

# About Coyotes

The coyote is one of seven representatives of the *Canidae* family in Canada: others include wolf, fox and dog.

A coyote is a medium-sized animal with long legs; a tawny-grey coat with black tips; black-tipped, bushy tail; reddish-yellow legs, paws and muzzle; and white fur on the throat, belly, and inside the ears.

Eastern coyotes are slimmer and smaller than wolves. Unlike most dogs, the top of a coyote's long, pointed muzzle forms an almost continuous line with its forehead.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, coyote home ranges are approximately 258 km<sup>2</sup> (males) and 232 km<sup>2</sup> (females). Average weights are 15.5 kg/34 lb (adult males) and 13.3 kg/29 lb (adult females).

## Dog, Fox or Coyote?

A trotting coyote places its back foot in the print made by the front foot, creating a single, generally straight line of offset prints. Coyote tracks are more oval or elongated than a round dog track, and are usually larger than a fox track.

**DOG**



**FOX**



**COYOTE**



## Are coyotes dangerous?

Coyotes have a natural fear of people. Attacks are extremely rare, and usually only occur if a coyote is too comfortable around people and starts associating humans with food.

### If coyotes are around:

- Do not feed them
- Never leave pet food or edible garbage outside
- Limit use of birdseed, and pick up fallen fruit
- Keep pets indoors or under supervision when outside
- Have pets spayed or neutered
- Contact nearest Department of Natural Resources or Environment & Conservation office

For more information, please contact the Department of Environment & Conservation Wildlife Division  
(709) 637-2025  
[www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife](http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife)



Newfoundland  
Labrador

# Eastern Coyotes in Newfoundland & Labrador



Photo: Jim Robertson





## What is a predator?

An animal that hunts and feeds on other animals is a predator. Some of Newfoundland and Labrador's other predators include the black bear, lynx, and fox. Predators are important in helping maintain the balance of animals living in the wild.

Coyotes can adapt to many different habitats. These carnivores 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.

## New predator, new territory

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

Coyotes were first reported on insular Newfoundland when wolf-like dogs were seen crossing the ice near the Port au Port Peninsula in the spring of 1985. The first confirmed coyote on the Island was a pup hit by a car near Deer Lake in 1987. By the mid-1990s, coyotes were confirmed throughout most of the Island, and in recent years reports from Happy Valley-Goose Bay confirmed coyotes are present in central and southern Labrador.



Eastern coyotes' geographic range from 1890-1990.

## Eastern coyotes are here to stay

**We share this province with coyotes and other wildlife. From time to time, wild animals will venture into communities and cabin areas. Your actions will affect the behaviour of wildlife.**

