

Coyote Ecology and Data Maps

Coyotes are opportunistic, intelligent, and social animals that will eat most of what they find. They usually travel and hunt alone but sometimes join in loose pairs to take down prey.¹ They are territorial by nature and rely on established homelands to safely raise their offspring, secure shelter, and acquire food. Coyotes are part of a balanced ecosystem, are adept at surviving in urban environments, and they play an important role in controlling rodent and rabbit populations.

Minimizing human-coyote conflict must address problematic behaviours of both the coyote (e.g. aggression towards people and pets) and humans (e.g. intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes, not removing pet feces from parks or yards, improper garbage disposal, etc.) that contribute to the conflict.²

The term 'hazing' refers to actions that can be carried out by all residents such as waving arms, shouting, using noisemakers, using a garden hose, and/or throwing projectiles towards (but not at) a coyote.

The term 'aversion conditioning' is defined as work carried out by trained professionals and includes more intensive activities intended to modify and direct coyote behavior. This may include installing deterrents, shooting non-lethal projectiles, and proximity work with coyotes to attempt to get them to regain their fear of humans and limit their presence in the area.

Culling or terminating coyotes can create a vacancy in the ecological niche, which can result in new coyotes taking their place, inadvertently increasing populations. Coyotes are also extremely difficult to live trap as they are very suspicious of baited cages and, once relocated, often suffer poor outcomes. These implications must be taken into account when developing a coyote management program and procuring a wildlife contractor.

¹ US National Park Service.

² City of Calgary Coyote Conflict Resolution Guide; Page 6.

Fig 1. Volume of coyote calls received in 2024 by the City of Saskatoon

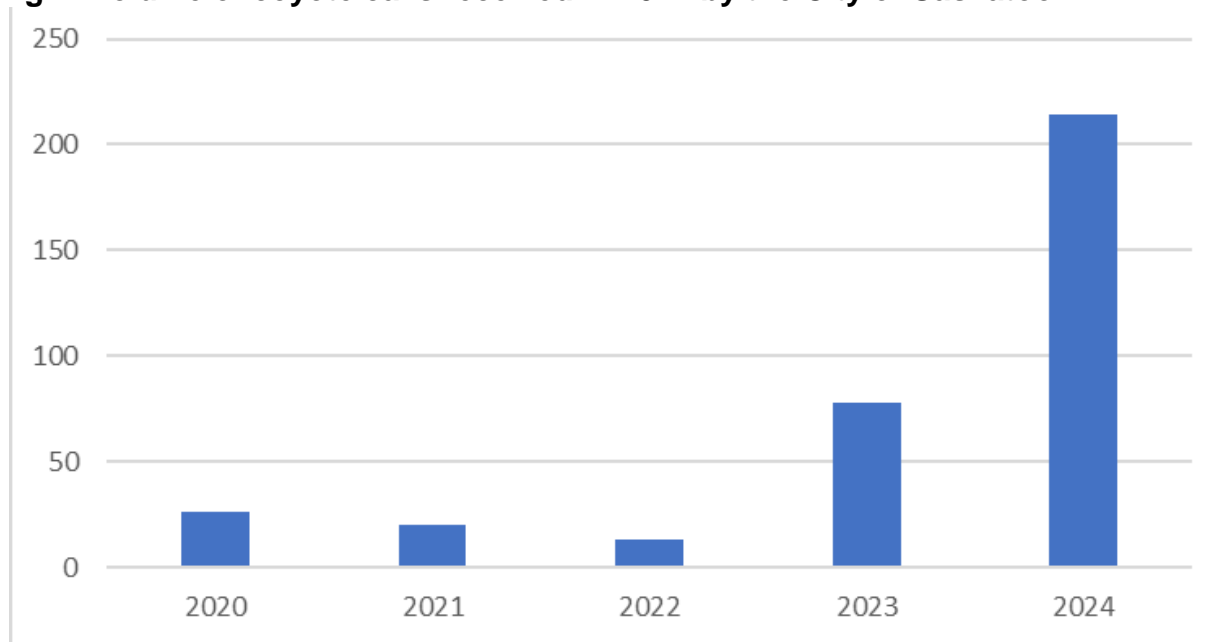


Fig 2. Distribution of coyote calls received in 2024

