

Update on City Actions Around Coyotes Downtown – Removal of Two Coyotes

Updated on May 16, 2025

- Following a continuation of escalated interactions with coyotes in the Fort York and Liberty Village area and after comprehensive reviews with external experts, the City of Toronto made the difficult decision to euthanize a mated coyote pair due to rising concerns for public safety. On **May 13**, the City shared a [news release](#) regarding this step.
 - The decision to euthanize the two coyotes was made as a last resort.
 - Toronto Animal Services was able to confirm that one coyote was responsible for multiple negative encounters in the area, and his mate was present during some encounters.
 - The mated pair were humanely euthanized following all provincial protocols and regulations. The City contracted a respected hunter/trapper company licensed by the Province of Ontario who has worked with a number of municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area for more than three decades.
 - The trapper conducted the discreet, targeted, lethal removal of the coyotes by firearm.
 - This came after almost two months of monitoring and aversion conditioning, various independent assessments, and with the recognition that the male coyote was responsible for most of the escalated interactions with people and pets over the last few months. The trapper also confirmed that there were no pups.
 - Provincial authorities did not support relocating coyotes as it is inconsistent with provincial direction. They reiterated that prevention is the priority, followed by humane harassment.
 - The provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act requires any wildlife captured for relocation to be released within one kilometer of their capture site and provincial authorities noted that this would not be possible for coyotes in Toronto's downtown communities.
 - This step also aligns with the recommendation made by the expert panel that was engaged to [review](#) the City's responses to coyotes in this community. They had determined that adaptive aversion conditioning, community education, and removing food attractants be priority actions, with selective removal of coyotes remaining an option only after careful assessment.
- Zero coyote reports have been made to 311 in Ward 10 between May 9 – May 15, 2025. Staff continue to closely monitor report intake and will action any investigations appropriately. A summary of data is provided in the Appendix.
- 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.

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	May 16 Updates
1. Uniquely trained response team and hunter/trapper company began work on March 23 alongside a specialized aversion conditioning team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A third coyote has left the area, possibly due to increased aversion activities. ✓ There is no evidence that the fourth coyote is reactive, nor has it been seen in the area recently. ✓ Wildlife feeding (direct and indirect and for animals besides coyotes), the presence of rats, and dogs off-leash remain factors that increase the likelihood of human-wildlife conflict, and the public should continue to participate in conflict prevention efforts that target these contributors.

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

City Action	May 16 Updates
1. Conduct aversion using specialized aversion team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coyote Watch Canada continues to be on site to conduct assessments of the area.
2. Conduct aversion by Bylaw Enforcement Officers and Toronto Animal Services staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Toronto Animal Services received 0 coyote incident reports between May 9 – May 15, 2025.
3. Work with public and community members to educate about using aversion techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ City staff have continued education measures and distributing educational materials as noted in the May 9 Update.
4. Continuously assess the situation for escalating factors or evidence of the current approach not being effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The City euthanized a mated coyote pair due to rising concerns for public safety. ✓ Other escalation options were carefully assessed prior to this decision. During discussion on the Downtown Coyote Action Plan (2025.EC20.4) on May 6, 2025, staff noted outreach was done to two sanctuaries in Quebec and Texas - there was no space and/or various concerns about transporting the animals to these locations and over borders. ✓ In addition, the province, through the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), has consistently opposed relocation. On May 7, 2025, MNR provided formal confirmation in writing that they <u>do not</u> endorse the trapping and relocation of coyotes from Toronto to a sanctuary in Texas or any out of province location. MNR noted authorization of relocation would be inconsistent with

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	provincial direction, not prevent future conflicts, and increase the risk of disease transmission.
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Panel Recommendation # 3: Remove food attractants by enforcing no dumping and no wildlife feeding, and empowering enforcement staff to issue fines.

City Action	May 16 Updates
1. Enforce no dumping rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Waste patrols continue to occur every Tuesday morning to manage uncontained waste. ✓ In the week of May 16, no violations were found.
2. Enforce no wildlife feeding rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff continue to investigate properties for wildlife feeding issues. No fines have been issued.
3. Empower staff to issue fines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff continue to follow up with properties that have received Notices of Violations for compliance and businesses are complying.
4. Work with partners to refer feeding and food source issues appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff continue to report food waste left in and around areas of interest and continue to work with Solid Waste and Parks and Recreation to manage overflowing waste.

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

City Action	May 16 Updates
1. Repair fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff continue to follow up on active work orders and referrals for fence repairs. ✓ Safety assessment/audits have been conducted and smaller repairs have been completed – some larger items may require capital investments and are being reviewed.
2. Improve lighting and sightlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff continue to monitor lighting updates at parks of interest, including the need for capital investments.

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

City Action	May 16 Updates
1. Increase signage in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff are working to replace older signage with community co-designed ones in response to feedback from residents, and are procuring a vendor to conduct this work.

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2. Increase community education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff continue to use online platforms to share resources and information about coyotes and to provide updates on City responses. ✓ In May, staff mailed out brochures to residences in the area. ✓ In May, staff sent information and a coyote fact sheet to all Councillor's Offices so resources can be shared with constituents. ✓ Staff are planning the launch of a paid public education campaign in spring/summer of 2025 on coyotes and actions residents can take to keep themselves and their pets safe.
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Ongoing: Policy efforts to routinely review the efficacy of coyote response strategies

City Action	May 16 Updates
Request from City Council to develop a Downtown Coyote Action Plan (2025.EC18.8) (March 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ City Council made a request to the Province to conduct environmental assessments when undergoing planning of major projects, such as the redevelopment of Ontario Place, to assess and address impacts to wildlife including coyotes and requested the development of a Downtown Coyote Action Plan, following recent issues with coyotes in Toronto's downtown communities that began in November 2024. ✓ City Council made a request to the Province to support the City of Toronto in the costs of managing coyotes and wildlife.
Development of a Downtown Coyote Action Plan (2025.EC20.4) (May 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff developed the Downtown Coyote Action Plan as an interim update on the City's operational framework to respond to coyotes. ✓ The Plan guides staff responses to coyote activity in Toronto's downtown, using lessons learned from recent actions taken in the Liberty Village and Fort York communities, and notes that staff will continue to improve interdepartmental communication and collaboration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee requested staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review coyote-related 311 sub-types and definitions and create reliable and responsive channels for public and stakeholder updates related to coyote incidents and response; ○ Explore what proactive measures can be undertaken to manage food and wildlife feeding sources;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consult with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and other municipalities, to consider a reproductive control approach for coyotes in Ward 10
Report back with updates to the City's Coyote Response Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A report with updates to the City's 2013 Coyote Response Strategy will be brought to the City's Economic and Community Development Committee for endorsement later in 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the discussion on 2025.EC20.4, the Economic and Community Development Committee requested staff, as part of the planned report on the Coyote Response Strategy later in 2025, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore additional preventative measures that can be implemented downtown (including resources requires for a dedicated wildlife staff team); ○ Provide thresholds and estimated ranges of time for escalation protocols; ○ Establish a more pet-friendly approach as part of efforts to minimize interactions; and ○ Make recommendations that support higher set fines specific to feeding coyotes and build on the previous request to the Province of Ontario to support the City's efforts in responding to coyotes.

Appendix – Summary of Data

- A summary of data is included below:
 - 0 reports were made to 311 in Ward 10 between May 9 – May 15, 2025.
 - The numbers below reflect calls and reports to 311 and are categorized based on how individuals report the incident. After the City receives coyote reports, staff investigate each report to confirm details and provide support.
 - Public safety encounters are reports of incidents that do not result in attacks or bites.
 - The reports regarding human bites and attacks were investigated and re-categorized, because the details could not be confirmed. Staff continue to closely monitor these locations.

