



COYOTE WATCH CANADA

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Prevention:

Record keeping by geographical area
- look for indicators that early action may be necessary

Early Action - consider applying one or all of the other cornerstones to prevent conflict escalation in the community and/or the media

Education:

Distribute information in print, social media, mainstream media, website, signage
- notifies that canids are present and what to do if seen, informs about pet safety tactics, deterrents and attractants

Presentation and discussion at public meeting - face-to-face with experts encourages trust and learning

Investigation:

Look for potential human-origin feeding sites, including environmental cues or evidence-based information about direct or indirect feeding

Investigate compliance with dog leash laws and garbage management

Looking at habitat and potential den-site can sometimes lead to solutions



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The 4 Cornerstones: Our Canid Response Strategy Framework

Enforcement:

Investigation may lead to discovery of law infractions - feeding of wildlife or unleashed dogs

Enforcement of these laws is crucial to resolution

If no laws exist, consider strong request to cease unsafe behaviour in the short-term and enacting legislation that will address future issues



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Guideline for Report to Municipal Councils

Document Purpose:

This document covers points that can be included in a report to municipal councils when developing a formal Canid Response Strategy. A formal strategy will assist municipalities with developing an appropriate and effective wild canid (including foxes, coyotes, and wolves) response strategy that aligns with specific and common situations that can occur in large and small municipalities and jurisdictions. An effective response strategy is ecologically and socially complex and is specific to the context of each emergent situation. The document provides for the following:

- **Accessible and inclusive collaboration with all demographics, including opportunities for engagement with Indigenous elders, leaders, and communities**
- A living framework that allows for policy review and revision as needed
- A streamlined document that provides a foundation for policy that reflects current science and best practice field methodology, within a municipal framework
- Preparedness for human/canid interactions. The report guideline is applicable to all wild canids in Canada and can be modified to specify one, two or all canid species
- **A goal that moves beyond the absence of human/wildlife conflict and towards a willingness to share spaces with wild canids appropriately and to appreciate the natural elements in the environment**
- A general or broad view of the ecological role of wild canids in our communities, as well as addressing specific situations that are challenging at site-specific locations
- A strategy that is specific to context of each emergent situation



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Municipal Canid Response Strategy

Document Purpose:

This document is intended to provide information that can be used when creating a Canid Response Strategy and accompanying organizational Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Document Format:

The document is a written response strategy that includes 3 appendices as follows:

Appendix A – Canid Management Response Strategy

This is a table that includes common situations involving humans and wild canids with suggested response to each situation.

Appendix B – Aversion Conditioning

This appendix contains detailed information on how to apply “aversion conditioning”, a term that is referenced in the strategy.

Appendix C – Canid-Safe Neighbourhood Checklist

This is a checklist that can be used by organizational staff and residents when investigating situations involving humans and wild canids. The purpose of the checklist is to determine causes or reasons for canid behaviour.



AC Equipment and Tools

- ⑩ Your voice - LOUD & Assertive
- ⑩ Waving arms high above the head
- ⑩ *Whistle, horns (not always suitable)
- ⑩ Projectiles - Natural products- sticks, rocks
- ⑩ Never 'throw at' wildlife
- ⑩ Never turn your back and run from any animal (domestic or wild)
- ⑩ Seasonal options - water hose
- ⑩ Shake-can filled with coins
- ⑩ Umbrella *POP IT!*
- ⑩ Large garbage bag - fill with air & *SNAP IT!*
- ⑩ Officer response flexible & innovative
- ⑩ Be aware of the unique circumstances
- ⑩ Follow through is paramount
- ⑩ Knowing when to change the 'tension'

* Whistles and air horns may not be effective if sports fields are near by, deploy a different tool.



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- Feeding wildlife impacts wildlife, people (non-feeders) and pets.
- Indirect/direct feeding changes foraging, hunting behaviour teaching wildlife like coyotes that it is OK to approach people.
- Demand behaviour is exhibited when these situation left unchecked escalate – approaching people, grabbing at clothing, nipping a hand, hanging around parking lots, sports fields, cemeteries, running tracks





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Immediate Steps

Revitalize educational signage locations including trail heads, clearing foliage from signs

Ensure signs are universally accessible – height, angle

Enclose open compost bins at community garden

Temporary signs changed out for permanent (education)

Site visits to the hotspot locations to promote adherence to city bylaws

Educational messaging about dogs off leash

Guidance for residents on how to wildlife-proof property

Applying current science and best practices in public messaging

Door hangers



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Coyote in the Urban Landscape: An Information Module for Urban Residents

Created in partnership by Coyote Watch Canada and the City of Toronto



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(Duration:20 minutes)

START



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Quick Tips: Wildlife Proofing

Remove Food Attractants

- Bird feeders also attract rodents and small mammals, who eat the fallen food. Small mammals then attract coyotes, foxes, and birds of prey.
- Pet food left outdoors will attract wildlife. If you must feed stray or feral animals, make food available for 30 minutes at a time, and then remove it.
- Secure your compost bin, and never compost meat scraps.
- Take garbage to the curb on collection day - not the night before. Unsecured garbage is an open invitation for wild animals, many of whom forage for food at night.
- Clean up fallen or rotting fruit from underneath fruit trees.

Keep Your Property Clean

- Remove brush piles (NOTE: always check carefully before burning brush - many wild animals make their homes in brush piles and may be burned or killed by careless burning or brush-pile removal).
- Scoop your poop: animal feces attract rodents, which then attract other wildlife.
- Keep outdoor cooking areas and grills clean.
- Trim branches that provide easy access to your roof for squirrels, raccoons, etc.
- Dispose of deadstock on farms quickly and securely.



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For the Love of Leash!



We all enjoy exploring the outdoors with our family pets, and we want to keep our pets safe, while respecting and enjoying nature. Using a leash is the best way to achieve this!

This fact sheet provides helpful suggestions to create awareness about our wild neighbours and to keep family pets and wildlife safe in the great outdoors.

Did You Know?

- Our pet dogs are part of the Canidae family, which also includes wolves, foxes, coyotes, and jackals. All canids are curious, and domestic dogs are driven by instinct to explore and to chase or kill wildlife. Leashing up prevents negative encounters between our off-leash dogs and wildlife.
- Coyotes and other wildlife are protective of family members and may perceive domestic dogs as a threat or danger.
- Findings from a Canadian study showed that 92% of dog-coyote conflict occurred when dogs were off-leash!
- Conflict often occurs near coyote den sites or in established coyote territory; however, many dog walkers are unaware of these dens and territories. You may frequent these spaces daily, without even realizing it!
- It is not uncommon for a coyote to 'escort' or 'shadow' a dog walker out of an area when pups or a den are nearby.
- Allowing dogs to chase or harass wildlife is illegal in most areas. Wildlife harassment incites conflict between species and alters the natural behaviours of wild animals, causing them to venture outside of their territories and expend vital energy unnecessarily.
- Free-roaming pets can encounter a wide range of dangers, including vehicles, other animals, or ill-willed individuals. In Ontario, traps and snares can be set in wild spaces with no markers or signage. Many dogs are reported to have been exposed to toxic products, poisons, or sick animals when off-leash.

Tips for Keeping Family Pets Safe

- Get to know the wildlife in areas where you walk your family pets. There may be fascinating species in your neighbourhood that you aren't even aware of!
- Always obey signage regarding nature and the bylaws or ordinances that apply to the wild spaces you visit.
- Keep a safe and respectful distance if you see a coyote, fox, or wolf.
- Never feed wildlife. This includes indirect feeding, such as leaving food waste in wild spaces. Wildlife feeding disrupts natural foraging behaviours and encourages an unnatural proximity tolerance to people.
- If a coyote is in the area and a dog is off-leash, immediately leash up. Keep your dog close. Small dogs can be lifted and carried for safety.
- Never run from any canid (wild or domestic). Leave the area slowly, keeping your dog close to you.

*Shelley M. Alexander & Michael S. Quinn (2011). Coyote (Canis latrans) Interactions With Humans and Pets Reported in the Canadian Print Media (1995-2010). Human Dimensions of Wildlife, 16(5), 345-359. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10871209.2011.599950>

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Eastern Coyote

Coexisting with Wildlife

Fostering Positive Human and Wildlife Experiences

Wildlife Hotline: 905.931.2610

Email: info@coyotewatchcanada.com

National Online Canid Reporting:
niagarafalls.ca/coyote

coyotewatchcanada.com

Wildlife in trouble? Here's how you can help.



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- 1. Learn about your local wildlife organizations.** Find out what they do, if they have rescue capacity, and keep contact information handy so it's there when you need it most urgently.

- 2. Reach out to make wildlife responders aware of the animal.** A detailed email is helpful if you think medical help is needed. If the animal is contained or downed, call immediately.

- 3. Write down sighting details whenever you see the animal.** This is vital to any rescue effort. Record the date, time, location, behaviour, and which direction the animal was travelling.

- 4. Take photos and videos.** These are incredibly helpful for assessing the condition and mobility of an animal. Photos also help us distinguish one animal from another in its family.

- 5. Talk to your neighbours.** Coordinate efforts so that sighting details can be consolidated and shared. The more information you can provide, the better the chances are of a successful rescue.

- 6. Be patient with us.** We want to help. Some agencies have no rescue resources. But those that do require sufficient details to assess the feasibility and safety of any rescue effort.

Coyote Watch Canada is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering human-wildlife coexistence.

Learn more and donate today at COYOTEWATCHCANADA.COM

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MYTH: We have both coyotes and coywolves living in Ontario.

FACT: The one and only coyote species in Ontario is the Eastern Coyote, which shares common ancestral DNA with the Algonquin (Eastern) Wolf. The mixing of DNA occurred more than 100 years ago, and some remnant DNA still exists in our Eastern Coyotes today. "Coywolf" is a nickname for the Eastern Coyote.

MYTH: Coyotes lure domestic dogs.

FACT: Coyotes are family oriented and do not use their family members to bait or lure other animals. When a free-roaming dog chases and harasses a coyote, the coyote will flee to the safety of family members. If a dog continues pursuit, coyotes will defend their families.

MYTH: Coyotes abandon their pups.

FACT: Coyotes mate for life and co-parent their pups. They are devoted and protective parents and do not abandon their young. During infancy, pups depend on their mother's milk; if she is killed, they will perish. If both parents are killed, pups will be orphaned.



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MYTH: A yipping coyote means it has killed something.

FACT: Coyotes do not advertise their food sources. Consider this: can you sing opera with your mouth full? Well, neither can coyotes! Vocalizations are like a "Canid GPS": coyotes yip, howl and bark to defend territory, locate family, celebrate, warn each other of danger and greet one another.

MYTH: Coyotes stalk people.

FACT: Coyotes are aware of everything in their territory. When raising families, coyotes will escort or shadow visitors travelling through shared spaces to make sure they leave the area. Often misinterpreted as being "bold" or "brave", a curious coyote may stop and watch visitors to assess any threats to his or her family. It's important to note that a coyote who has been fed by people may exhibit demand behaviour. For everyone's safety, never ever feed a coyote.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE?

Visit us at coyotewatchcanada.com

Coyote Watch Canada is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering human-wildlife coexistence.

SCIENCE. EDUCATION. COEXISTENCE.



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Eastern Coyote

Keeping Coyotes Away

Everything you need to know to be wildlife smart and help keep coyotes wild

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- Providing humane options and support through a canid response team when wildlife overstays their welcome. Education and prevention is key. A helping hand goes a long way to assist residents.

