Did You Know?

- The name "Coyote" (*Canis latrans*) is derived from the Aztec word "*coyotl.*" They are found in every state except Hawaii.

- Coyotes are found in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from deserts to mountains to urban environments.

- Coyotes typically mate with the same partner for life.

- Coyotes are the most vocal of all land mammals. Their vocalizations are designed to bring individuals together or let other coyotes know their location.
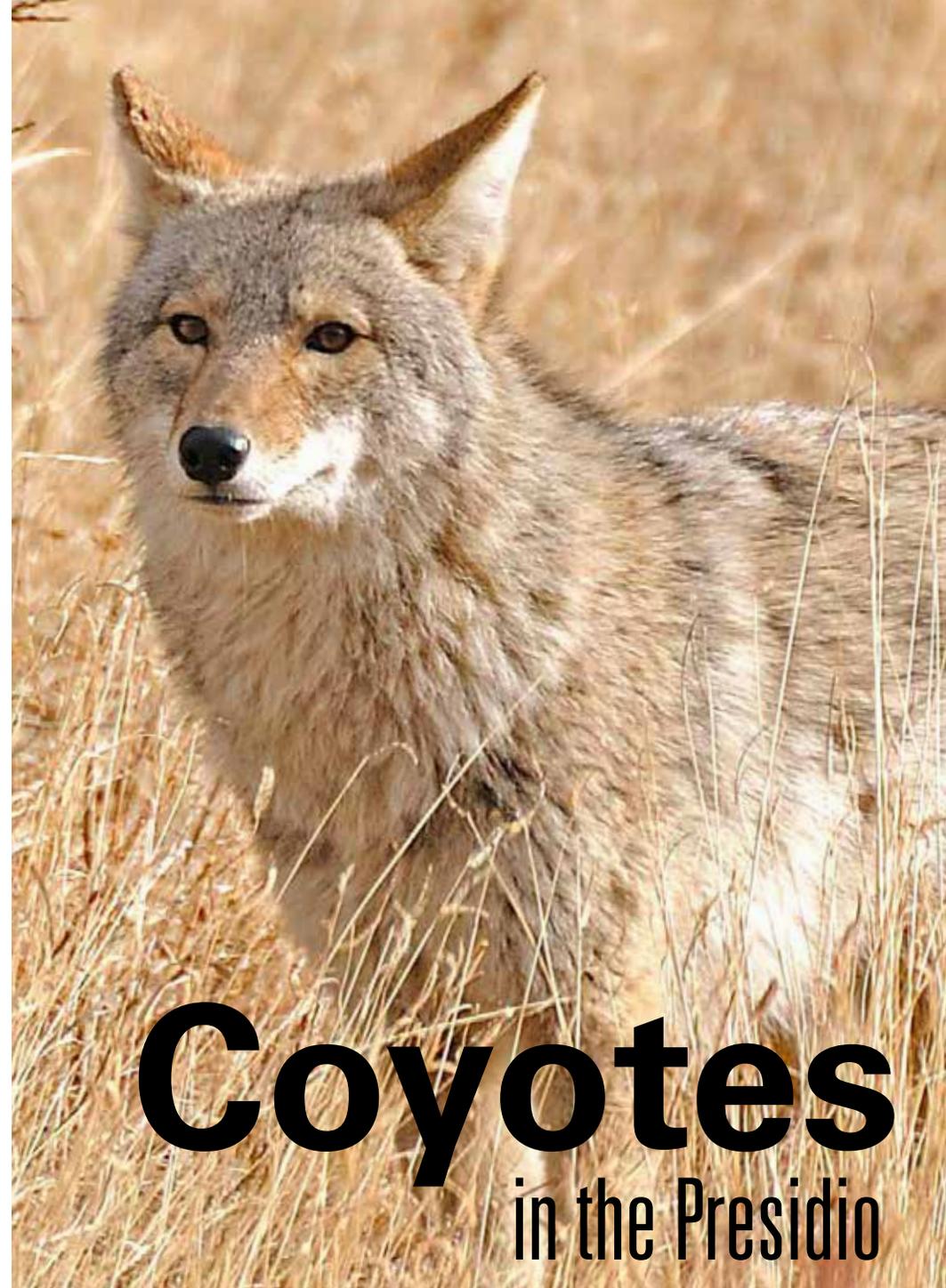
Report a Coyote Sighting in the Presidio

Sightings from the public help us understand the behavior and movements of animals in and near the park so we can improve our management strategies.

Report coyote sightings of concern to:

coyote@presidiotrust.gov

(415) 561-4148

Coyotes
in the Presidio

Presidio Trust

About Coyotes in the Presidio

Why are they here?

Coyotes are adaptable and often live in or near urban areas. They are seen throughout San Francisco and live in most large city parks. The Presidio offers good habitat for coyotes due to its wild food sources, water sources, and green open space. Coyotes feed primarily on rodents and are considered a valuable part of the park's diverse ecosystem.

What is the park doing about them?

After coyotes reappeared in San Francisco in 2002, the Presidio Trust – working with park and wildlife officials throughout the Bay Area – developed a management protocol to promote harmonious coexistence with coyotes. Trust staff, with help from park residents and the public, monitor the movement and behavior of coyotes in and near the park. Our goal is to ensure the safety of people, coyotes, and pets. The Trust has created a hotline for community members to report wildlife observations (see back page). It also conducts outreach to park residents, visitors, and employees.

What do they look like?

- large erect ears, narrow muzzles, and golden brown eyes
- bushy tails held down when the animal is in motion
- reddish-yellow, tan, brown, or grey coloring
- bib-like patch of white fur around lower jaw and neck
- darker grey and black hairs on upper body and lighter cream-colored undersides
- between 20-40 lbs, but often appear heavier due to a thick, double coat of fur

What is their normal behavior?

Coyotes will usually avoid close human contact. Typically they are timid animals with a natural fear of humans. Coyotes can be active at any time of the day or night. They are most visible and vocal during breeding and pupping season, which is January through May. In urban areas coyotes may not be as quick to run in the presence of people, but they are likely to keep their distance in a human encounter. Coyotes are members of the canine family and can be reactive in different ways to the presence of dogs.

What do they eat?

Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores who rely on natural sources of food, but they will scavenge from trash or composting bins if the cans are not secure. In the Presidio, the coyote's primary natural food sources are gophers and other rodents. They also eat fruit and vegetation.

What should I do if a coyote approaches me?

There are occasions when coyotes need to be reminded that they should keep their distance from people. In the unlikely event that a coyote approaches you (or if you have an encounter within 50 feet and the coyote does not move away on its own accord) here are some things you can do:

- Be as big and loud as possible; shout in a deep, loud, and aggressive voice
- Wave your arms and throw small objects (to scare, not injure)

If the coyote continues to approach, do not run or turn your back on the coyote but continue to exaggerate the above gestures.

How can I protect my dog?

The best way to reduce the likelihood of interacting with coyotes is to keep your dog on a short leash and avoid extension leashes.

How do I discourage coyotes from visiting my neighborhood?

- tightly secure garbage and compost bins
- refrain from leaving pet food and water outdoors
- never leave pets unattended outdoors

How can I protect my cat?

The only way to guarantee your cat's safety is to keep it indoors.