

What does the City do about coyotes?

The purpose of this brochure is to provide some basic tips for dealing with urban coyotes. Our behaviour, whether it's leaving food, garbage or pets outside, is changing the behaviour of coyotes. Habituated coyotes have learned that our neighbourhoods are a source of food. Please talk to your family, friends and neighbours and share these simple tips with them.

When an incident with a coyote is reported, the City will investigate and determine if a problem exists. Depending on the circumstances, a course of action will be taken. This could include public education, posting warning signs that a coyote has been seen in the area, or coyote removal.

To report a coyote, call:

- City of Edmonton Park Rangers at 496-2950
(7am to 1am / 7 days a week)
- Alberta Fish and Wildlife at 427-3574

If someone is in danger call:

- Emergency 9-1-1.

To obtain additional information call:

Edmonton Coyote Information Hotline at (780) 644-5744
or refer to the following websites:
www.edmonton.ca/parks
www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/hunting/coyo.html
www.stanleyparkecology.ca/programs/urbanWildlife/coyotes/



"The City of Edmonton Parks Branch works with the Province of Alberta, who is responsible for wildlife management throughout the province."

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Your Guide To Avoiding Coyote-Human Conflict



About coyotes

Edmonton's river valley and ravine system is the largest urban park in North America. Coyotes and other wildlife enrich the river valley experience. Coyotes play a natural and beneficial role in the food chain by eating mice and other small rodents.

Coyotes are part of the dog family but have very long legs, oversized pointed ears and large bushy tails with black tips. An average adult coyote weighs 9 to 14 kg and is just over a metre long from nose tip to the tip of their tail. Coyotes have light grey or tan coats and slim pointed muzzles.

Why are coyotes living in the city?

Coyotes have always lived in the city of Edmonton but most stayed in the river valley. As our city becomes larger and habitat is lost, more and more coyotes are choosing to hunt for food sources in residential areas. Coyote behaviour is changing and they are eating garbage, fruit and accessible pet food; all readily available in our neighbourhoods.



Coyotes and pets

Coyotes are territorial and could consider your dog a threat. Coyotes may try to draw a dog away and attack it to eliminate the threat. Keeping your dog on a leash at all times is the best way to ensure its safety.

City of Edmonton's Animal Control Bylaw prohibits owners from allowing their cats or dogs to roam free and unsupervised, off their property. By permitting your pets to roam free outside of your property, you provide the opportunity for a potentially serious encounter between your pet and a coyote.

Pet owners...please, do not

- Leave pet food out in the backyard.
- Walk your dog off leash in areas frequented by coyotes – especially in spring.
- Leave a small dog out in the yard unattended for long periods of time.
- Leave cats out roaming.

Are coyotes dangerous?

Coyotes have a natural fear of humans but may become defensive and may attack if they are protecting their food or a den. **In cases of coyote attacks on people, it usually involves a coyote that has been fed by humans.** Experts agree that coyotes will steer clear of humans until they learn that people are a source of food. Our behaviour can encourage coyotes to challenge us.

Do not...

- Feed coyotes.
- Leave garbage out where coyotes and other animals can get into it.
- Leave fallen fruit from trees, or bird seed spilled from feeders on the ground – this may attract coyotes to your yard.



What to do if you encounter a coyote

To prevent coyote attacks on humans, modern wildlife management focuses on 'aversive conditioning'. This practice tries to change an animal's behaviour by making every human-coyote encounter unpleasant for the animal. This method only works if we all respond to coyote encounters aggressively.

If a coyote does approach, make it feel unwelcome. They should not feel comfortable around us.

Take These Immediate Steps:

- Respond to its presence aggressively by making yourself appear large; wave your arms overhead, or shove long objects like a walking stick toward the coyote.
- Throw rocks, sticks or other objects to scare it away.
- Carry a whistle and blow it to startle the animal.
- Carry dog spray in areas highly frequented by coyotes.
- Shout in a deep voice and maintain eye contact.
- Do not turn away or run. This may trigger a natural predator/prey instinct and might encourage the coyote to chase after you.
- If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward buildings or human activity.