



For more information on
urban wildlife in Saskatoon visit
saskatoon.ca/wildlifemanagement
or contact Urban Biological Services
at 306-975-3300.

Coyotes



Coyote Characteristics

Appearance

- Ears upright and large in relation to the head.
- Muzzle is long and slender.
- Tail is long, bushy and usually black on the end.
- Fur colour can vary, but is usually grayish-brown with red tinges.
- Eyes are yellow.
- Paw prints are oval shaped with four toes and a heal pad. Usually only the middle claws are visible in the print compared to a dog print, which is usually circular with all four claws visible.

Behaviour & Habitat

- Coyotes travel and hunt alone and occasionally in pairs or small groups.
- A family is typically a male and female with their pups but can occasionally be several adults and pups.
- Coyotes may be resident in our larger parks and open spaces or transient as they try to establish a territory.
- Coyotes emit a range of sounds including howls, barks, yelps, yips and whines and are generally heard at dusk or during the night.

Diet

- Coyotes are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals and shift their diet to take advantage of available food.
- Coyotes may frequent residential areas in the winter months when food is scarce.
- Voles, a common yard and garden pest, can also be a significant component of a coyote's diet.

Co-existing with Coyotes

Advice for Residents

Coyotes can become a problem when they are accustomed to humans. Watch for changes in behaviour such as approaching people and aggression and keep the following measures in mind:

- Keep pets under control and on a leash in known coyotes areas.
- Never feed or approach coyotes.
- Store garbage, compost, birdseed and pet food so it cannot be accessed.
- Clean around barbecues, bird feeders and fruit trees.
- Use motion activated lights or sprinklers.
- Remove potential hiding and den sites.

What to do if you have a close encounter with a coyote

- Allow the coyote to escape by identifying and maintaining escape routes.
- Do not turn your back or run.
- Act big, bad and loud - the more dominant you appear, the better.
- Make and maintain eye contact but never approach the coyote.
- Wave your arms or an object such as a jacket or stick over your head.
- Make noise such as yelling, whistling or ringing a bell.
- Surprise the coyote using things like motion lights, sprinklers, pop-up umbrella.
- Keep pets away to avoid creating additional stress for the animal.

If the coyote is acting unusual (approaching people, limping, staggering or acting confused) do not approach, call Urban Biological Services at 306-975-3300.

