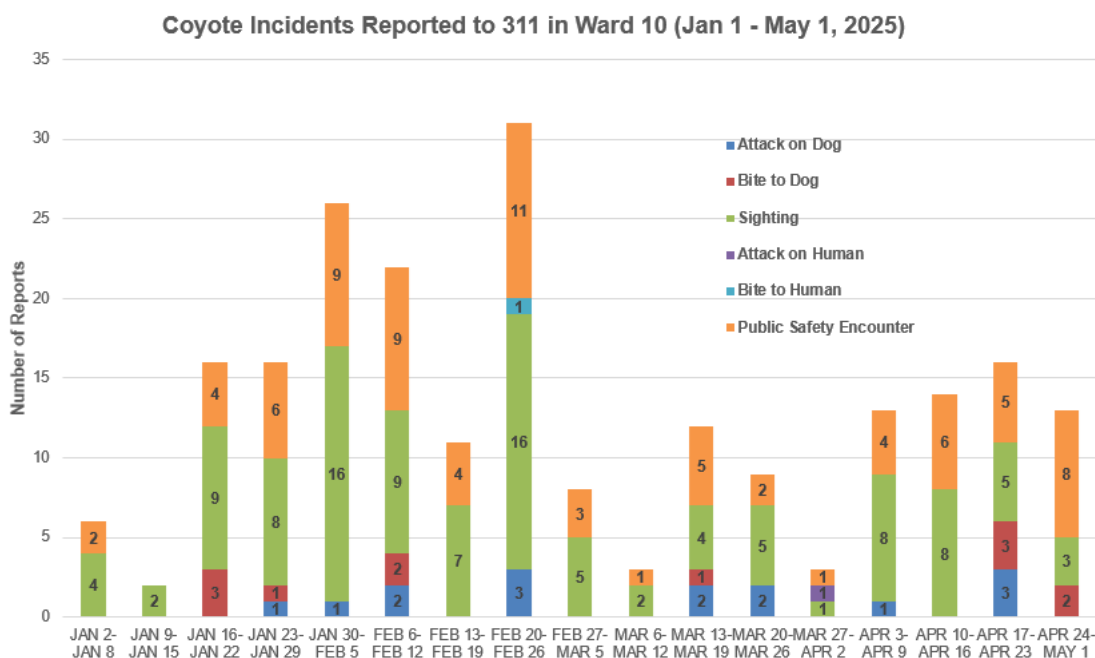


Update on City Actions Around Coyotes Downtown

Updated on May 2, 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 this update as a follow-up to **previous public updates shared on [April 15](#) and [April 24](#)**. Information provided below summarizes updates on recent priority actions.
- In March 2025, 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 ([2025.EC18.8](#)).
- 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 below:
 - The numbers are calls submitted to 311 and are not verified incidents or investigations; the reports of a bite to human and attack on a human were investigated by staff and not substantiated.
 - Public safety encounters are reports of incidents that do not result in an attack or bite.



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 2 Update
<p>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)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Critter Gitter completed two assessments in Wards 4 and 10 (April 23 & 24, 28 & 29). ✓ The company witnessed a coyote at a feeding site for pigeons and birds at property near King St. W and Dufferin St. ✓ Additional feeding sites for cats and rabbits were witnessed along Niagara St. in addition to several reports of feeding at a location near Bathurst St. and Lake Shore Blvd West. ✓ Locations that were previously assessed on April 21 include areas within the Liberty Village/Fort York (LV/FY) area, e.g., Bathurst St. and bridge, Fort York Historic Site, Garrison Commons, Queens Wharf Road, Jameson Avenue, and Ordnance St. as well as Ward 4.
<p>Findings & Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and indirect feeding sources are present (for pigeons, birds, cats, and rabbits) and staff are investigating these reports. • 1 coyote has been seen at a feeding site. • The availability of food could explain why coyotes are moving west, as was noted in the April 24 public update, and their presence on the border of Liberty Village and Parkdale-High Park. • Both Coyote Watch Canada and Critter Gitter were hired to engage in specialized aversion activities in the Liberty Village and Fort York areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 remain a key factor in the area - the teams have noted that this area attracts rats, because of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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	May 2 Update
1. Conduct aversion using specialized aversion team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The specialized aversion team (Coyote Watch Canada) did not see coyotes during their recent assessments. ✓ Critter Gitter viewed 1 coyote at a feeding site. ✓ 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 2 coyotes moved away and left the localized area when techniques involving strong voice cues and increased physical proximity were utilized. ✓ 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.
2. Conduct aversion by Bylaw Enforcement Officers and Toronto Animal Services staff.	<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 24 – May 1 there were 13 new service requests regarding coyotes: 2 bites to a dog; 8 public safety encounters; and 3 sightings. 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.
3. Work with public and community members to educate about using aversion techniques.	<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.
4. Continuously assess the situation for escalating factors or evidence of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff are actively monitoring whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ escalating factors are present ○ attacks are provoked

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current approach not being effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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
Findings & Observations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In most cases, 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. • 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 continue to assess options for this animal according to the factors mentioned in #4 above. • While aversion conditioning can influence specific animal behaviors, it does not address the broader factors that contribute to persistent conflicts. The following factors are involved in human-wildlife conflict: non-compliance with leash laws, wildlife feeding, feeding near stairways and path intersections, limited community participation, and the complex, and unmet needs of unhoused individuals. 	

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

City Action	May 2 Update
1. Enforce no dumping rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parks and Recreation have received referrals to manage waste under the Garrison Commons stairwell and Bathurst St. overpass. ✓ 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 28, there were no violations, businesses appear to be complying.
2. Enforce no wildlife feeding rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff are investigating a property near King St W and Dufferin St. for reports of pigeon and bird feeding with 1 coyote having been seen feeding there. ✓ TAS is also 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.

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3. Empower staff to issue fines	✓ 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"> ✓ Staff are in contact with Solid Waste and Parks and Recreation for managing overflowing waste, with discussions underway regarding an assessment of garbage containment the day before pickup. ✓ Conversations have been initiated with Solid Waste around capacity for picking up garbage more frequently to minimize residential waste as a food source. ✓ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	May 2 Update
1. Repair fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parks and Recreation has received referrals for fences under Bathurst bridge on the west side of Fort York Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A previously open gate adjacent to a rail corridor has now been locked. ○ Parks and Recreation is initiating repair for holes in fences. ✓ Staff are actioning the repair of a fence with holes on Tyndall Ave. that is adjacent to a rail corridor. ✓ 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. ✓ Work is underway at 2 Tecumseth to address a property standards violation and fence repair ✓ 8 priority sites along railway corridor identified with Parks team and actioned March 20 along the rail

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	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.
Findings & Observations: <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	May 2 Update
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. ✓ Parks and Recreation are installing signs on Toronto Island and the ferry terminal. ✓ The City has worked with community members to design two new coyote signs. ✓ 50 signs have been installed in the area.
2. Increase community education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A public education session is being held on May 2, 2025 in Ward 5 following a session on February 24, 2025. ✓ 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.

Findings & Observations:

- 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.