



## COEXISTING WITH COYOTES

*Most of the time, coyotes are timid animals that try to avoid interactions with people. However, coyotes are also very adaptable animals that can be equally comfortable living in urban, rural and wilderness areas. With coyotes living among us more and more, we need to learn how to coexist.*

*There are things you can do to reduce the risk of conflicts with coyotes. This fact sheet offers some helpful advice to protect yourself, your family, your property and coyotes.*

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COYOTES

- Coyotes are attracted to food and food waste in people's yards, such as fallen fruit, pet food, bird seed and garbage.
- Coyotes can attack people's pets or livestock.
- Coyotes can carry diseases and parasites that may infect people or their animals.
- Coyotes are naturally timid animals. It is important that we keep it that way, for the safety of people, pets and coyotes. This can be done by scaring coyotes away – an activity known as "hazing."
- Though coyote attacks on people are rare, it can happen. The risk increases if the animal has previously been fed by people, because the coyote may associate people with food.

### THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CONFLICT

#### **Remove or secure things that can attract coyotes**

- Never feed wildlife. Making food available to coyotes, either directly or indirectly (through feeding their prey such as birds and rabbits), may attract coyotes and other predators to an area. Coyotes that have been fed by people will become increasingly comfortable in approaching people, and increasingly aggressive around people.
- Feed pets indoors and never leave food dishes outdoors. Coyotes and other animals will be attracted to the food and odours from the food dish.
- Clean up pet waste in your yard daily.
- Store garbage in a secure building or wildlife resistant container.
- Compost food items where they are inaccessible to wildlife.

- If you use a bird feeder, clean up any spilled seed frequently. Consider not setting up a bird feeder in coyote or bear country.
- In the summer, remove all ripened or fallen fruit daily in the morning and before dusk. Do not allow it to rot on the ground. Coyotes eat fruit and will prey on other animals that come to feed on it.
- If you need to exclude coyotes from an area, consider using fencing. Fencing should be at least two metres tall. It should also extend at least 30 centimetres underground, or have an L-shaped mesh apron that extends outward at least 50 centimetres, and is secured with landscaping staples.



- Fully enclose backyard beehives and chicken coops.
- Electric fencing can be an effective deterrent to predators.

### **Reduce risks for people**

- When walking in an area that may include coyotes, carry deterrents:
  - Things that make loud noises, such as a whistle or rattle (e.g., pebbles in a canister) can be effective noise deterrents.
  - A walking stick or umbrella can be an effective weapon. In addition, the sight and sound of an umbrella being opened can be a deterrent.
  - Consider carrying a few rocks that can be thrown toward the coyote.
- When outdoors, be aware of your surroundings:
  - Do not wear ear-buds or earphones to listen to music outdoors in areas where you are likely to encounter coyotes.
  - Be especially observant between dusk and dawn, when coyotes and other wildlife are more active.
- Watch for signs of coyotes in the area. Signs may include coyote tracks, coyote droppings or pets that refuse to venture outdoors.
- Learn appropriate hazing techniques, so you are prepared if you encounter a coyote (see *If You Encounter A Coyote*).
- Supervise young children closely. Teach your children what a coyote looks like, and what to do if they come across a coyote.
- Avoid physical contact with coyotes and their feces.
- If a coyote appears sick or injured, make note of its location and report it to Sustainable Development. Call the TIP line at 1-800-782-0076.
- Share the information in this fact sheet with your friends and neighbours. The more people that are educated in your community, the safer it will be for everyone.



### **Reduce risks for pets**

- Coyotes have been known to attack pets. Do not leave your pet outside unattended.
- Bring pets inside at night. If your pet must be let outside at night to do its business, use light and noise deterrents, including human presence, to increase its safety.
- Restrain (leash) your dog when walking it, to reduce the potential of it harassing a coyote, or of being attacked by one. Unrestrained pets are at greater risk.

- Try to vary your walking route and walk in areas with lots of pedestrian activity.
- Avoid walking between dusk and dawn.
- Never allow your dog to interact or “play” with coyotes.
- Ensure your pet receives appropriate vaccinations. Talk to your veterinarian about your pet’s vaccination needs.
- If your pet is attacked by a coyote, use your walking stick, noisemakers, or throw objects at the coyote to scare it away. Do not try to separate the animals with your hands as this could result in serious human injury.

### **Reduce risks for livestock**

- Use beneficial management practices for raising livestock.
- Properly dispose of deadstock.
- Use guardian animals and electric fencing to protect livestock.
- Maintain a frequent human presence.
- Work co-operatively with trappers and hunters in your area to deal with problem predators.

## **IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE**

- Never approach or crowd the coyote. Give it an escape route.
- Stop, remain calm and assess your situation.
- Do not run – you may cause it to chase you.
- Pick up small children or pets. Their response to the situation is unpredictable.
- If the coyote seems unaware of you, move away quietly when it is not looking in your direction. Watch the coyote as you leave the area in case it begins to follow you.
- If the coyote approaches you, haze the animal to ensure it associates people with being a threat:
  - Maintain eye contact and stay facing the coyote.

- Let the coyote know you are human. Stand tall, shout and wave your arms above your head to make yourself appear more threatening.
- Make noise. You can use your voice, an air horn, a whistle, something that rattles, or anything that will make a loud noise.
- Throw projectiles such as small rocks, cans, sticks or balls. Never throw food.
- Spray the coyote with a garden hose, use a squirt gun filled with water or diluted vinegar, or use a wildlife deterrent spray (often referred to as bear deterrent spray) if the animal comes within range.
- Continue hazing the coyote until it leaves the area.
- Hazing activities are recommended when a coyote:
  - approaches a person or pet
  - is active in daylight in an area with people present
  - appears habituated (doesn't run away when approached by people)
  - enters a person's yard in daylight
- Hazing activities are NOT recommended when a coyote:
  - does not have an escape route
  - is avoiding people and pets
  - is in a wide open space and out late at night
- If a coyote attacks, fight back aggressively. Use any weapon available, including sticks or rocks. Strike at the animal's eyes and nose.
- Report any encounter with an aggressive coyote to your nearest Sustainable Development district office.



## LETHAL REMOVAL

- Coyotes can be harvested by a licensed trapper or hunter during a regulated season. Trapping and hunting regulations apply.
- In exceptional circumstances, under The Wildlife Act, a person may kill a coyote in defence of property and they must report it to a conservation officer within 10 days.
- A special permit must be obtained from a conservation officer if a landowner wants a designate to remove a coyote on their behalf on land they own. A special permit would also be required before the lethal removal of a coyote on leased land.
- Use pest control companies which are authorized to remove coyotes.

**For more information on reducing the risk of conflicts with coyotes and other wildlife, visit [www.manitoba.ca/human-wildlife](http://www.manitoba.ca/human-wildlife).**

**To report wildlife showing aggressive behaviour or that appears sick, injured, or orphaned, call the TIP line at 1-800-782-0076.**