

# Coyote

*Canis latrans*

Learn about the  
"North American barking dog"

## Basic description:

Medium-sized canine with a grey/brown/tan coat, triangular ears, and a large bushy tail.

## Facts about Coyotes

- Coyotes are omnivores, consuming small prey species, berries and fruit. They are important urban predators and help control rodent populations.
- Coyotes are the most vocal wild mammals in North America, with 11 different vocalizations. A pair of coyotes can easily sound like a larger group due to the variety of vocalizations.
- Generally secretive, coyotes are typically most active early in the morning and late in the evening.
- They are fast! Coyotes can run about twice as fast as a roadrunner and a similar speed to a racing greyhound!



## Habitat and distribution

- Coyotes frequently dwell right under human noses in suburbs and cities. Every major city in the United States has a coyote population.

## Handle-ability

- Remember, coyotes are wild animals. To keep from attracting them, you should NOT feed them or leave food outside. Feed pets indoors and store garbage in wildlife-proof containers.
- The best way to protect your pets is to keep them inside and when they do go out, walk them on a leash.
- If you encounter a coyote, make loud noises such as yelling or clapping. Waving hands, stomping feet or throwing small rocks can also deter coyotes. Report aggressive behavior to authorities.

## Sources:

Treehugger

<https://www.treehugger.com/cool-facts-about-coyotes-4864517>

Animal Diversity Web: University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology

[https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Canis\\_latrans/](https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Canis_latrans/)

Texas Parks and Wildlife DFW Coyote Guidance sheet



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