

EASTERN COYOTE

Canis latrans



Eastern coyotes have thick fur that ranges in colour from a silvery gray to a brownish red. They have long legs, a pointy snout and a bushy, black-tipped tail. Eastern coyotes typically weigh 30-50 pounds and are 48-60 inches long. Their close relative, the western coyote is approximately half this size. Recent genetic research shows that the eastern coyote's larger size is most likely due to interbreeding with Canadian gray wolves. Their unique behavioral characteristics can also be attributed to interbreeding. Unlike the wolf or domestic dog, coyotes run with their tail pointing down. The average lifespan of a wild coyote is four years.



DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT

Eastern Coyotes can be found throughout most of Northeastern North America. They are dispersed through Ontario and Quebec and the Maritimes.

They prefer forested habitats, shrubby fields and marshy habitats, but can adapt to more populated urban areas.

Their home range is usually between 5 to 25 square miles, depending on food availability.

DIET

Eastern Coyotes are opportunistic feeders, eating whatever food is seasonably available.

The majority of their diet consists of rodents and snowshoe hare, but they will also feed on birds, snakes, fish, berries and larger mammals such as raccoons and deer.

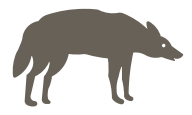
The Eastern Coyote has been known to hunt domestic pets and livestock.

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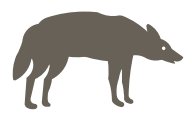
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BEHAVIOR



Eastern Coyotes are social animals with lifelong mates.



They often travel in pairs or in larger family groups; however, some animals may be quite solitary.



Eastern Coyotes are mostly nocturnal, especially during hot weather, but become more active during daytime while rearing their pups.



They will mark and defend their territory against other animals, as well as other coyotes.



Vocalizations such as yipping, barking and howling bring pack members together and indicate threats.



COYOTE FACTS

Both parents help with rearing their young.

They seek shelter in severe weather, but only use dens for raising their pups in the spring.

A coyote will renovate a burrow left by another animal such as fox, but can also dig their own.

Their dens can be found on rocky ledges, brush covered slopes, storm drains or under sheds. They sometimes reuse a den each year.

Eastern Coyotes breed in February, and give birth to a litter of five to seven pups in late April.

The pups begin exploring at three weeks and are weaned by six weeks.



For more information visit:
www.charlottetown.ca