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# RSCA Bulletin!

FEB 27, 2021



## Coyotes in Riverside South

It's that time of year again — our local coyotes have entered their breeding season and sightings and interactions are on the rise. We can expect this behaviour to continue until late spring (when pupping ends) and ask residents to review the precautions and steps we can take below.



## City of Ottawa Coyote Guidance

Coyotes are remarkably adaptable and resourceful animals. They help to maintain the natural balance in landscapes where traditional predators no longer exist. Urban coyotes in particular provide a valuable service to us by helping to control populations of animals that might otherwise become problematic, such as rats and Canada geese. With greater understanding and mutual respect, we can coexist with coyotes.

Conflicts between coyotes and humans often revolve around food. Never feed coyotes! This can cause coyotes to lose their natural fear of humans (a process known as “habituation”), increasing the chance of conflict.

Aggression by coyotes towards humans is extremely rare and almost always involves habituated animals. It is not normal behaviour.

If a coyote approaches you:

- stand tall,  
wave

your  
arms  
and  
shout  
at  
it

- do  
not  
make  
direct  
eye  
contact,  
which  
can  
be  
perceived  
as  
a  
threat
- pick  
up  
small  
children  
(or  
small  
pets)  
to  
make  
them  
appear  
less  
vulnerable
- do  
not  
turn  
your  
back  
or  
run  
—  
just  
like  
dogs,  
coyotes  
may  
chase  
you  
if  
you  
run
- back

away  
slowly  
while  
continuing  
to  
shout,  
wave.

Teach your children to react the same way, and to let you know immediately if they have seen a coyote (keep in mind that small children may not be able to tell the difference between a wild coyote and a neighbourhood dog).

### **Dealing with coyotes near your home**

If you see coyotes near your home, make sure they have no reason to hang around:

- keep  
pets  
inside  
or  
closely  
supervised,  
take  
down  
any  
bird  
feeders,  
secure  
your  
trash  
and  
other  
attractants  
(e.g.  
barbeque)
- let  
the  
coyotes  
know  
that  
they're  
unwelcome  
by  
shouting  
and  
waving  
your  
arms  
at

them,  
clanging  
pots  
or  
pans,  
playing  
loud  
music  
or  
(if  
they're  
close  
enough)  
spraying  
them  
with  
water  
from  
a  
hose

- homemade  
rattles  
made  
out  
of  
empty  
pop  
cans  
and  
pebbles  
may  
also  
be  
effective  
when  
shaken  
or  
tossed  
towards  
(not  
directly  
at)  
the  
coyote
- let  
your  
neighbours  
know  
what's  
going  
on,

- so  
that  
they  
can  
take  
similar  
steps
- carry  
a  
flashlight  
when  
walking  
at  
night  
and  
avoid  
wooded  
areas,  
especially  
when  
there  
have  
been  
coyote  
sightings.

### **Coyotes and domestic animals**

Coyotes are naturally aggressive towards dogs, which they typically consider either as prey or as competitors. Dogs that are smaller than coyotes are usually seen as prey, and may be attacked at any time of year. Larger dogs are mostly at risk during the coyotes' breeding season (January-April) due to increased territorialism in defence of mates and pups. Keep dogs on leash when walking them near parks or natural areas, and supervise them closely when letting them out at night.

### **Who should I call when I see a coyote?**

Aggressive behaviour by a coyote towards a human should be reported immediately to the Ottawa Police Service by calling 9-1-1.

If you have been bitten or scratched by a coyote, please call Ottawa Public Health, (or 3-1-1 after hours) to speak with a Public Health Inspector.

All other coyote sightings should be reported to 3-1-1, so the City can track the locations of the animals.

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## If interested in learning more about coyotes:

Preventing and managing conflicts with coyotes, wolves and foxes (Ministry of Natural Resources)

Living with Wildlife: Coyotes (Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

Coexisting with coyotes (Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary)

Coyote FAQs (Coyote Watch Canada)

Coyotes (Hinterland Who's Who)

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## RSS Coyotes on Facebook

There is a local Facebook group that was created to foster awareness regarding co-habitation with wildlife, specifically coyotes in our area. It's a great place to share sightings and any interesting tidbits residents have learned about our coyote neighbours: Co-habiting With Coyotes, RSS, Findlay Creek, Greely, Manotick



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