



# Coexisting with Coyotes

## *A Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre Information Sheet*

*Coyotes are capable of surviving in the city without our help.*

*By feeding coyotes you put yourself and the coyotes at risk.*

### **Coyotes in Vancouver**

Coyotes adapt easily to urban environments. Although they are relatively new to the Lower Mainland, coyotes can be found in most Metro Vancouver neighbourhoods.

### **Why are Coyotes Here?**

Coyotes like open spaces. People create habitat for coyotes when we clear forests to build houses. Approximately 2000-3000 coyotes live in the Lower Mainland.

### **What do Coyotes Look Like?**

Coyotes look like a cross between a fox and small German shepherd. They weigh between 9 and 14 kg but appear heavier because of their thick fur. Most coyotes are a grizzled reddish-yellow colour. They have narrow, delicate noses and large ears.

### **What do Coyotes Eat?**

In the wild, a coyote's diet is a combination of small mammals, fruits, vegetables and insects. In cities, coyotes also eat rats, squirrels, raccoons, geese, ducks, pets and garbage.

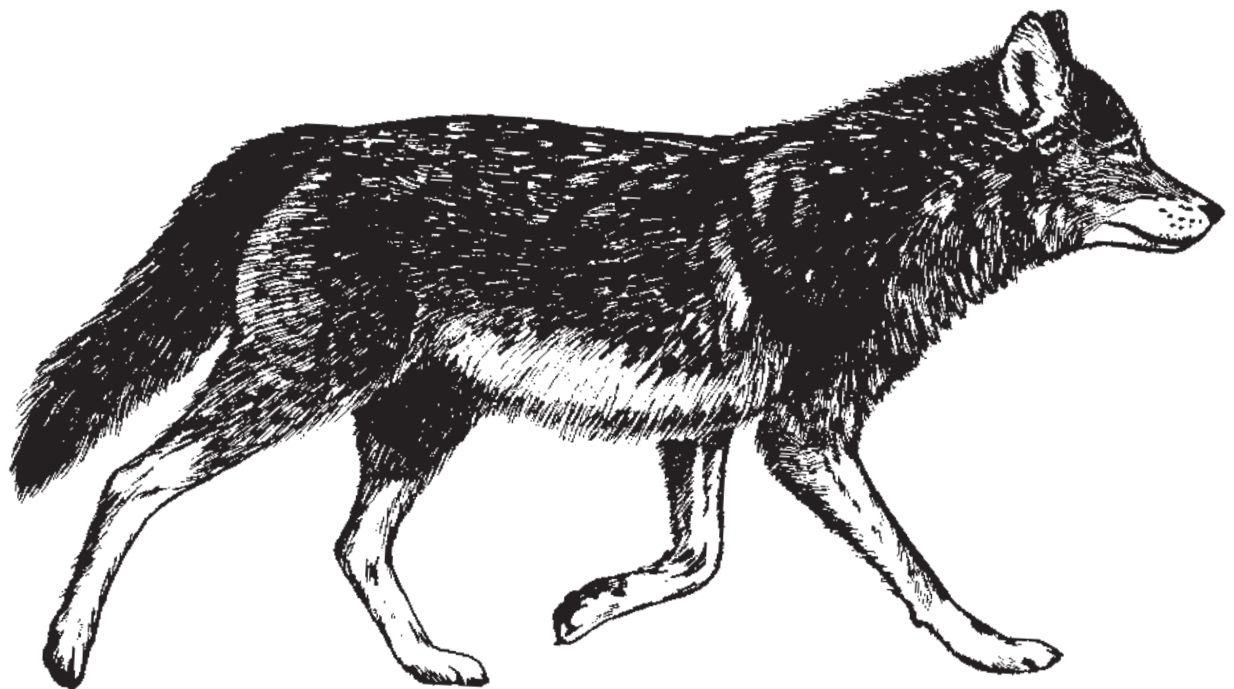
### **When are Coyotes Most Active?**

Coyotes are active both day and night. The potential for conflict between people and coyotes is highest in the spring. At this time of year, nursing female coyotes have high food requirements and the warmer weather entices people and their pets outdoors.

### **Are Coyotes a Risk to People?**

Coyotes are rarely a risk to people. They are curious but timid animals and instinctively run away if challenged. However, when people feed coyotes, it can cause them to lose their natural fear of people and behave aggressively. Never feed a coyote. This is the best way to keep ourselves and our pets safe. If a coyote is considered dangerous it will be removed by conservation officers.

*Immediately call the Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers' Line at 1-877-952-7277 if a coyote shows aggression to people, or is injured AND completely immobile.*





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## **Coexistence is the Best Choice**

Trapping coyotes in the city is difficult. Poisoning programs kill other wild animals and are a risk to pets and children. Relocation simply moves the problem coyote and another coyote usually takes over the abandoned territory. These methods of coyote control have proven ineffective and expensive wherever they have been tried across North America.

## **If you are Approached by a Coyote...**

*Be big, brave and loud.* Make yourself appear larger by standing up and waving your arms. Act aggressively, pick up a large branch and wave it, throw stones, and make as much noise as you can.

Keep an eye on it as you walk steadily away, picking up your dog, if able. Stay calm and observe its behaviour for cues.

## **Steps to Reduce Conflict**

- Keep your pets on leash and under control. Walk your dogs at times and in places that coincide with high pedestrian traffic. Avoid bushy areas and walk with a friend.
- If you must leave your pet unattended, provide an enclosed cat or dog run.
- Never feed coyotes. It is important to keep coyotes wild and frightened of people.
- Fencing helps to discourage coyotes from entering your yard (at least 2 m or 6 ft tall).
- Be careful not to feed coyotes. Coyotes are attracted to:

*Open garbage containers*

*Open composts containing fruits and vegetables*

*Fruit that has fallen from trees or shrubs*

*Bird feeder overflow*

*Pet Food*

## **A Fed Coyote is a Dead Coyote**

Coyotes are capable of surviving in the city without our help. Feeding coyotes puts you and the coyote at risk. A coyote that becomes dependent on humans for food may become too bold, bite someone and have to be destroyed.

## **For More Information**

Visit [www.stanleyparkecolgy.ca](http://www.stanleyparkecolgy.ca) for information about the Coexisting with Coyotes program.

The information in this sheet is adapted from the Stanley Park Ecology Society's Coexisting with Coyotes pamphlet.

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The Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre is operated by the District of North Vancouver Parks Dept.