

Eastern coyote

Canis latrans

The eastern coyote is the largest canine found in Pennsylvania. The species is found throughout the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada.

Habitat

- heavily forested northeast & northcentral regions of PA
- dairy & cropland areas
- heavily populated areas like Philadelphia & Harrisburg
- Heavy, brushy cover found along edges between forest & agricultural areas



48-60 Inches

ears erect

keen vision & sense of smell



fur can vary from light blond to reddish blond to gray, dark brown washed with black to black

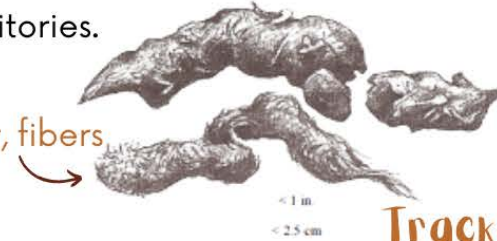
tail held in downward position

Average 45-55 lbs. Adult males are larger and heavier than females

Scat

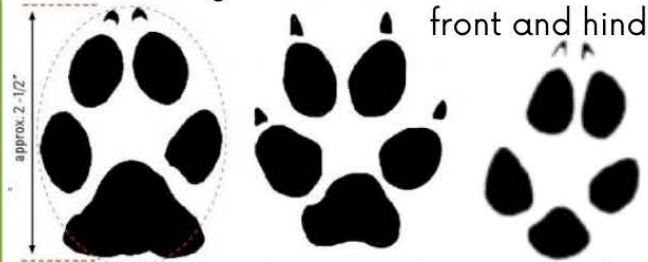
Coyote scat is rope-like, tapered at the ends, and typically filled with hair and bones. Coyotes use scat to communicate and mark their territories.

hair, fibers



Tracks

Coyote footprints are oval-shaped and measure approximately 2.5 inches long by 2 inches wide. They register four toes with claws in both front and hind feet.



coyote front domestic dog coyote hind

Diet

Coyotes are generalists. An analysis of 300 coyote scats collected in Pennsylvania indicates a wide array of food items in the coyote's diet including mammals from at least 13 genera. Rabbits, woodchucks, other small mammals, deer, birds, and insects are important food items. Plant material including fruits occurred in 50 percent of the scats.



Reproduction

Coyotes are monogamous; they maintain pair bonds for several years. The social unit centers around the mated pair and its offspring, transients (ages 6 to 18 months), pre-dispersing subadults (usually less than a year old) and nonbreeding associates that are more than a year old. Normally, females do not breed until their second winter. Litters are born from mid-April to early May, with litter sizes averaging five to seven pups.

Population

Coyotes are found in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania, but are most common in the northern half. Coyotes are well adapted to living among humans which causes increased human-coyote interactions. Coyote attacks on people are very rare.



Visit www.pgc.pa.gov for more information on coyotes in Pennsylvania

