

Coyotes

The first step in learning to live in harmony with urban wildlife is to understand that animals are by nature opportunistic and will take advantage of any source of food and shelter they can find. By reducing these resources the level of conflicts will naturally decline.

Coyotes are occasionally a concern in rural areas because they may prey on livestock (primarily sheep and fowl). They are also found in urban and suburban areas where there is ample access to food. They are occasionally seen in residential areas but are rarely a threat to human safety.

**More information
is available on the following
websites:**

www.caht.ca

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/nuisance/coyotes.htm

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Coyotes



**Do you
have a
coyote
problem?**

Affix label here

What can I do to make my property unattractive to coyotes?

Animal proof your property, which includes:

- Making garbage and composting inaccessible.
- Only putting garbage out for pick-up on the morning of collection day.
- Securing commercial dumpsters to lessen the attraction to mice and rats, which may become prey for coyotes.
- Not leaving pet-food out at night.
- Keeping all small livestock such as rabbits and poultry properly confined in secure pens, coops or fenced enclosures.
- Supervising small companion animals when outdoors.
- Refraining from feeding or attracting coyotes.



What should I do if I believe that I have a coyote problem?

To help minimize conflicts with coyotes make your property unattractive to them by following some of the suggestions on the previous page. If the problem persists, contact a local wildlife rehabilitator, animal control center, humane society or a humane wildlife control company to discuss humane solutions.

Since wildlife control companies are not government licensed, what should I look for when hiring a wildlife control company?

- Make sure that the company has been in business for a minimum of 5 years, since there is a high turnover of wildlife removal companies.
- Query whether the company is in compliance with the OMNR Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.
- Request an on-site free written estimate.
- Ask if they provide a full range of animal proofing.
- Confirm that the company carries business liability Insurance.
- Ask for a minimum one year guarantee against animal re-entry.
- Ask for referrals.
- Request a referral from your local animal welfare or animal care and control agency.

Why not trap and relocate coyotes?

Under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act wildlife must be released in close proximity to the original point of capture. Trapping is not an effective method of wildlife control. It does not address the primary reason why an unwanted animal is on the property, which is the availability of food and shelter. Unless the attractant is removed, the animal will return or a new animal will move in.

As well, relocation of trapped animals creates a new set of potential problems that include:

- Animals may be released in areas where populations are already at maximum levels.
- Relocated animals may transmit diseases to other wildlife in the release area.
- During certain times of the year the young may be left behind when they are unable to fend for themselves.
- Trapping and relocating animals late in the season prevents them from accessing shelter and food sources, and may result in starvation or death from exposure.

