

## 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.

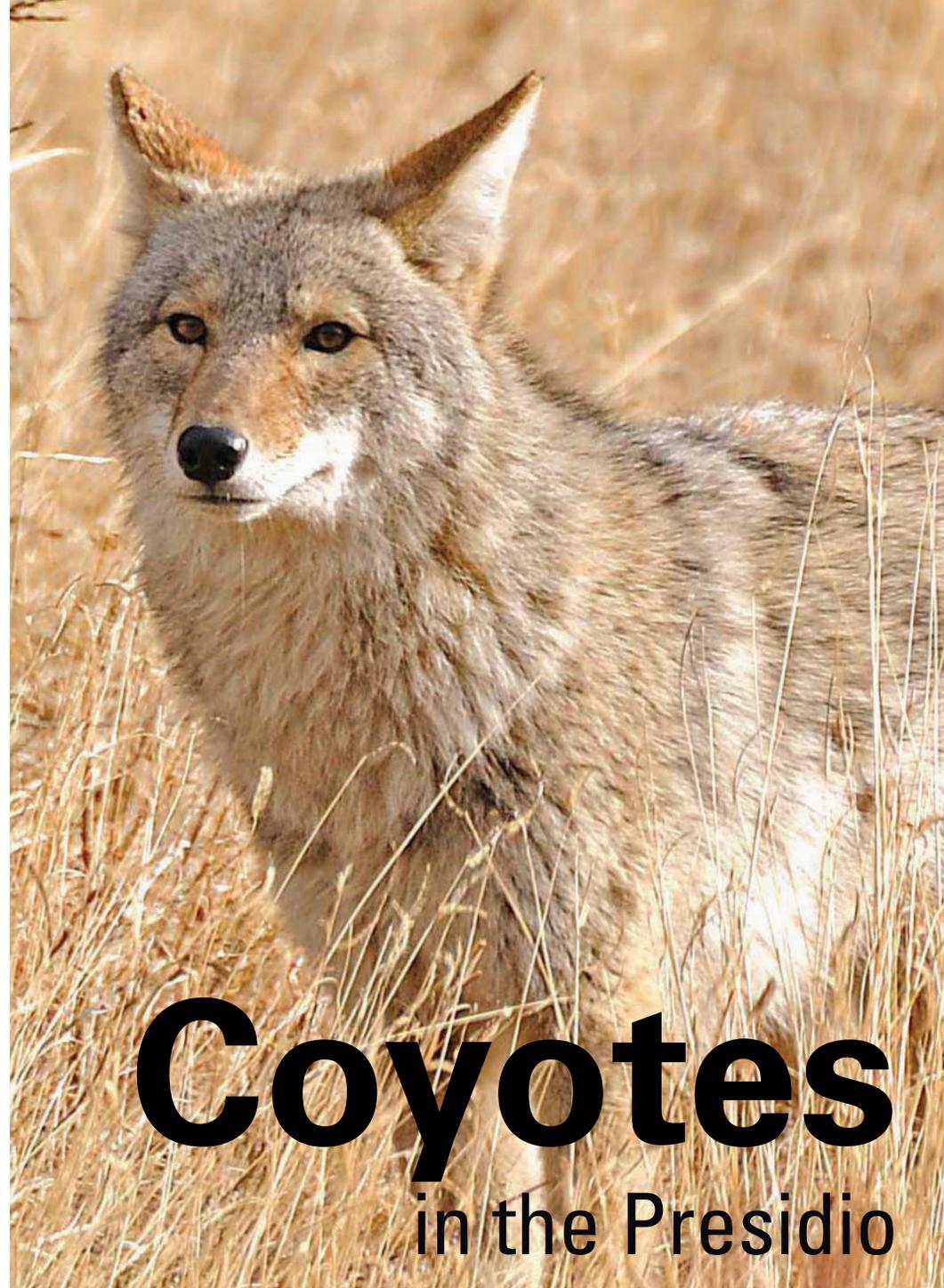
### Report Sightings + Incidents of Concern



Share your coyote sightings on the iNaturalist website ([www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)) or app to help us improve our management strategies.

**Report incidents of concern** (aggressive coyote behavior or visitors feeding a coyote) **immediately at (415) 561-4148 or [coyote@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:coyote@presidiotrust.gov).**

Learn more at [www.presidio.gov/coyote](http://www.presidio.gov/coyote).



# Coyotes

## in the Presidio



Presidio  
Trust

[www.presidio.gov/coyote](http://www.presidio.gov/coyote)

## About Coyotes in the Presidio

### Why are they here?

Coyotes are adaptable and often live in or near urban areas. They're seen throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and live in many open spaces. 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 ecosystem.

### How does the Presidio manage coyotes?

After coyotes reappeared in San Francisco in 2002, the Presidio Trust – working with park and wildlife officials throughout the Bay Area – developed a Wildlife Incident Protocol, which helps us assess wildlife behavior and determine appropriate responses. (**Note: It's illegal in California to relocate coyotes**). Trust staff, with help from park residents and the public, monitor the movement and behavior of coyotes in and near the park. To help with individual animal identification, we place temporary GPS tracking collars and unique colored ear tags on coyotes in the Presidio when possible. Our goal is to continuously improve strategies to reduce coyote and dog/human conflict.

The Presidio Trust has created a hotline (see back page) for the public to report incidents of concern, such as aggressive coyote behavior or visitors feeding a coyote. We also promote the iNaturalist.org website as a way to report sightings to us and the community. Trust staff also conduct outreach to park residents, visitors, and employees.

### What do coyotes 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
- coyotes in the Presidio may have tracking collars and/or colored ear tags



### What is their normal behavior?

Coyotes will usually avoid close human contact. Typically they're 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 typically runs from spring through fall. In urban areas coyotes may not be as quick to run in the presence of people, but they're likely to keep their distance in a human encounter. Coyotes are members of the canine family and can be reactive to the presence of dogs.



### What do they eat?

Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores who rely on natural sources of food, but they'll scavenge from trash or composting bins if the cans are not secure. In the Presidio, coyotes feed on 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 a coyote approaches you (or if you have an encounter within 50 feet and the coyote does not move away on its own), 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. If you encounter a coyote during pupping season (spring through fall) AND you have a dog with you, the best course of action is to leave the area. Coyotes will attempt to drive away dogs from their pups, and hazing may not work.

### 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.

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