

# Living with Coyotes in Newfoundland & Labrador

For more information,  
please contact:  
Environment & Conservation  
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[www.env.gov.nl.ca](http://www.env.gov.nl.ca)

**We live in harmony** with most wildlife in Newfoundland and Labrador, often without even realizing it.

Our forests and barrens are home to many animals. Unless we intentionally seek them out, some people can go a lifetime without being aware of their presence.

As long as humans and wildlife respect each others' boundaries, conflicts can be avoided – but we all have to do our part to make sure we don't encourage behaviour that could cause problems for wildlife.



## Are coyotes dangerous?

Like most animals, coyotes usually have a natural fear of people, but they also possess natural intelligence and can quickly get used to life in residential areas as long as they have access to food that's free for the taking.

Although attacks on humans are extremely rare, they can occur if a coyote becomes too comfortable around people and starts associating humans with food.

## If coyotes are near your home, cabin or campsite:

- Never leave edible garbage or pet food outside.
- Limit use of birdseed, and pick up fallen fruit.
- Keep pets indoors, or under supervision when outside. Have pets spayed or neutered.
- Never attempt to tame a coyote by feeding it.
- Contact a Conservation Officer or other authority if you are having a problem with a coyote.

## Be alert in the woods:

- Watch for signs of coyote such as tracks or scat.
- Make your presence known; make noise as you walk, talk, sing, blow a whistle or call out.
- Keep dogs leashed. Dogs running loose can lead a coyote back to you or provoke an attack.



## If a coyote approaches you:

- Stop, remain calm and assess your situation.
- Never approach or crowd the coyote — give it an escape route.
- If the coyote seems unaware of you, move away quietly when it is not looking in your direction.
- If the coyote is aware of you, respond aggressively: wave your arms, shout, and maintain eye contact. Carry a whistle and blow it to startle the animal.
- Throw rocks or sticks at the coyote.

- Carry a walking stick with you for protection.
- If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward buildings or human activity. Do not turn away or run.
- If the coyote attacks you, fight back.



Relative size of coyote compared to adult human

Environment & Conservation  
**Wildlife Division**

