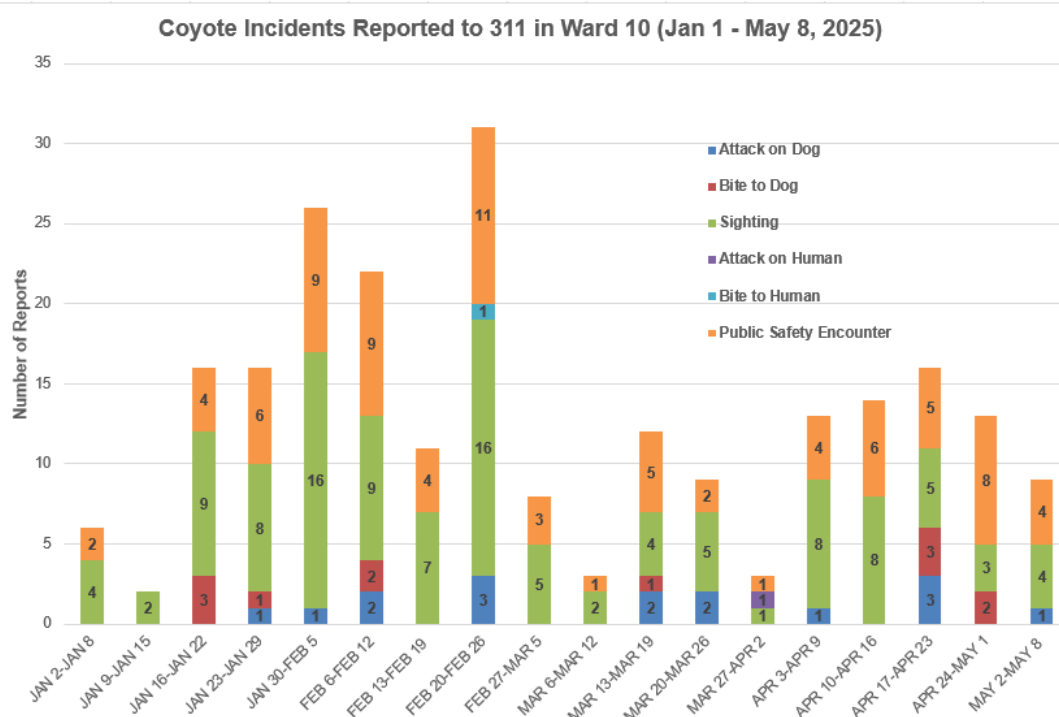


## Update on City Actions Around Coyotes Downtown

Updated on May 9, 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](#), [April 24](#), and [May 2](#)**. Information provided below summarizes updates on recent priority actions.
- On **May 6, 2025**, the City's Economic and Community Development Committee received the City's [Downtown Coyote Action Plan \(2025.EC20.4\)](#). More information is provided at the [end of this document](#).
- 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](https://toronto.ca/coyote).
- A summary of data is included below:
  - These numbers 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 an attack or bite.
  - The reports regarding human bite and attack were investigated and re-categorized, because the details could not be confirmed. Staff continue to closely monitor these locations.
  - Investigations are a lengthy process and the City is committed to providing the public with routine updates using the data available.



**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	Updates
<p>1. Uniquely trained response team and hunter/trapper company began work on March 23 alongside a specialized aversion conditioning team</p>	<p><b>May 9 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Specialized aversion team and the hunter/trapper continue to actively conduct aversion and assess coyotes.</li> <li>✓ The hunter/trapper has been on-site since May 4 and will continue their ongoing assessment of the sites identified in the Liberty Village and Fort York area.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>May 2 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Critter Gitter completed two assessments in Wards 4 and 10 (April 23 &amp; 24, 28 &amp; 29).</li> <li>✓ The company witnessed a coyote at a feeding site for pigeons and birds at property near King St. W and Dufferin St.</li> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ 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.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b></p>
<p><b>Findings &amp; Observations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and indirect feeding sources are present (for pigeons, birds, cats, and rabbits) and staff are investigating these reports.</li> <li>• 1 coyote continues to be seen at a feeding site.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Both organizations consult on wild canid issues throughout North America</li> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Although compliance has improved since patrols increased two months ago, dogs continue to be off-leash in the area.</li> <li>• The external teams recommend continuing enforcement of dogs off-leash and wildlife feeding and to safeguard pets, they should be kept on leash.</li> </ul>	

- Rats remain 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	Updates
1. Conduct aversion using specialized aversion team.	<b>May 9 Update</b> ✓ Specialized aversion team and the hunter/trapper continue to actively conduct aversion and assess and monitor coyotes.
	<b>May 2 Update</b> ✓ 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.
	<b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b>
2. Conduct aversion by Bylaw Enforcement Officers and Toronto Animal Services staff.	<b>May 9 Update</b> ✓ Toronto Animal Services (TAS) is responding to all reports of incidents - from May 2 to May 8 there were 9 new service requests regarding coyotes: 1 attack of a dog; 4 public safety encounters; and 4 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.
	<b>May 2 Update</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ During April, Bylaw Enforcement Officers (BEOs) were conducting at minimum bi-weekly and often daily patrols for dogs off leash and conducting aversion while in-field.</li> <li>✓ 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b></p>
<p>3. Work with public and community members to educate about using aversion techniques.</p>	<p><b>May 9 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ City staff have continued education measures and distributing educational materials as noted in the May 2 Update.</li> </ul> <p><b>May 2 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ TAS is receiving an increasing number of reports from individuals in the community who are sharing that their aversion techniques are effective.</li> </ul> <p><b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b></p>
<p>4. Continuously assess the situation for escalating factors or evidence of the current approach not being effective.</p>	<p><b>May 9 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Through the use of updated data and information from multiple sources, TAS has confirmed that one coyote in the area is responsible for multiple negative encounters, and he has a mate who has been present during some encounters.</li> <li>✓ During discussion on the Downtown Coyote Action Plan (<a href="#">2025.EC20.4</a>) 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.</li> <li>✓ 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</li> </ul>

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	<p>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 provincial direction, not prevent future conflicts, and increase the risk of disease transmission.</p> <p><b>May 2 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff are actively monitoring whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ escalating factors are present</li> <li>○ attacks are provoked</li> <li>○ problematic coyote(s) can be identified</li> <li>○ if the situation requires considering the removal of more than one coyote in the specific area</li> <li>○ if removal is warranted, what impacts removal methods will have to public safety and park availability, and the appropriate type of removal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b></p>
<p><b>Findings &amp; Observations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In most cases, coyotes encountered are responding to aversion techniques and displaying fear of humans.</li> <li>• They are seen to be avoiding humans when body and noise-based aversion techniques are used.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	

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

City Action	Updates
1. Enforce no dumping rules	<p><b>May 9 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Waste patrols continue to occur every Tuesday morning to manage uncontained waste, e.g. patrols are being conducted at all streets/alleyways within Liberty Village (South of King St W, East of Atlantic Avenue to Ordinance Park).</li> <li>✓ In the week of May 5, there were no violations, businesses appear to be complying.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff are investigating reports of overflowing waste at a building registered under the RentSafeTO program.</li> </ul>
	<b>May 2 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Parks and Recreation have received referrals to manage waste under the Garrison Commons stairwell and Bathurst St. overpass.</li> <li>✓ Waste patrols are occurring every Tuesday morning to manage uncontained waste, e.g. patrols are being conducted on Ordance Street across East Liberty Street, and north on Dufferin Street.</li> <li>✓ In the week of April 28, there were no violations, businesses appear to be complying.</li> </ul>
	<b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b>
2. Enforce no wildlife feeding rules	<b>May 9 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue to investigate properties for wildlife feeding issues. No fines have been issued.</li> </ul>
	<b>May 2 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ 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 Ordance stairwell and Bathurst Street bridge, and on Tyndall Ave.</li> </ul>
	<b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b>
3. Empower staff to issue fines	<b>May 2 and 9 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue to follow up with properties that have received Notices of Violations for compliance.</li> </ul>
	<b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b>
4. Work with partners to refer feeding and food source issues appropriately	<b>May 9 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue to work with Solid Waste and Parks and Recreation to manage overflowing waste. Locations of interest include the Garrison Commons Stairwell and an area under the Bathurst Street overpass (Bathurst Street and Fort York Boulevard).</li> </ul>
	<b>May 2 Update</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ Conversations have been initiated with Solid Waste around capacity for picking up garbage more frequently to minimize residential waste as a food source.</li> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ MLS is working with the Encampment Office.</li> </ul>
<b>Findings &amp; Observations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The City is noticing an increase in the amount of waste, with the change in weather/season and more people out using public spaces.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	

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

City Action	Updates
1. Repair fences	<b>May 9 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue to follow up on active work orders and referrals for fence repairs.</li> <li>✓ Safety assessment/audits have been conducted and smaller repairs have been completed – some larger items may require capital investments and are being reviewed.</li> </ul>
	<b>May 2 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 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"> <li>○ A previously open gate adjacent to a rail corridor has now been locked.</li> <li>○ Parks and Recreation is initiating repair for holes in fences.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff are actioning the repair of a fence with holes on Tyndall Ave. that is adjacent to a rail corridor.</li> <li>✓ Parks team has addressed the open gate at Queens Wharf Road.</li> <li>✓ Workorder submitted to repair damages to the fencing under the Bathurst Street bridge on the west side of Fort York Park.</li> <li>✓ Work is underway at 2 Tecumseth to address a property standards violation and fence repair</li> <li>✓ 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</li> </ul>
	<b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b>
2. Improve lighting and sightlines	<p><b>May 9 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue to monitor lighting updates at parks of interest.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>May 2 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lighting updates underway in the following parks - June Callwood, Stanley, Coronation, Rita Cox, Garrison Common, Ordnance Triangle, as well as Lamport Stadium East.</li> <li>✓ Toronto Hydro assessed lighting on Joe Shuster Way and communicated they have plans to improve lighting</li> <li>✓ Lighting assessments have been completed for the Lakeshore stretch (north and south side of trail) from Marilyn Bell and west to Humber Bay.</li> <li>✓ Sightline issues have been addressed in March with landscape cut back at Coronation Park.</li> <li>✓ As of April 22, upgrades of existing 15 streetlight fixtures to LED were completed.</li> </ul>
	<b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b>
<p><b>Findings &amp; Observations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	

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

City Action	Updates
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<p>1. Increase signage in the area</p>	<p><b>May 9 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue to follow up on referrals to Parks and Recreation to replace older coyote signage in parks.</li> </ul> <p><b>May 2 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff are working to replace older signage with community co-designed ones in response to feedback from residents.</li> <li>✓ Parks and Recreation are installing signs on Toronto Island and the ferry terminal.</li> <li>✓ The City has worked with community members to design two new coyote signs.</li> <li>✓ 50 signs have been installed in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b></p>
<p>2. Increase community education</p>	<p><b>May 9 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue to post safety messages on social media accounts and provide weekly updates on the City's response.</li> <li>✓ On May 9, 2025, staff sent information and a <a href="#">coyote fact sheet</a> to all Councillor's Offices so resources can be shared with constituents.</li> <li>✓ 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>May 2 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A public education session is being held on May 2, 2025 in Ward 5 following a session on February 24, 2025.</li> <li>✓ A new pamphlet for the community is being created.</li> <li>✓ Website updates posted weekly.</li> <li>✓ Staff continue to deliver educational pamphlets to all condominiums in Liberty Village and Fort York.</li> <li>✓ Bylaw Enforcement Officers continue to distribute educational pamphlets to buildings they are visiting.</li> <li>✓ The City continues to post coyote safety messages on the corporate and Toronto Animal Services social media accounts.</li> </ul> <p><b>April 24 Update – please see <a href="#">link</a></b></p>
<p><b>Findings &amp; Observations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City's <a href="#">coyote webpage</a> provides information to residents, including previous <a href="#">updates on City Actions Around Coyotes Downtown</a>.</li> </ul>	

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- 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.

### Ongoing: Policy efforts to routinely review the efficacy of coyote response strategies

City Action	Updates
Request from City Council to develop a Downtown Coyote Action Plan ( <a href="#">2025.EC18.8</a> ) (March 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 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.</li> <li>✓ City Council made a request to the Province to support the City of Toronto in the costs of managing coyotes and wildlife.</li> </ul>
Development of a Downtown Coyote Action Plan ( <a href="#">2025.EC20.4</a> ) (May 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff developed the <a href="#">Downtown Coyote Action Plan</a> as an interim update on the City’s operational framework to respond to coyotes.</li> <li>✓ 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"> <li>• The Committee requested staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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;</li> <li>○ Explore what proactive measures can be undertaken to manage food and wildlife feeding sources;</li> <li>○ 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p>Report back with updates to the City's Coyote Response Strategy</p>	<p>✓ 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the discussion on <a href="#">2025.EC20.4</a>, 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"> <li>Explore additional preventative measures that can be implemented downtown (including resources requires for a dedicated wildlife staff team);</li> <li>Provide thresholds and estimated ranges of time for escalation protocols;</li> <li>Establish a more pet-friendly approach as part of efforts to minimize interactions; and</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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