

# Coyote

## *Canis latrans*

### Description

The coyote has greyish-brown to yellowish-brown fur on its upper body and whitish fur on its underparts. With large triangular ears, a long, narrow muzzle, a black nose, yellow eyes, and a long, bushy tail.

Often confused for wolves, key distinctions between the two species are: overall size, ear shape and tail posture while running. Coyotes are much smaller than wolves, have pointed fox-like ears and run with their tails down, almost between their legs, while wolves are larger, have more rounded ears and hold their tails straight out while running.

Mating occurs between February and April, and a female may mate with multiple males. Females give birth to 1-6 pups, they are born blind with floppy ears and open their eyes after about 10 days. The male hunts for food, which the female then regurgitates to feed the pups.

At around 3-4 weeks old, the pups start to emerge from their den and are weaned at about one month.

### FUN FACTS

- Male pups leave the mother at 6-9 months, while female pups remain with the mother's pack indefinitely.
- Barks, growls, yips, whines, and howls are different types of vocalizations used for different purposes.
- When hunting larger prey, coyotes work in packs. Some chase the animal while others wait, then switch off to tire the animal out, making it easier to hunt.
- Coyotes form pairs and often mate for several years.



If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.