

Good practices for biodiversity

Coexisting with coyotes



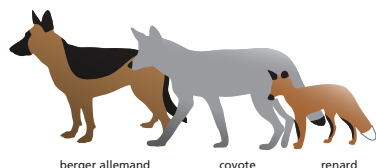
Adapting to a new reality

The coyote plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance. Over the past decades, it has adapted to urban environments although, fundamentally, it fears humans. It inhabits the Island of Montréal since the 1970's. The coyote is a timid animal and does not generally pose a danger to humans.

In 2017, coyotes were observed in certain neighbourhoods, causing some concern. A joint action committee was quickly established and a coyote management plan was created. Based on best practices and leading-edge scientific knowledge, it's goal is to promote safe coexistence with the coyote.

An emphasis on education and targeted intervention

Communication is central to the plan and takes place in collaboration with GUEPE, an organization of naturalist educators and environment professionals. Initiatives such as the Info-coyotes telephone line, media campaigns, patrols in our parks, in-school workshops and door-to-door visits provide citizens the tools to coexist with coyotes (for example, by not leaving food outside to avoid attracting them) and react to coyotes (for example, by acting imposing and by calling the police in case of emergency).



berger allemand coyote renard

Reported behaviours are classified as a function of the risk to public safety, using a grid created by a researcher under contract. It assigns a score ranging from 1 (no risk) to 10 (high risk), depending on

the nature of the animal's behaviour: avoidance, indifference, curiosity, aggressiveness, contact with injury. Low-risk behaviours result in preventive interventions, such as raising human awareness and scaring away coyotes. High-risk behaviours (extremely rare, often by a single problematic individual) result in appropriate actions, such as the capture of the animal.

Standardized data on coyote behaviours and distribution are compiled and analyzed. The fitting of the first transmitter collar on a coyote in 2019, in collaboration with the Québec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, has helped study their movements and better understand their use of territory.

Tips for project success

- Prioritize communications to residents;
- Develop simple and effective tools to collect information on observations;
- Facilitate internal joint action and collaboration with experts from external agencies;
- Make use of the state-of-the-art knowledge and relevant experience of other municipalities.

This initiative contributes to the 2030 biodiversity objectives, particularly:

- the sustainable management of species and the reduction of human-wildlife conflict (target 7);
- the integration of biodiversity protection into planning processes (target 13);
- the availability of reliable and up-to-date information for effective management (target 18);
- the promotion of sustainable behaviours (target 20).

* 2030 Action Targets set in the Zero Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework