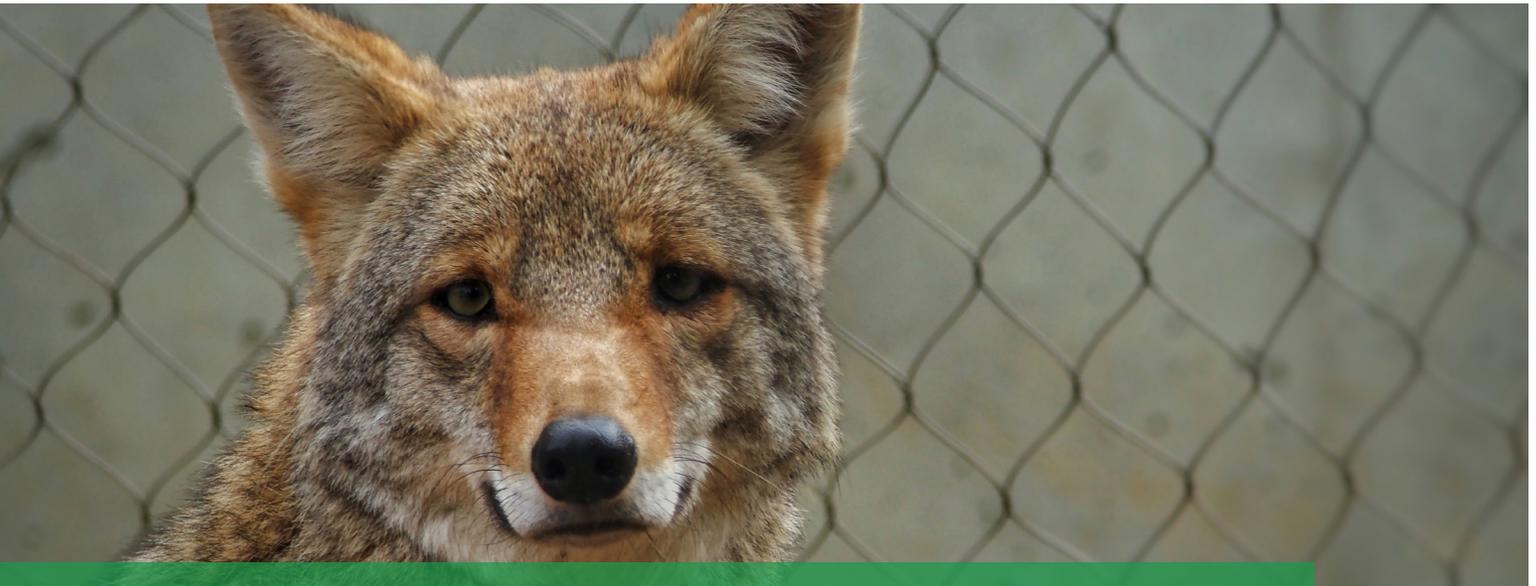


# **THE CITY OF TORONTO'S COYOTE COEXISTENCE AND RESPONSE STRATEGY**

# Purpose & Scope

Toronto's urban wildlife is incredibly diverse, with thousands of unique species calling this city home. In particular, coyotes have lived in Toronto's communities for many years.

Coyotes have adapted well to urban environments and are a consistent feature of many cities across North America, including Toronto. They forage, are capable of consuming a variety of foods, turn small vacant spaces into homes, and benefit from limited natural predators. It is normal to see them in industrial, commercial, and residential areas, in addition to parks, trails and ravines. Coyotes may view humans or dogs as potential predators and there is a limited distance they allow people to approach before fleeing or becoming stressed. The City monitors coyote activity to investigate those exhibiting problematic behaviour for closer assessment and action.



The City of Toronto's Coyote Coexistence and Response Strategy ("the Strategy") organizes best practices for coyote management into a comprehensive operational document for the City to respond to coyote activity. The Strategy:

- Clarifies the importance of coexistence strategies in wildlife management and reaffirms public safety as a priority.
- Provides residents and visitors to Toronto with information on how to identify coyotes, the difference between normal and problematic behaviour, how to prevent incidents through collective participation, and how to respond during an encounter.
- Outlines the City's Incident Classification and Response Table, where potential responses to coyote activity are organized by severity of the situation and degree of potential impact to the community.
  - The City's response will always consider the particular circumstances at play and may vary depending on the circumstances of a specific investigation. The Table is provided as a high-level guide to staff and the public and is subject to variation in any given case.

This Strategy was informed by practical field experience, a review of best practices, research from comparable jurisdictions, and input from wildlife and animal experts from across North America. While this Strategy focuses on coyotes, it is applicable to other canids, such as foxes and wolves.

# Why Coexistence?

Coexistence is when humans and wildlife adapt to share space. This approach recognizes that both require their respective needs to be met and that there is an acceptable level of risk to living alongside each other. The City of Toronto takes a coexistence-based approach to wildlife management for several reasons:

- Humans are one part of an interconnected system that encompasses all living things, including animals, people, plants and other life. Co-adapting to live responsibly alongside wildlife supports the health of this system. Coyotes, for instance, maintain the health of the ecosystem by keeping rodent and small animal populations in check. In doing so, they help protect buildings and local plant and bird populations, with general benefits to public health and the environment.
- Coexistence programs are a long-term method of maintaining boundaries between coyotes and humans. Programs to remove coyotes in North America have been historically costly, ineffective, and at times counterproductive. Removal does not address the contributing factor(s) for why conflicts between problematic coyotes and humans occur.
- The City's [2022 – 2032 Reconciliation Action Plan](#) lays out a commitment to integrate Indigenous worldviews into citywide strategic approaches. This Strategy aligns with that commitment by recognizing the importance of being in relationship with all beings, in reciprocity and respect, and with the understanding that all life is sacred.



Understanding the place of humans within the natural world and participating in prevention efforts are all essential steps towards maintaining the vibrant ecosystem that makes Toronto a place where people want to live, work, and play.

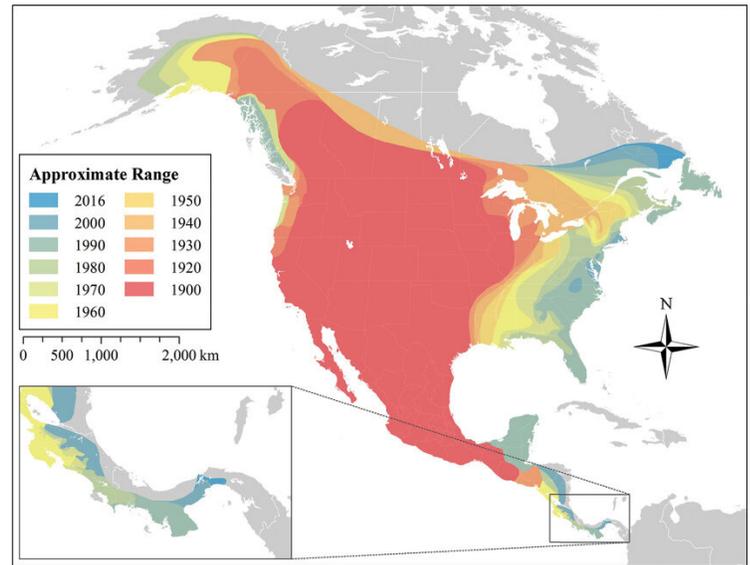
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# About Coyotes

## Coyote Location

Coyotes found in Toronto are part of the scientific family of eastern coyotes (*Canis latrans*). They have a family-based social structure, where adult coyotes cooperate to raise a litter of pups (usually one litter per year), and territory sizes extending up to 10 square kilometers ([University of Calgary, 2019](#)). Because coyotes consume a wide variety of foods and can find shelter easily, they have a wide reach, and this species of coyotes is found across North and Central America, from Alaska to Panama.

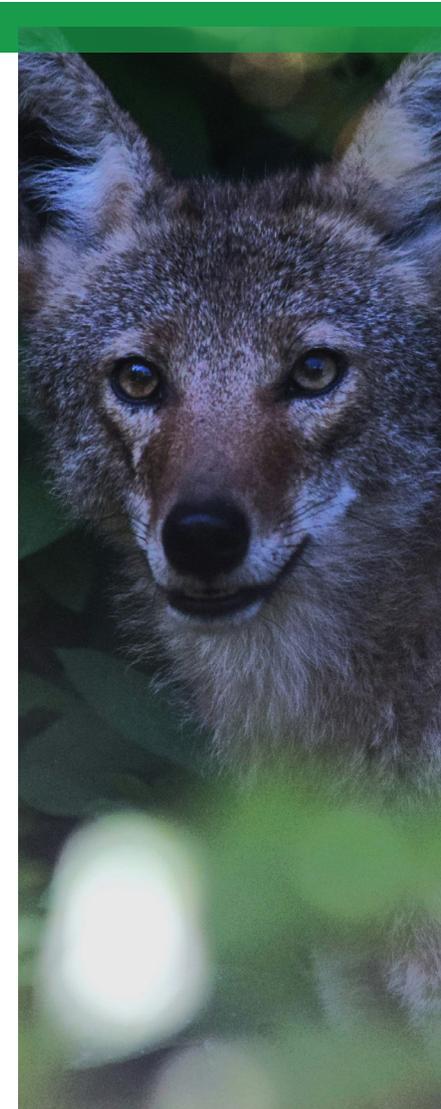


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## Coyote Behaviour and Reproduction

Coyotes have a wide reach because they are adaptable. While they live in and around urban areas, coyotes typically avoid interactions with humans. Although incidents are uncommon, they do happen. Knowing what behaviours to expect from coyotes can help residents in determining how to respond during interactions.

- **Coyotes avoid humans:** Research shows that coyotes try to remain out of human sight when in their habitat of choice. They seek out green spaces such as parks and ravines because foliage provides strategic cover from humans, whom they consider potential predators. On average, there are three coyote attacks (bites/scratches) to people per year across Canada ([University of Calgary, 2019](#)). However, repeated encounters with humans in which they are rewarded by food or do not feel threatened can increase their tolerance for being near people (otherwise known as 'proximity tolerance').
- **Feeding coyotes disrupts their wild instincts:** Coyotes are opportunistic foragers. They generally eat insects, rodents and small animals, fruit, vegetables, and roadkill, but will eat discarded human-sourced food such as birdseed, pet food, compost, and other garbage if available. Because they are skilled hunters, they learn quickly to associate areas with food and shelter. Feeding them increases the risk of an unsafe encounter.
- **Coyotes are to be expected throughout the city:** It is normal to see coyotes in residential, industrial, and commercial areas in addition to green space (i.e. parks, trails, lightly treed areas, forests and protected land). Coyotes are skilled at locating small spaces to live in, which, coupled with their low tolerance for humans enables them to generally move without encounters or incidents.





- **Green spaces, vacant or neglected areas, and rail corridors act as buffer zones between humans and wildlife:** These areas prevent human-coyote conflict. The presence of these sites allows coyotes to avoid direct encounters, mitigating chances of conflict and their reduction leads to less space for wildlife movement and refuge. When coyotes enter urban areas, they stay close to escape routes that lead back to green space.
- **Urban coyotes tend to be active at night:** Urban coyotes have adapted to being active at night and it is common to see them in residential and industrial areas after dark. Still, daytime coyote sightings are to be expected and do not pose a threat, particularly during spring and summer months when coyotes are hunting or foraging to feed their pups.
- **Reproductive cycles play a role in coyote activity:** Like other wild canids, coyotes follow a predictable life cycle. Young adults leave their homes and look for new territory from September to October. Mating lasts from January to February. Pups are born in late March into April, and pup rearing lasts from March to September. These reproductive periods correspond to varying degrees of visibility, but throughout their life cycle, coyotes avoid humans unless they have been conditioned to otherwise by food and shelter, are reacting to threats, or are sick.
- **During sensitive periods, coyotes react strongly to threats:** Coyotes are family-oriented, with pairs typically mating for life and cooperating to protect and raise their families. This protective instinct makes them seek out secluded and secure areas for dens to have pups in, such as thickets, brush-covered slopes, and under rocky overhangs. They are protective of their homes and, particularly when rearing pups, may display defensive behaviour to intruders on their dens, including humans and domestic dogs.
- **Coyotes react to dogs:** Coyotes and domestic dogs are a part of the same scientific family of canids. As such, coyotes react to all sized dogs the same way they do non-familial coyotes and wolves, in a perceived competition for territory and/or resources.

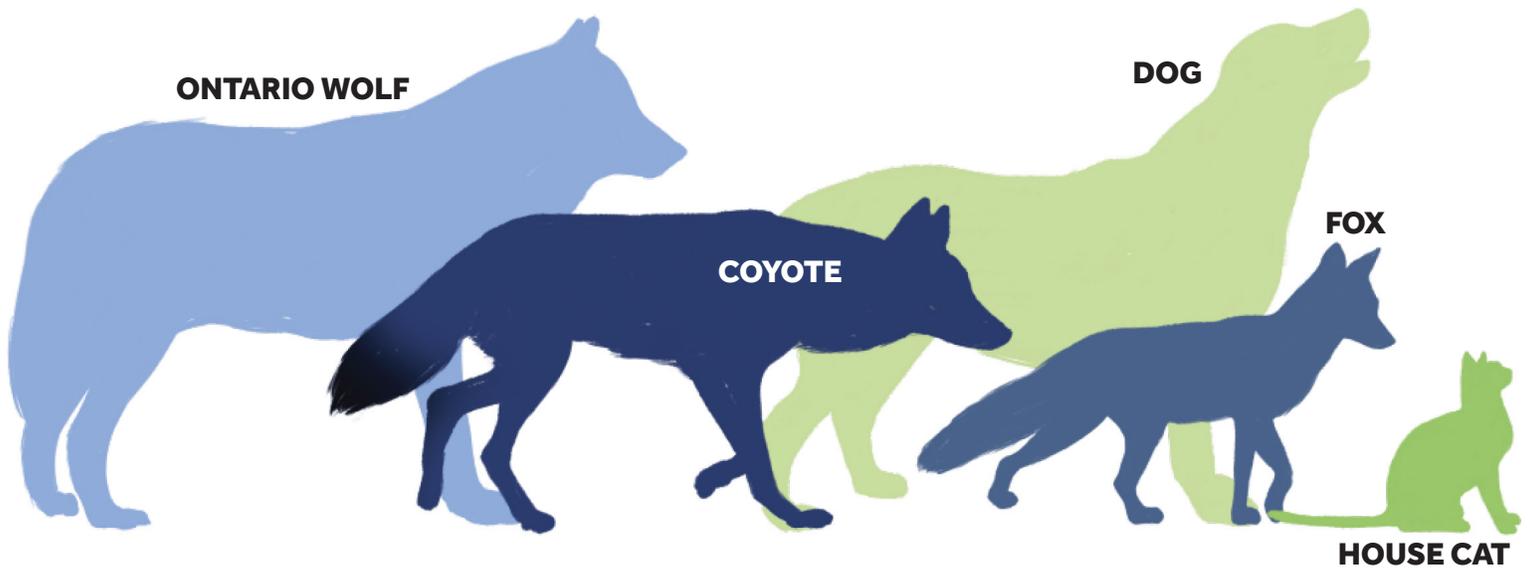
## Coyotes in the Ecosystem

Coyotes are a keystone species, which means other species in their ecosystem largely depend on them. If they were removed, the ecosystem would change drastically, as they keep small animal populations under control and consume mice, rats, squirrels, rabbits, snakes, skunks, and raccoons. This protects plant and bird populations and urban infrastructure from being overrun by small animals.

Through its [2022 – 2032 Reconciliation Action Plan](#), the City of Toronto lays out a commitment to integrate Indigenous worldviews into strategic approaches. The values of reciprocity and preserving ongoing relationships with all life are central to this Strategy and align with the City's reconciliation commitments, and they offer valuable insights into protecting ecosystems today.

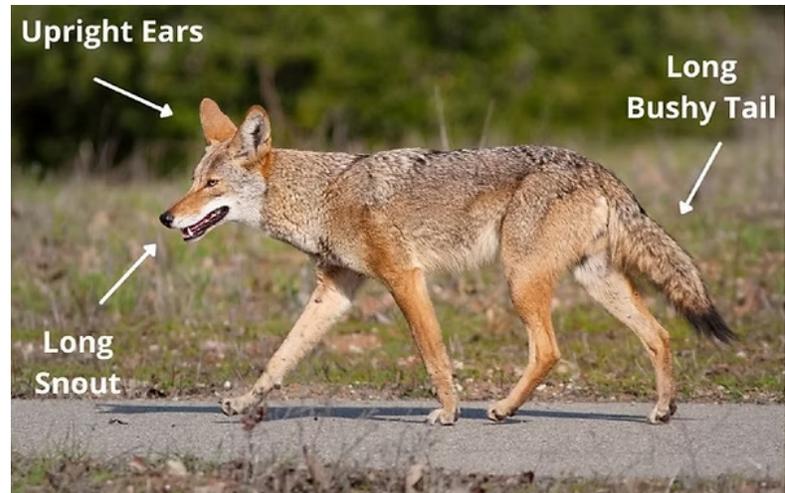
# Coyote Appearance

Knowing what coyotes look like can help residents identify and avoid negative encounters.



## Eastern coyotes have:

- A grey, brown, and yellow coat mixed with tan, red, and black;
- Long legs, small paws, and a pointed snout;
- Bushy tails with black tips;
- Tails that point straight down and slightly away from their bodies when walking or running;
- Yellow eyes;
- Larger ears than most domestic dogs;
- An average of 35 – 40 pounds in size, while appearing bigger if they have thick coats of fur;
- Crusty or patchy fur if they have mange, which is a skin condition caused by mites.



## Change in Coyote Behaviour

Seeing coyotes around the city is normal. It is normal for a coyote to behave defensively when encountering a dog. It is not normal for a coyote to jump on, bite, or attack a human without reason. Such incidents have typically been linked to coyotes being fed or becoming defensive around dogs or intruders in their dens. The City monitors coyote activity closely to flag animals displaying problematic behaviour for investigation, in line with the City's strategies and best practices.

# Keeping a Safe Distance From Coyotes

## How to Prevent Coyote Encounters

Encounters between coyotes and humans and pets can be minimized through collective participation in prevention activities. These activities use a combination of:

- **Eliminating and mitigating food sources** through appropriately disposing of food waste and preventing wildlife feeding;
- **Maintaining properties** by securing property lines so that coyotes cannot enter; and
- **Public education and community engagement** to enable participation in aversion conditioning, maintain human-wildlife boundaries and protect pets.

Using specific techniques to compel wildlife to move away from humans is known as aversion conditioning (may also be referred to as “humane hazing”). Aversion conditioning has been known to work on bears, tigers, wolves, and coyotes when deployed consistently and with an understanding of what triggers defensive behaviour in animals.

Coyote prevention is a collaborative effort, and private property owners can help in the following ways:

### Coyote-proof your property:

#### Keep your property free of food:

- Clean and cover barbecues and drip trays and cover after using.
- Do not leave pet food, such as food for feral cats, and bird suet cakes outdoors or uncovered.
- Maintain bird feeders regularly to minimize waste seed on the ground. Alternatively, consider planting indigenous vegetation as opposed to using feeders.
- Pick up fallen fruit and vegetables on the ground.

#### Take care of pets on your property:

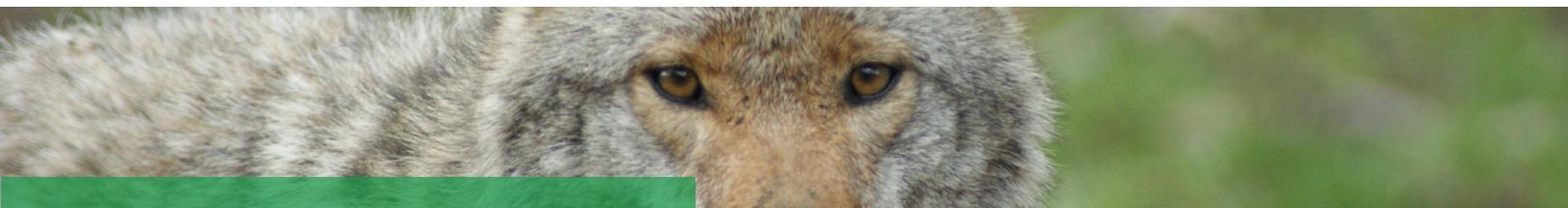
- Closely supervise pets while they are outside in your yard, ground-floor balcony or patio.
- Keep cats inside or in enclosed areas.
- Keep dogs inside your home at night.
- Keep outdoor areas well-lit at night.

#### Maintain your property so that it is not used as a den:

- Keep fencing, decks and sheds, crawl spaces and foundation walls in good repair.
- Mow long grass, trim bushes, and clean up brush piles and debris to reduce hiding places.
- Consider installing coyote-proof fences, made of material animals cannot climb.
- Check in and behind structures and bushes before letting pets outside.
- Remove pet feces from your yard to deter rodents.

#### Secure your waste

- Sort and set out waste in rigid bins with tight fitting lids.
- For locations that receive waste services from the City, call 311 to submit a service request to repair or replace damaged bins.



## Do not feed wildlife:

- Coyotes eat human food as well as the rodents attracted to garbage, compost and bird feeders.

## Do not litter. Use public space bins:

- Dispose of litter in the appropriate street litter bin and park bin.

## Keeps dogs on leash where required:

- Coyotes may react to pets. Always keep your pet on a leash and under close supervision when outside - this helps deter coyotes from approaching and prevents pets from coming into contact with or chasing wildlife.

## What To Do in the Event of a Coyote Encounter

Similar to domestic dogs undergoing training coyotes respond to clear, assertive body language, voice cues and physical gestures that activate their wariness for humans.

Using specific techniques to compel wildlife to move away from humans is known as **aversion conditioning**. The term aversion conditioning is used interchangeably with humane hazing in industry. Aversion conditioning has been known to work on bears, tigers, wolves, and coyotes when deployed consistently and with an understanding of what triggers defensive behaviour in animals.

**If a coyote approaches you, do not run or turn your back. Instead:**

### Be Safe

Protect your pets by picking up dogs or keeping them on a short leash beside you and under your supervision.

### Be Big

Open and quickly snap a colored garbage bag. Move towards the coyote using a firm, loud voice to encourage it to leave.

### Be Loud

Make loud sounds or noises, such as blowing a whistle or air horn, stomping feet, clapping hands, and yelling "go away coyote" using a firm voice.

### Be Assertive

Swing your walking stick or cane, shine a flashlight on the coyote, or throw a tennis ball or a small pebble or stick in the direction of the coyote.

### Be Threatening

Make yourself appear as large and imposing as you can. Stand up, if possible, raise your arms in the air, wave your jacket.

If a coyote poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 911. Any coyote sightings, incidents, and encounters can be reported to the City through 311.

# City Measures for Coyote Management

## Bylaw Measures

The City of Toronto's Municipal Licensing & Standards (MLS) Division provides bylaw administration and enforcement services, including for animal services. MLS' goal is to ensure compliance through education first. When education and warnings fail, Enforcement Officers have the authority to investigate and issue orders and/or lay charges.

The following describes some of the provisions that enable MLS Enforcement Officers to investigate and enforce factors related to wildlife conflict. Contributing factors to human-wildlife issues such as waste management, signage, lighting, and/or fence repair may be responded to by MLS or other City divisions where necessary. When an issue falls under another division's authority, MLS staff will make referrals to the appropriate division to coordinate a response.

**Table 1: Bylaw Measures that Enable Compliance Around Coyote Management**

Contributing Factors to Human-Coyote Conflict	Summary of Bylaw Measures	Relevant Bylaws
<p><b>Prohibiting Wildlife Feeding</b>  <i>Feeding wildlife, whether directly through hand feeding coyotes or indirectly by feeding the small animals that coyotes prey on or leaving out human or pet food, can condition coyotes to associate people and areas with food. This increases their tolerance for being near people.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an offence to feed wildlife, including leaving food out to attract animals, on both public and private property.</li> <li>Feeding songbirds via a feeder is a permitted activity provided that it meets criteria including being on private property, being above grade, spilled food is removed, the feeder is kept in good working order, and the feeder does not attract other wildlife.</li> </ul>	<p>Animals Bylaw (<a href="#">Chapter 349</a>)            Parks Bylaw (<a href="#">Chapter 608</a>)</p>
<p><b>Managing Pets</b>  <i>Maintaining healthy boundaries between wildlife and humans involves keeping dogs leashed except where permitted and picking up dog waste.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an offence for a pet owner to fail to immediately pick up their dog's waste on any property other than their own.</li> <li>It is an offence for a pet owner to fail to pick up their dog's waste on their own property within 24 hours.</li> <li>It is an offence for a dog to be off its owner's property and not under control.</li> </ul>	<p>Animals Bylaw (<a href="#">Chapter 349</a>)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an offence to have a dog off-leash when off the owner's premises, except in designated off-leash areas.</li> <li>Leashes are required to be maximum 2 meters in length.</li> </ul>	<p>Animals Bylaw (<a href="#">Chapter 349</a>)            Parks Bylaw (<a href="#">Chapter 608</a>)</p>
<p><b>Littering, Dumping, Waste Management &amp; Property Standards</b>  <i>Properly disposing of waste on public and private property eliminates the food sources that attract coyotes and the small animals they prey on. Waste management is a core priority in preventing human-wildlife conflict and maintains healthy boundaries between humans and coyotes, raccoons, opossums, skunks, rats, etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All yards and any other part of a property must be kept clean and free from accumulations of junk, rubbish, brush, refuse, litter, garbage and other debris, and any conditions that are health, fire or other hazards.</li> <li>All properties must at all times be kept free of pests and from conditions which may encourage infestation by pests.</li> </ul>	<p>Property Standards (<a href="#">Chapter 629</a>)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City has bylaw requirements surrounding the placing/dumping/depositing of waste and how and where garbage, recycling and yard waste may be stored and collected.</li> </ul>	<p>Littering and Dumping (<a href="#">Chapter 548</a>)            Waste Collection, Residential Properties (<a href="#">Chapter 844</a>)            Waste Collection, Commercial Properties (<a href="#">Chapter 841</a>)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owners of land on which waste has been thrown/placed/deposited/dumped must immediately clean and clear the waste from the land.</li> </ul>	<p>Littering and Dumping (<a href="#">Chapter 548</a>)</p>

Refer to the bylaws for comprehensive information



## When to Call 311

The City of Toronto encourages residents to report coyote sightings, incidents, and encounters through 311. 311 is the City of Toronto's contact number for access to non-emergency services and information, with service available 24/7 and in 180 languages. Reports can also be made through the online portal and app.

Services are sent by 311 to the appropriate division for response. When 311 reports are received by MLS, they undergo a verification process to ensure the resulting data is high-quality and reliable for use in internal assessment, triaging, and/or mapping. Reports from 311 are structured in ways consistent with bylaws to ensure that the City is working from clearly defined terms when evaluating reports and determining responses.

City staff follow up with the individual that made the report to provide support, gather evidence, and document and validate information. This also helps prevent duplication, as an increase in reports about the same sighting, encounter or incident may skew data.

Accurate data can reveal patterns implicated in coyote management, such as of direct or indirect feeding. Identifying these trends positions the City to take proactive action with the goal of preventing escalation to conflict.

For immediate threats to safety, contact Toronto Police Services by calling 911. Police can dispatch the animal if they decide it is necessary to protect public safety.

### **Otherwise, individuals can use 311 to report the following:**

- When a coyote attacks or bites people or pets.
- If a coyote appears sick, injured or orphaned.
- When people feed coyotes or other wildlife.
- When dogs are off-leash in areas where this is not allowed.
- When dogs are harassing coyotes.
- If people are dumping garbage in public parks.

**To report coyote activity, use the City's online reporting form at [toronto.ca/CoyoteReport](https://toronto.ca/CoyoteReport)**

## Educational Efforts

Public participation in prevention programs is key to maintaining healthy human-wildlife boundaries, and the City provides public education to support participation. City efforts range from targeted outreach in areas seeing increased reports to citywide approaches, with staff:

- Providing written information (such as educational pamphlets, posters, fact sheets, brochures, e-posters, and more) for distribution in the community, including through newsletters and in local veterinarian offices and pet stores to reach audiences and as part of focused efforts to make public information pet-friendly.
- Supporting in developing content and design for signs to be posted in parks where there are coyote-related concerns.
- Developing and administering an [e-learning course](#) for residents to learn facts about coyote behaviour and how both animals and people can remain safe.
- Sharing information on new developments regarding animal services with the public, including through a dedicated webpage, corporate social media accounts and partnerships with news agencies.
- Circulating resources to Councillor offices through routine communications, including information and templates that can be shared with local resident groups on social media to help promote accurate information sharing.
- Hosting and participating in public meetings held in the community where coyote issues are a concern, including inviting wildlife experts to provide support and education.
- Conducting outreach to vulnerable groups (for example, elementary schools and nursing homes) to teach participants how to differentiate between dogs and coyotes, why aversion is necessary, and how to conduct it on coyotes.
- Keeping residents informed with updates on City social media channels, including initiating the release of routine public updates on City responses when a threshold in frequency of reports has been met.
- Using the City's website to share information on how to stay safe and informed.



## Coyote Incident Classification and Response Table

The Coyote Incident Classification and Response Table, described below, guides staff's responses to incidents. The Table categorizes activity by escalation in severity and notes those involved in leading the response to each activity, which includes various City divisions, external experts, and community members.

**Reminder:** Coexistence is the foundation of the City's response, and aversion conditioning is a key element of this effort. Aversion conditioning is a set of behavioural techniques used to reinforce the low tolerance of wildlife for humans. It involves using noise, physical gestures, and handheld objects to deter animals.

## Estimated Time Ranges

MLS responds to various coyote reports, including sightings, public safety encounters (coyote approaching, lunging at animals or people), and attacks and bites.

This Strategy outlines service standards within which complainants should expect a first communication from MLS. Service standards are published publicly on the [City of Toronto's webpage](#), and are based on MLS' priority response model, which is designed to prioritize urgent complaints that present a health and safety issue. The Division's response times may be impacted by priority service requests and call volumes.

MLS' existing service standards for coyote-related requests are as follows:

- Within 2 hours for a report of a coyote actively attacking or biting a human
- Within 24 hours for:
  - A report of a coyote attack or bite on an animal or human, if the coyote is no longer in the area
  - A report of a coyote posing a threat to public safety (for example, lunging, stalking or snarling)
- Within 5 days for a report of a coyote sighting

The Table defines several thresholds when escalation may be required, including (i) attacks, bites or deaths of pets, (ii) aggressive behaviour to humans, and (iii) attacks or bites to humans.

- **Providing set timelines for escalation is challenging because responses are situation-specific and iterative.**
- In practice, staff respond swiftly to reports of coyotes attacking/biting people or pets or killing pets.
- Staff are committed to working to maintain an average of 5 days investigation time from start to close when investigating dangerous acts by a coyote, although it should be noted that this requires the willing participation of parties that reported the concern and that exceptional cases may require more intensive mitigation efforts.

While the Coyote Incident Classification and Response Table outlines potential responses the City may take in a given situation, the City's response will always consider the particular circumstances at play and may vary depending on the circumstances of a specific investigation. The table is provided as a high-level guide to staff and the public and is subject to variation in any given case.

## A note about relocation

While relocation is an option employed by other jurisdictions (typically as a last resort), it is not a feasible option for the Toronto context.

The Province of Ontario permits relocation within 1-kilometer of the trap site for wild animals but has noted that relocation is generally intended for small animals (for example, squirrels or raccoons) and is used for coyotes or foxes only in rare cases (such as to transfer an injured, young coyote to live long-term in a sanctuary. Such situations would occur on a case-by-case basis and would require permission from the province).

In addition, relocation requires additional green space and is considered inappropriate for coyotes as they may return to their homes given their territorial nature. If successfully relocated, they may engage in problematic behaviour, be killed, or facilitate disease spread if ill.



**Table 2-1: City of Toronto Human-Coyote Incident Classification and Response Framework**

Classification Type	Coyote Behaviour	Response
<b>Sighting</b>	A coyote has been seen (for example, in a residential, industrial, or commercial area, park, trail, ravine, or rail line)	Record confirmed sightings for monitoring <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff + Community as required
	A coyote has been confirmed to have been seen near a vulnerable population (for example, school or nursing home)	Record confirmed sightings for monitoring <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff + Community as required  Conduct site inspection for attractants and dens and make referrals <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff in collaboration with divisional partners (Transportation Services, Parks & Recreation, Toronto Public Health, etc.)  Provide public education in the area on aversion conditioning, habit modification, and conflict prevention If relevant, engage school or nursing home administration for public education and to consider adding more signage in the area <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff, with support/participation of Community members and collaboration with divisional partners for signage (Transportation Services, Parks & Recreation etc.)
	A coyote is visibly sick or injured (for example, with mange) or unable to function normally and has not attacked or injured a person	<b>All preceding responses</b> Engage a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for assessment on whether the coyote can: a. recover without assistance b. be captured and brought to a wildlife rehabilitation and treatment facility, or c. should be euthanized for humane reasons. The City will require the licensed wildlife rehabilitator to conduct an assessment, advise whether the licensed wildlife rehabilitator can accept the sick coyote into their care for treatment and/or advise what capture or rehabilitation options may exist. The City will take the licensed wildlife's rehabilitator's advice into consideration in determining the appropriate course of action. <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff + External Partners

**Table 2-2: City of Toronto Human-Coyote Incident Classification and Response Framework**

Classification Type	Coyote Behaviour	Response
<b>Encounter</b>	A coyote has been confirmed to have entered a property (for example, a yard) where there are unattended pets	<b>All preceding responses</b>
	A coyote has been confirmed to have entered a property while people are present, with no incident	<b>All preceding responses</b> Conduct targeted aversion conditioning if coyotes are encountered <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff + Community
	A coyote has been confirmed to have approached, followed, or chased a person or pet, with no incident	<b>All preceding responses</b> Engage communities to participate in prevention efforts (for example, conducting aversion, eliminating food sources, modifying properties, keeping dogs leashed, etc.) <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff, with support/participation of Community
		Consider installing additional and/or customized coyote signage <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff in collaboration with Strategic Public and Employee Communications to develop signage and divisional partners for installation (Transportation Services, Parks & Recreation etc.) Consider offering public education sessions and distributing material to homes and/or businesses in the area <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff

**Table 2-3: City of Toronto Human-Coyote Incident Classification and Response Framework**

Classification Type	Coyote Behaviour	Response
<b>Incident with a Pet</b>	A coyote has been confirmed to have attacked, bitten, or killed a pet that is not leashed	<b>All preceding responses</b>
		Investigate to determine contributing or escalating factors (for example, food attractants, habitat features) and plan appropriate action based on standard operating procedure(s) <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff
	A coyote has been confirmed to have attacked, bitten, or killed a pet that is leashed and under supervision	Notify local Councillor and work with Strategic Public and Employee Communications staff when there are multiple incidents to provide routine public updates on the City's response(s) <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff
		<b>All preceding responses</b> Depending on location of incident, proactive patrol or educational visit and/or closure of a pathway or park <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff in collaboration with Parks & Recreation

**Table 2-4: City of Toronto Human-Coyote Incident Classification and Response Framework**

Classification Type	Coyote Behaviour	Response
<b>Potential for Human Incident</b>	A coyote has been confirmed to be aggressive towards a person Aggressive behaviours include showing teeth, howling, yipping, having back fur raised, snarling, lunging, or nipping	<b>All preceding responses</b>
		Increase frequency of aversion conditioning Consider procurement of a specialized aversion conditioning team (in addition to City staff) Consider implementing patrols in select areas to conduct aversion on coyotes <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff

**Table 2-5: City of Toronto Human-Coyote Incident Classification and Response Framework**

Classification Type	Coyote Behaviour	Response
<b>Human Incident</b>	A coyote has been confirmed to have bitten or scratched a human	<b>All preceding responses</b>
		Notify Toronto Public Health (TPH) for assessment and to initiate post-exposure procedures for confirmed bites or scratches <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff to notify TPH  When conflict prevention fails, the City may remove coyote(s) in accordance with requirements including the province's <a href="#">Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997</a> . The City will determine which situation-specific removal response to employ and will alert police services if a coyote poses an immediate threat to public safety. The City will consult with provincial authorities, Toronto Police Service, specialized coyote assessment and deterrence teams, and wildlife experts as necessary and determine if removal is warranted and what form of removal (including trapping, relocation to wildlife rehabilitation facilities or reserves, hunting with or without firearms and/or euthanasia) should be taken. Criteria to be considered to assess removal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. if escalating factors were present</li> <li>b. if public safety or public health are at risk</li> <li>c. if the attack was provoked</li> <li>d. if the problematic coyote can be identified</li> <li>e. if the situation requires considering the removal of more than one coyote in the specific area</li> <li>f. what impacts removal methods will have to public safety and public movement, and</li> <li>g. the appropriate type of removal</li> <li>h. provincial regulations.</li> </ul> The City will oversee the removal work. Where required, the City will retain the services of qualified individuals to conduct the removal at the City's instructions. <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff
		Continue providing public education on aversion conditioning, habit modification, and conflict prevention <b>Lead:</b> MLS staff

# For More Information

Find information about coyotes, including the City of Toronto's actions, see the following resources:

**City of Toronto's Coyote Webpage:** [toronto.ca/Coyotes](https://toronto.ca/Coyotes)

**City of Toronto Coyote Reports Webpage:** [toronto.ca/CoyoteReport](https://toronto.ca/CoyoteReport)

**311:** [toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/](https://toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/)

**MLS Toronto Animal Services:**

- **Instagram:** [instagram.com/toanimalservices/](https://www.instagram.com/toanimalservices/)
- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/torontoanimalservices/](https://www.facebook.com/torontoanimalservices/)

**Coyote Watch Canada:** [coyotewatchcanada.com/site/home](https://coyotewatchcanada.com/site/home)

**Toronto Wildlife Centre:** [torontowildlifecentre.com](https://torontowildlifecentre.com)

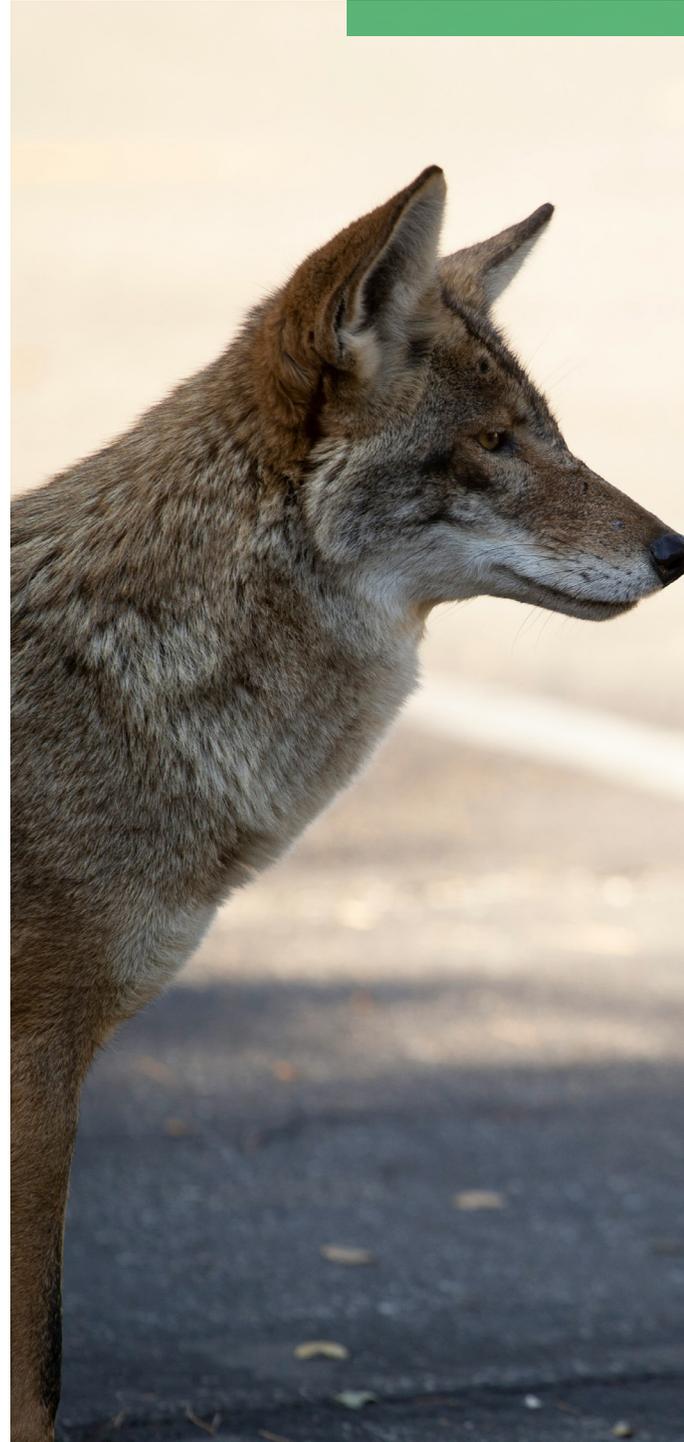
**Government of Ontario:**

- [Preventing and managing conflicts with coyotes](#)
- [Best Practices Guide: Coyote-Human Interactions](#)

## Acknowledgements

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