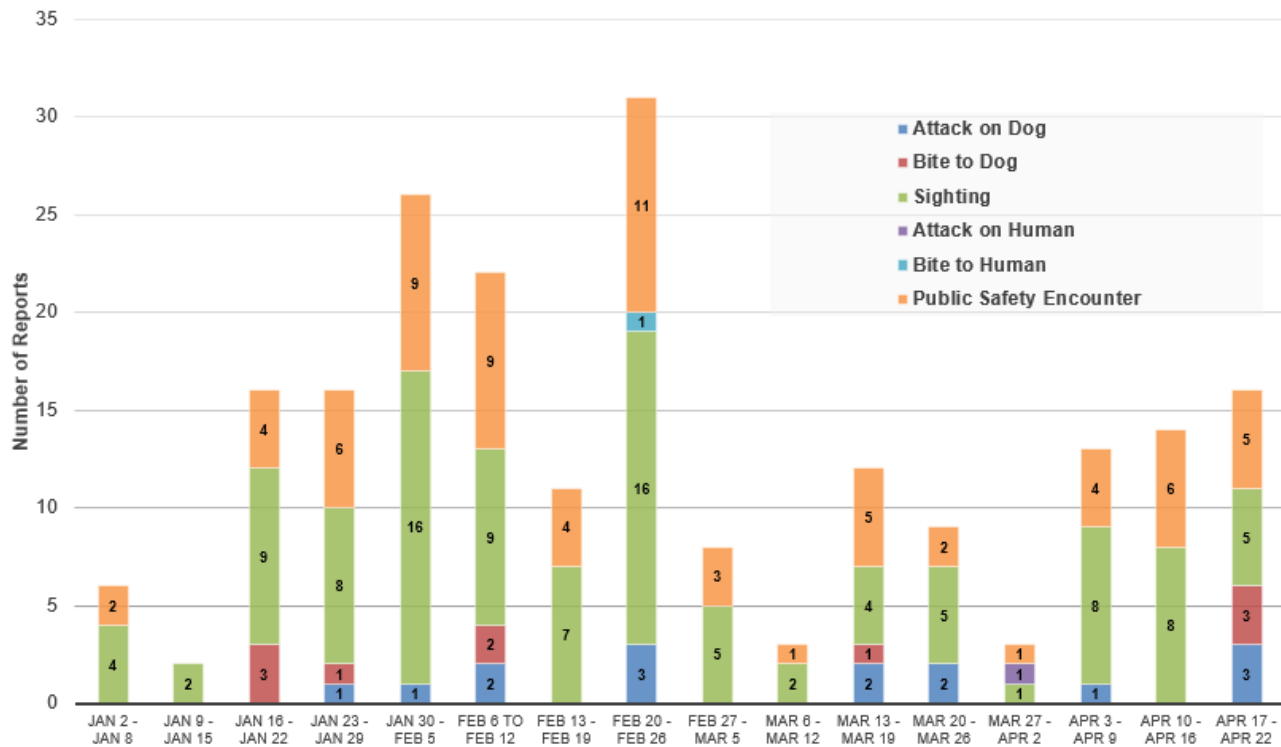


Update on City Actions Around Coyotes Downtown

April 24, 2025

- The City of Toronto is actively responding to an increased number of coyote reports in Fort York and Liberty Village, and hired an independent, third-party expert panel to conduct a [comprehensive review](#) of the City’s response to coyotes in the area.
- The panel completed their assessment on March 18 and made a series of recommendations. Staff moved quickly to act on the panel’s recommendations and are providing the following updates as a follow-up to the more detailed **previous public update shared on April 15**. Information provided below summarizes more recent priority actions.
- Residents should continue to call 311 to report concerns about coyote behaviour for staff response. Information and resources on staying safe can be found at toronto.ca/coyote.
- A summary of data is included on the next page:
 - The numbers are calls submitted to 311 and are not verified incidents or investigations, in particular, the reports of a bite to human (Feb 20 – Feb 26) and attack on a human (Mar 27 – Apr 2) were investigated by staff and not substantiated.
 - Public safety encounters are reports of incidents that do not result in an attack or bite

Coyote Incidents Reported to 311 in Ward 10 (Jan 1 - Apr 22, 2025)



Panel Recommendation # 1: Procure a specialized team to assess these coyotes, apply adapted aversion techniques, monitor results and report back to City staff.

City Action	April 24 Update
1. Uniquely trained response team and hunter/trapper company (Critter Gitter) began work on March 23 alongside a specialized aversion conditioning team (Coyote Watch Canada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Critter Gitter conducted an initial on-site assessment on March 25 to advise on next steps for targeted aversion and review of reports ✓ Coyote Watch Canada continued work in field during the last two weeks – spending ten days since March 23, an average 7 hours/day with 1-3 staff on site ✓ Locations include parks within the Liberty Village/Fort York (LV/FY) area, e.g., Ordnance Triangle, Coronation, Lisgar, Liberty Village, June Callwood, Stanley, Bill Johnston, Massey Harris, Rita Cox, Garrison Common and Fort York National Historical Site ✓ Critter Gitter returning the week of April 22 for a second assessment

Findings & Observations:

- Both Coyote Watch Canada and Critter Gitter were hired to engage in specialized aversion activities in the Liberty Village and Fort York areas.
 - Both organizations consult on wild canid issues throughout North America
 - Critter Gitter is licensed by the Province of Ontario, who has worked with a number of municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area for over three decades.
- Although compliance has improved since patrols increased two months ago, dogs continue to be off-leash in the area.
- The external teams recommend continuing enforcement of dogs off-leash and wildlife feeding and to safeguard pets, they should be kept on leash.
- Rats are a key factor in the area - the teams have noted that this area attracts rats, because of:
 - A high amount of dog excrement on the ground uncollected by pet owners;
 - Rat bait boxes situated at surrounding buildings; and
 - Coyotes feed on rats and are in turn attracted to these sources.

Panel Recommendation # 2: Continue with low to moderate aversion conditioning on coyotes.

City Action	April 24 Update
1. Conduct aversion using specialized aversion team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Aversion is making a difference, and coyotes are responding well by consistently retreating without showing defensive or reactive behaviour regardless of the presence of people and dogs. ✓ At least 1 coyote moved away and left the localized area when techniques involving strong voice cues and increased physical proximity were utilized.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A coyote with distinctive hair loss passed by residents and people with dogs without showing interest or attempts to interact with the people or dogs.
<p>2. Conduct aversion by Bylaw Enforcement Officers and Toronto Animal Services staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During April, Bylaw Enforcement Officers (BEOs) are conducting at minimum bi-weekly and often daily patrols for dogs off leash and conducting aversion while in-field. ✓ Toronto Animal Services (TAS) is responding to all reports of incidents, e.g. during the week of April 17-22 this includes 3 attacks, 3 bites, 5 sightings and 5 encounters. Each incident is assessed and investigated, including attending on-site, contacting those who reported the incident, recording details, providing education to residents, and making necessary referrals to other City Divisions to prevent further issues.
<p>3. Work with public and community members to educate about using aversion techniques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ City staff have consistently educated community members on aversion techniques. Buildings in the area, including condominiums and townhouse complexes, were provided with educational materials to post and disperse to residents, and whenever Bylaw Enforcement Officers conducted assessments. ✓ Members of the public have reported successful instances of aversion, and highlighted education from TAS and 311 staff as useful in knowing what to do during encounters. ✓ TAS is receiving an increasing number of reports from individuals in the community who are sharing that their aversion techniques are effective.
<p>4. Continuously assess the situation for escalating factors or evidence of the current approach not being effective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff are actively monitoring whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ escalating factors are present ○ attacks are provoked ○ problematic coyote(s) can be identified ○ if the situation requires considering the removal of more than one coyote in the specific area ○ if removal is warranted, what impacts removal methods will have to public safety and park availability, and the appropriate type of removal
<p>Findings & Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coyotes encountered are responding to aversion techniques and displaying fear of humans. • They are seen to be avoiding humans when body and noise-based aversion techniques are used. • It appears that one coyote moved west of the area. • Through the use of data and information from multiple sources, TAS has confirmed that one coyote in the area is responsible for multiple negative encounters. Staff 	

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continue to assess options for this animal according to the factors mentioned in #4 above.

Panel Recommendation # 3: Remove food attractants by enforcing no dumping and no wildlife feeding, and empowering enforcement staff to issue fines.

City Action	April 24 Update
1. Enforce no dumping rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) staff are investigating reported property standards issues and ensuring proper garbage containment/disposal. ✓ Waste patrols are occurring every Tuesday morning to manage uncontained waste, e.g. patrols are being conducted on Ordnance Street across East Liberty Street, and north on Dufferin Street. ✓ In the week of April 22, there were no violations, businesses appear to be complying – one referral was made to the RentSafeTO team for waste issues with a building registered in the program.
2. Enforce no wildlife feeding rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TAS is following up on a number of reports related to evidence of feeding wildlife found by the aversion team as well as reported by residents – e.g. under the Ordnance stairwell and Bathurst Street bridge, and on Tyndall Ave.
3. Empower staff to issue fines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Three businesses have received Notice of Violations related to waste concerns, and multiple businesses were educated on issues related to waste bin overflow and removal. ✓ Staff continue to follow up with properties that have received Notices of Violations for compliance.
4. Work with partners to refer feeding and food source issues appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Various food sources include improperly disposed of household waste, humans feeding wildlife, litter, and the potential for food available along rail corridors, on construction sites, or at encampment locations. ✓ MLS is working with the Encampment Office.

Findings & Observations:

- Multiple uncontrolled food sources are present in the community – there is evidence individuals are feeding animals, and food is left out for animals, as noted above.
- The City is noticing an increase in the amount of waste, with the change in weather/season and more people out using public spaces.
- The City is noticing an increased number of encampments in the area. Food sources are available in some encampments that may not have food well-contained, and they may also physically block corridors where coyotes travel.

Panel Recommendation # 4: Repair fences and improve lighting and sightlines.

City Action	April 24 Update
1. Repair fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Property owner at 2 Tecumseth has committed to addressing a property standard violation and repair a fence by April 28. ✓ Referrals actioned for issues on Bathurst St. and Queens Wharf Road. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parks team has addressed the open gate at Queens Wharf Road. ○ Workorder submitted to repair damages to the fencing under the Bathurst Street bridge on the west side of Fort York Park. ✓ 8 priority sites along railway corridor identified with Parks team and actioned March 20 along the rail corridor at Bill Johnston Park, the proposed Lower Garrison Creek Park and Northern Linear Park/Queens Wharf Road
2. Improve lighting and sightlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lighting updates underway in the following parks - June Callwood, Stanley, Coronation, Rita Cox, Garrison Common, Ordnance Triangle, as well as Lamport Stadium East. ✓ Toronto Hydro assessed lighting on Joe Shuster Way and communicated they have plans to improve lighting ✓ Lighting assessments have been completed for the Lakeshore stretch (north and south side of trail) from Marilyn Bell and west to Humber Bay. ✓ Sightline issues have been addressed in March with landscape cut back at Coronation Park. ✓ As of April 22, upgrades of existing 15 streetlight fixtures to LED were completed.
<p>Findings & Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairing fences may have to be done frequently, as repairs are being undone after completion. Staff will continue to monitor progress and make appropriate referrals if maintenance is needed. 	

Recommendation # 5: Increase community education to residents about dumping, wildlife feeding, and the importance of keeping dogs on leash

City Action	April 24 Update
1. Increase signage in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The City has worked with community members to design two new coyote signs. ✓ 50 signs have been installed in the area.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A request has been made to staff in Parks and Recreation to install signs on Toronto Island and the ferry terminal.
<p>2. Increase community education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A new pamphlet for the community is being created. ✓ Website updates posted weekly. ✓ Staff continue to deliver educational pamphlets to all condominiums in Liberty Village and Fort York. ✓ Bylaw Enforcement Officers continue to distribute educational pamphlets to buildings they are visiting. ✓ The City continues to post coyote safety messages on the corporate and Toronto Animal Services social media accounts.
<p>Findings & Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City’s coyote webpage provides information to residents, including previous updates on City Actions Around Coyotes Downtown. • In addition to the annual winter public education on safely coexisting with coyotes, the City is planning for a broader public education campaign to educate residents on how to coexist with coyotes peacefully, reduce negative interactions and keep themselves and their pets safe. • City staff are also planning an annual “Leash Your Dog” public education campaign in spring 2025. The 2025 campaign will go further than previous routine annual communications to reach a broader audience in Toronto. 	