

Other Species in the Gardens

(*Canis latrans*) **Coyote**



Although Coyotes regularly hunt in the Gardens, you are more likely to see their tracks than the animals themselves, because they are mainly active at dawn and dusk. Coyotes are one of the few species who have managed to expand their range along with human settlement. Although they commonly hunt small mammals such as voles, mice, and marmots, they will also team up to capture the young of larger ones such as deer. They are also happy to eat carrion and a variety of plant materials.

Our Coyotes belong to a subspecies which occupies the southern third of British Columbia. Adults range in size from 1 to 1.3 metres (39 to 50 inches) and weigh from 10 to 14 kg (22 to 31 lb). They can run up to 110km/hr (70mph) and are good swimmers.

Coyote pairs may stay together for years, raising their pups in a den dug in the ground. Family packs may also contain young of previous years, who help to care for the new ones. Coyotes communicate with each other by howling, yipping and barking. The pups grow quickly and are usually ready to move out on their own in five to six months.