



Living with wildlife: Coyote-proofing your property



What you can do

People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario. Preventing a problem is a far better solution than dealing with wildlife after a conflict.

As a property owner, you have a role in making sure you are not attracting unwanted wildlife to your property.

Preventing encounters

Limit attractants:

- Keep pet food indoors.
- Use secure garbage containers with locking lids and store in an enclosed structure.
- Put garbage out the morning of a scheduled pickup.
- Use enclosed composting bins rather than exposed piles.
- Pick ripe fruit and seed from trees and remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Protect vegetable gardens with heavy-duty garden fences or place vegetable plants in a greenhouse.

Discourage coyotes from entering your property:

- Clear away bushes and dense weeds near your home where coyotes may find cover and small animals.
- Use motion sensor lights.
- Close off spaces under porches, decks and sheds. Coyotes use these areas for denning and raising young.
- If you fence your property, install a two-meter-high fence that extends at least 20 centimeters underground as coyotes may dig under a barrier.

Keeping your pet safe:

- Do not leave small dogs unattended.
- Keep dogs inside at night.
- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Clean up after your dog – coyotes are attracted to dog feces.
- Carry a flashlight when walking your dog at night to scare off coyotes.

For more information and fact sheets on what you can do, visit

ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife



Living with wildlife: Encounters with Coyotes

People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario. As a landowner, you can prevent or address problem wildlife on your property.

Coyotes find their way to residential areas where they may tear open garbage, cause concern for residents and even come into conflict with pets.

Avoiding Coyote conflicts

Coyotes are usually wary of humans and avoid people whenever possible. However, they are wild animals and should not be approached.

People should never feed coyotes. Feeding them makes animals less fearful of humans and habituates them to foods provided by humans. Never attempt to “tame” a coyote.

Do not let pets chase coyotes as it could result in injuries to your pet.

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What to do if you encounter a Coyote

Coyote sightings are commonplace. If you see a coyote, keep your distance and the animal will most likely avoid you.

**If you encounter an aggressive coyote,
there are several things you should know
and do:**

- Never approach or touch a coyote.
- Do not turn your back on, or run from, a coyote.
- Back away from the coyote while remaining calm.
- Stand tall, wave your hands and make lots of noise.
- Carry a flashlight at night to scare off coyotes.
- If a coyote poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 911.



Living with wildlife: **Wildlife and protecting your property**

What can you do?

People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario. As a landowner, you can prevent or address problem wildlife on your property.

Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act sets out actions property owners can take to protect their property from wildlife damage.

You are allowed to harass, capture or kill wildlife that is causing damage, or about to cause damage, to your property (with the exception of some wildlife such as deer, moose, elk and species at risk, which requires authorization from the government). You must not cause unnecessary suffering to wildlife or use poison or adhesives. You must follow other relevant rules (e.g. federal firearms rules, municipal by-laws, trapping rules).

If you capture wildlife

If you capture wildlife, but don't kill it, within 24 hours of capture you must:

- Release wildlife as close as possible within a kilometer from the capture site and in similar habitat wherever possible.
- Deliver it to an authorized rehabilitation facility if injured, sick or orphaned.



No poisons and adhesives

You may not use poisons or adhesives to kill, capture or injure wildlife, including in protection of property. There is an exemption for licensed poisons for the removal of pests such as mice and rats.

You can use an agent

You may use a wildlife control agent to act on your behalf to carry out or assist with wildlife removal. The agent must have authorization from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or belong to a regulated class of agents (e.g. wildlife removal company, licensed trapper).



Checklist for hiring a wildlife control agent

What to do first

- Determine the service you require.

Finding an agent

- Ask friends, family or neighbours for recommendations.
- Do an Internet search for wildlife removal companies, or speak with your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry district office.
- You can also find a licensed trapper by contacting the Ontario Fur Managers Federation at 705-254-3338 or furmanagers@gmail.com
- Set up a building inspection with the agent.
- Ask a lot of questions to get to know the agent and the type of services they provide.

Getting estimates and proposals

- Obtain various estimates; they should include a detailed description of the work to be done.

What should be in the contract?

- Your name, address and telephone
- Agent's name, address and telephone
- Description of the work being performed
- Costs
- Warranty information
- Start and completion date
- Signatures – after you have carefully reviewed the details
- Ask for references from past customers.



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