

Coyote

Canis latrans

New predator, new territory

The coyote is one of seven representatives of the *Canidae* family, which also includes wolf, fox and dog. Although coyotes are relative newcomers to the Island of Newfoundland, they have quickly established their niche since their arrival in the mid-1980s.

Coyotes are considered native to Newfoundland & Labrador because they extended their range naturally and through their own efforts.

No other carnivore in recent years has expanded its range as successfully as the coyote, which has moved from the Midwestern United States throughout most of North America in the last 100 years.

Coyotes up close

Coyotes are monogamous, only breeding with one mate at a time. Breeding usually occurs from February to March, producing a litter of 3 to 12 pups about 60 days later in April or May. Coyotes do not form packs, but family groups may stay and hunt together for their first winter.

Ongoing research into the coyote's life history and its impact on other wildlife helps the Wildlife Division make informed conservation decisions on how best to manage this resourceful and intelligent species.

Research biologists collect and analyze coyote carcasses to evaluate the animals' diet and condition. Carnivorous coyotes are opportunistic and will eat anything available, including caribou, moose carrion, snowshoe hare, birds, small mammals, fruits and berries, garbage, birdseed and, on occasion, house pets.

Coyotes are radio-collared and monitored to further investigate their relationships with other wildlife. Predation on adult caribou and calves on insular Newfoundland has been confirmed, but the magnitude of predation and its impact on other wildlife are still being investigated.

Location records of GPS-collared coyotes are examined for patterns to help determine coyote home ranges and habitat use. Current research shows average home ranges to be 258km² for males, and 232 km² for females.

For more information, visit www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife or call (709) 637-2025

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division


Newfoundland
Labrador



Photo: Jim Robertson

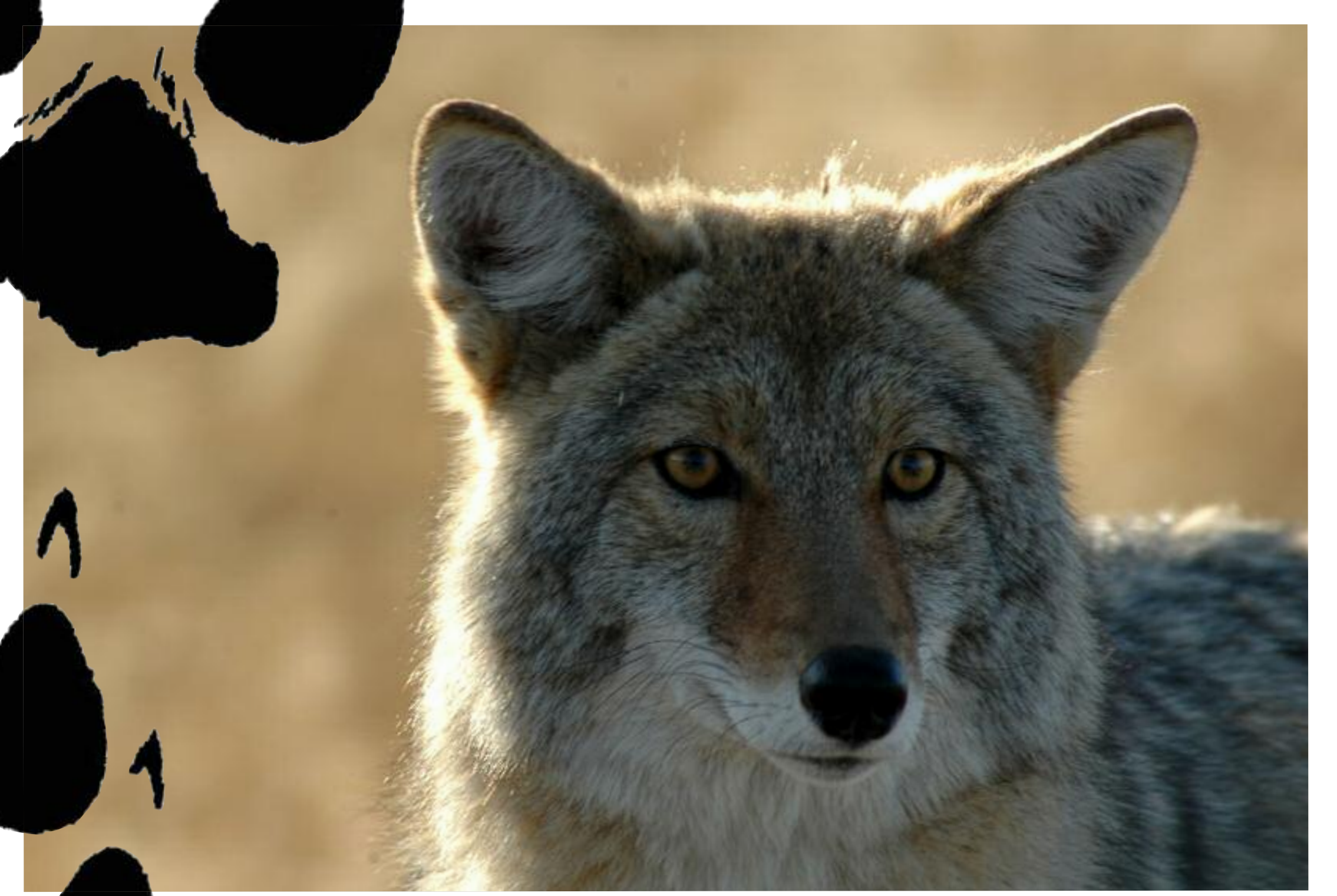


Photo: Jim Robertson

Hunters and trappers play an important role in ongoing research by submitting coyote carcasses to the Wildlife Division for biological sampling. These samples are being used to collect and compare the basic biological information of coyotes harvested from a variety of habitats.



Photo: John Neville



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