

# WHAT IS A COYOTE?



City of Brampton  
**Animal Services**

Coyotes are small wild canines, usually weighing 30 to 40 pounds. They may appear heavier because of their thick fur, which varies in colour from blonde to red to brown.

These adaptable animals thrive in rural areas, and also do well living in ravines, valleylands and wooded areas in large cities like Brampton. They do not hibernate, so may be seen all year round.

Coyotes are generally shy and non-confrontational, but they can be curious.

## COYOTES AND THE COMMUNITY

Many people welcome coyotes as part of the local wildlife, as they help control the population of small mammals like mice, rats, rabbits, groundhogs and woodchucks.

However, there are an increasing number of complaints about coyotes in urban residential area. Some residents have concerns about property and crop damage, and the safety of children and small pets.

In many cases, the concern is prompted simply by seeing the animals.

### City of Brampton Animal Services

475 Chrysler Drive  
905.458.5800

[www.brampton.ca/animalservices](http://www.brampton.ca/animalservices)

For more information on living with coyotes,  
please contact:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

**1.800.667.1940**

[www.ontario.ca/mnrf](http://www.ontario.ca/mnrf)

Coyote Watch Canada

**905.931.2610**

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



# Living with Coyotes



[brampton.ca/animalservices](http://www.brampton.ca/animalservices)



## PUBLIC SAFETY



Incidents of coyotes attacking people are very rare. There are only a few documented cases in all of Ontario. In all known cases of coyote interactions with people, the animals had lost their fear of humans because people were feeding them.

If you are walking in an area known to have coyote activity, it is recommended that you avoid walking alone.

### IF YOU ARE APPROACHED BY A COYOTE:

- **DON'T RUN!**

- **BACK AWAY SLOWLY**

- **ACT BIG**

Make noise, wave your arms and scare it away.

- **FIGHT BACK!**

If a coyote attacks, shout and use whatever is available to defend yourself.

## PREVENTING PROBLEMS



There are a number of ways you can make your property less attractive to coyotes:

- Don't leave pet food outside.
- Avoid composting meat products.
- Use motion-sensor lights in yards or gardens.
- Properly store and maintain garbage containers. This will prevent animals like skunks, raccoons and coyotes from becoming a nuisance, and will discourage the presence of small rodents, which are an important food source for coyotes.
- Remember that bird feeders also attract squirrels and rodents, which may in turn attract coyotes.
- Enclose your yard with a solid fence (see the City's Zoning By-law for maximum allowable fence heights).

#### Remember:

- Never approach or feed coyotes. They become more comfortable with humans if they are fed or otherwise encouraged to stay near residential areas.
- Teach children to not approach or harass any wildlife or unfamiliar domestic pets.
- Don't allow pets to roam at large. Keep cats indoors at all times and keep dogs on short leashes or enclosed in your yard.
- If pets are allowed outside, ensure they are up-to-date on all recommended vaccinations.

## ABNORMAL BEHAVIOUR



If your home is near a wooded area, ravine or a new residential area where coyotes have been established, it is not unusual to see a coyote.

If you see a deceased coyote or one that is injured (limping or staggering, or with paralyzed hind legs), call Animal Services.

In the event that a coyote or other wild animal is presenting an immediate threat to public safety, call 911.

