

You can help reduce problems with coyotes...

- Do not feed coyotes or any other wildlife.
- Keep all garbage in plastic or metal containers with tightly secured lids.
- Closely supervise children playing outside during the day.
- Bring pet food inside to a secure location every night or feed your pet indoors.
- Keep pets inside at night. Closely supervise pets outside during the day.
- Ensure your pet has regular vaccinations.
- Avoid contact with any wild animal or their feces to prevent exposure to disease or parasites.
- Coyotes may be harvested during an open trapping season using approved humane traps and trapping techniques — See the *Manitoba Trapping Guide* for more information.
- Property owners, or designated persons such as licenced trappers, can remove coyotes from private land that they own at anytime in defense of property as provided for under *The Wildlife Act*:

Killing wildlife in defence of property

46(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act but subject to sections 10, 11, 12 and 24, a person may kill or take any wildlife, other than a moose, caribou, deer, antelope, cougar, elk or game bird, on his own land for the purpose of defending or preserving his property.

Report

46(2) A person who kills or takes any species of wild animal in defence or preservation of his property as provided in subsection (1) shall report the killing or taking to an officer within 10 days thereof.



For more information

Manitoba Conservation is committed to managing and protecting our plants and wild animal resources for the future. The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch develops and delivers programs, policies and legislation for hunting, trapping, biodiversity conservation and land management. Contact the branch at www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/ or 204-945-7775 in Winnipeg.

For more information on living with coyotes visit:

The Fur Institute of Canada online at www.fur.ca/index-e/furbearers/index.asp?action=furbearers&page=index

The Government of Alberta online at www.gov.ab.ca/fw/coyotes/index.html

The Colorado Division of Wildlife online at www.wildlife.state.co.us/wildlifespecies/livingwithwildlife/mammals/coyotecountry.htm

Living with Wildlife in Manitoba

The Coyote



Coyotes are common throughout North America. They are very adaptable and are equally comfortable living in city suburbs as they are in the natural areas.

In Manitoba, coyotes range from the U.S. border to Thompson but they are most common in southern agricultural areas. Coyotes are also now seen more frequently near suburbs and urban centres. The total number of coyotes in Manitoba is virtually impossible to estimate but they are considered abundant.

This brochure provides information on living with coyotes, including tips on how to recognize and reduce conflicts between coyotes and people.

Identifying Coyotes

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are members of the dog family and resemble a medium-sized dog. Adults weigh 10 to 16 kilograms (20 to 35 lbs.) with a body length up to 1.5 metres (5 feet) including the tail. They stand about 60 centimetres (2 feet) high at the shoulder. Males are larger than females. Coyotes vary in colour but their fur is usually reddish-brown to gray. Coyotes usually keep their tails down when walking or running.

Biology and Behaviour

Mated coyote pairs can remain together for up to 12 years. Annual breeding occurs in February. One litter a year is produced and an average of six pups are born in April or May. Litter size depends on population density and available food during the breeding season. Adults teach the pups to hunt during the summer. By early autumn, the pups leave the den and move to new areas. Coyotes reach maturity at about a year or two and can live up to 14 years in the wild.

Coyotes have a home range of about 20 square kilometres (8 square miles). They can be seen during the day but are most active at night as they search for food and defend their territory from other coyotes. Often considered a predator of larger animals such as deer or livestock, coyotes will also scavenge dead animals and eat insects, rodents, rabbits and songbirds. They can also kill or injure pets especially small dogs or cats. In urban areas, coyotes will eat unsecured garbage or pet food left outside. Quite often, this behaviour leads coyotes into conflict with humans.



Coyotes are very sociable. A typical family consists of a dominant breeding pair along with many subordinate members who help defend their territory and feed the pups. Coyotes commonly howl or yip to communicate to each other. They urinate frequently to mark their territory. Intelligent and wary, coyotes have good eyesight, hearing and a keen sense of smell.

Population Status

Manitoba Conservation considers coyotes widespread and abundant in Manitoba. Coyotes are listed as a fur-bearing animal in Division 2, Schedule A of *The Wildlife Act*. About 3,000 to 8,000 coyotes are harvested each year by licenced trappers in Manitoba.

Coyotes can be legally trapped or removed by a landowner at anytime in defense of private property. However, removal must be reported to a Natural Resource Officer within 10 days.

Common Diseases

Coyotes carry various diseases such as canine distemper, rabies, canine hepatitis and parvo virus. They are also susceptible to frequent outbreaks of sarcoptic mange — an infestation by microscopic mites that cause intense itching, scratching and hair loss. This condition is particularly common when coyote numbers are high and contact spreads the disease. Most coyotes with mange will lose their fur and die from exposure. Coyote populations will be reduced to varying degrees under these conditions.

Sarcoptic mange can also be transmitted to dogs and cats exposed to sites where infected coyotes sought shelter, such as straw bedding and hay bales. Other common coyote parasites that can affect humans or pets include heartworm, hookworm and tapeworms.

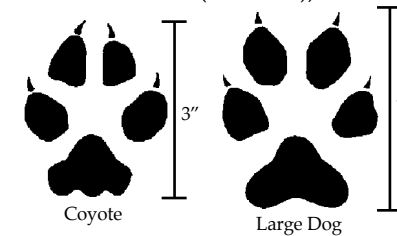


If you find a sick or dead coyote never pick it up or touch its droppings. Always report sick or dead wild animals to Manitoba Conservation.

Signs of coyotes

The presence of nearby coyotes can be confirmed by their tracks, droppings and type of damage they cause.

- **Identify tracks** – Coyote and dog tracks are similar but distinguishable. Dog tracks are generally large, rounded with the toes spread apart. Coyote tracks are small (about 6-7 centimetres (3 inches), rectangular with toes held closer together. Also, coyotes tend to walk in straight lines while dog tracks appear to zig-zag and wander.



- **Look for droppings** – Coyote droppings vary in size and shape but are usually large, tube-shaped and tapered. Droppings commonly contain hair, bone or seeds. Often, coyotes mark their territory by leaving droppings on sidewalks, paths or roads.



- **Identify coyote damage** – Coyotes can cause property damage by preying on domestic livestock. Pet food that goes missing or garbage bags that have been carried away or strewn about the yard may be the result of coyotes. Pets that refuse to go outside or venture from doors, or show visible injuries or bite marks after being let in should also alert the homeowner of possible coyotes in the area. On rare occasions, coyotes have been known to attack humans, especially after being purposely fed by people in the past.

If you encounter a coyote

- Never approach or crowd a coyote. Give it an escape route.
- Stop, remain calm and assess your situation.
- If the coyote seems unaware of you, move away quietly when it is not looking in your direction.
- If the coyote is aware of you, let it know you are human. Shout or wave your arms above your head to make yourself appear more threatening. Throw stones or other objects at it.
- If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward buildings or human activity.
- Do not turn away or run. This may encourage the coyote to chase you.
- If the coyote attacks — fight back.

