

# WHAT TO DO



IF A COYOTE or FOX  
APPROACHES YOU:

*STOP;*

*STAND STILL;*

*SHOUT — GO AWAY!*

*wave your arms high in the air;*

*SLOWLY back away — never  
run from a coyote, fox (or a dog)*

*Share your experience!*

Stay in  
touch!



**Coyote Watch Canada** is a federally incorporated, non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting wildlife education and fostering co-existence between communities and local ecosystems. Our ecological framework advocates conservation-science based investigation, education, prevention and enforcement. Our mission champions co-operative, non-lethal solutions for human/ wildlife conflict.



*“All things are bound together.  
All things connected.”*

**Chief Seattle**

# COEXISTING WITH WILDLIFE

**FOSTERING POSITIVE  
HUMAN AND WILDLIFE  
EXPERIENCES**



[www.coyotewatchcanada.com](http://www.coyotewatchcanada.com)

**24 HR HOTLINE: 905.931.2610**

**Report Local Coyote Sightings at:**

[www.niagarafalls.ca/coyote](http://www.niagarafalls.ca/coyote)

# SUCCESSFULLY COEXISTING WITH THE COYOTE:



[1] NEVER feed coyotes\* [2] Always keep pet food and water bowls indoors [3] Keep trash cans covered [4] Pick ripened fruit, and clean all rotted fruit off the ground [5] Do not allow a large amount of wild bird seed to remain on your lawn [6] Keep your pets leashed [7] Keep cats indoors [8] Keep chickens, rabbits, and other small animals in covered enclosures, constructed with heavy mesh wire [9] Neuter pets [10] Never approach coyotes, their dens or their pups [11] Teach children how to respect and safely admire wildlife from afar [12] Hazing techniques have proven successful in deterring coyotes from an area; examples of hazing include: throwing a shake can (filled with coins) in the coyote's direction; spraying a water hose; or popping an umbrella.

**Trapping coyotes in the city or rural areas is a lethal short term step that is inhumane.**

**Poisoning programs are illegal in Ontario .**

**Relocation programs are ineffective because after removing one coyote, another one (or possibly two) may move into that habitat.**

**Expensive eradication/relocation programs in other parts of North America have proved a failure**

**Non-lethal coexistence with this fascinating species is the most compassionate option.**

The Eastern coyote is also known as the "North American Song Dog" and shares common ancestral DNA with the Eastern wolf. This interesting and essential species is native to North America. Due to human extermination of wolf populations and changes to landscape, the resilient and adaptable coyote has a range that extends across Canada and the United States, thriving in forests, urban cities and rural landscape.

Coyotes have keen senses, and are aware of all inhabitants and objects in their territory. They are wary of change, and curious about human activities. This would account for sightings where coyote pups are observed playing with discarded pop cans, sticks, and golf balls. Pet dogs may also be drawn into such games. Their play behavior is their survival training.

Coyotes communicate by howling – to locate a missing pack member, mate, or pup; to send information about possible danger; to vocalize with neighboring packs; and defend a home territory. Coyote vocalizations can be deceiving; two coyotes can sound like a chorus. Listening to coyotes has convinced most naturalists that coyotes often howl for the pleasure of it, and at times, they howl simply because they are lonely.

The urbanization of green spaces fragments the natural habitat for wildlife. Because of this, the coyote is forced to adapt to living closer to populated urban areas. Human fear, misunderstanding, and the lack of knowledge about coyote behavior (ie. seasonal changes) and habitat have lead to 50-70% of young coyotes being killed by humans before they reach adulthood. Humans often attribute an attack on livestock to a coyote. However, free roaming domestic dogs or feral dogs can contribute to such attacks.

Coyotes are omnivores, and feed on insects, vegetation, fruit, small rodents, carrion, and depending on the climate and habitat, the coyote may also prey on larger animals, such as deer. Any dead stock in rural lands must be cleared immediately. Best husbandry practices prove effective to ensure livestock protection and removing all wildlife attractants from farm and ranch lands.

Coyote alpha pairs often mate for life when left to thrive. They are devoted and diligent parents, with the male directly involved in pup rearing. The size of the home range, on average, can be anywhere from three to fifty square miles. Each coyote pack travels and hunts in its own specific territory which is influenced by the availability of resources and space.

Like wolves, coyotes are considered a vital keystone species by keeping small mammals and rodent populations in check. Understanding the benefits of coyotes in our ecosystem helps to promote and preserve healthy wild spaces.