

The Eastern Coyote

QUICK FACTS



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Coyotes have been a part of our urban landscapes for nearly

100
YEARS



THE
AVERAGE
ADULT
COYOTE
WEIGHS
22 to 40
lbs

The Eastern Coyote has a mix of DNA from the Western Coyote and Eastern Wolf and is sometimes called a "coywolf."



Coyotes are cousins to our domestic dogs. They are highly intelligent and can adapt to live in a variety of environments.



Coyotes live in highly structured social family units called

PACKS

Pack members share the duties of pup rearing, hunting and territory protection. Pack sizes vary based on habitat and available resources; on average, a pack includes two to three adults and any surviving pups.



Coyotes communicate by howling, barking, growling and yelping.

Vocalizations send messages of mating, mourning, celebration and warning or distress to pack and non-pack members. Howls are also used to locate pack members. Sometimes, a coyote separated from his family will howl simply out of loneliness.



COYOTES ARE OMNIVORES

Primary food sources include rodents, rabbits, squirrels and carrion. They also eat insects, fruit and grass. In cities, coyotes will eat pet food and garbage.

Family members will separate and regroup in designated rendezvous sites within their territory. When they come together, they greet each other with yips, barks and playful interactions.



THIS IS OFTEN THE SOUND YOU HEAR AT NIGHT WHEN COYOTES ARE YIPPING IN THE DISTANCE.

Dominant (alpha) pairs usually mate for life. If the alpha pair dies, subordinate members will start breeding.

Coyotes are considered a

KEYSTONE SPECIES

They help to keep ecosystems healthy. Coyotes regulate rodent populations, which prevents the outbreak of disease. Coyotes also contribute to avian diversity by keeping bird-eating mesocarnivore populations in check.



Coyote pups are born in the spring.

AVERAGE Litter Size:

5
PUPS



50 - 70%

OF COYOTE PUPS are killed by humans before they reach adulthood