



TOWN OF IPSWICH

Animal Control

17 Fowlers Lane

IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938

Megan Boissonneau

Animal Control Officer
Inspector of Animals

p: (978) 356-6652

f: (978) 356-6625

Eastern Coyote

The eastern coyote is an established species throughout Massachusetts with the exception of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. The Eastern Coyote is a medium sized opportunistic predator. Coyotes are extraordinarily adaptable to a wide range of habitats and will thrive in suburban, urban, and rural areas. Being opportunistic feeders they will utilize any food sources available, whether sources be natural such as rabbits, moles, and small animals, or artificial such as garbage, pet food, bird seed, and compost. Due to the non-existent wolf population in Massachusetts the Eastern Coyote has no natural predators in this area.

Description:

- The eastern coyote resembles a medium sized domestic dog in body shape and size, but has long, dense fur and pointed, erect ears. Their tails are long, bushy, and black tipped. The typical coat color is grizzled gray but can vary from blonde to red or nearly solid black.
- Female: 33-40 pounds
- Male: 34-47 pounds
- A large male can weigh 60lbs, however this would be an exception.
- Coyotes generally appear much larger and heavier than they actually are due to their dense, long coats.

Habits:

- An adult male and female will actively maintain a territory of 2 to 30 square miles.
- Typically shy and elusive
- Frequently seen individually, in pairs, or in small groups
- Communication between coyotes is done through vocalization, scent marking, and a variety of body displays. *It is common to hear howling and yipping-this does not mean they are actively hunting,* coyotes will howl and yip in response to loud noises such as sirens.
- They are active year round-they do not hibernate
- They are crepuscular animals-meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk but *seeing them out during the day is **not an indication of disease.***
- Breeding season peaks in mid-February
- Birth of 4-8 pups takes place in April or May
- Seasonal social units consist of one adult pair and the pups until the pups disperse in late autumn.

Diet:

- Opportunistic feeders-they will feed on anything that is readily available and easiest to obtain.
- Omnivorous diet-rabbits, rodents, deer, birds, insects, reptiles, fruits, and berries.
- They will scavenge roadkill's, animals killed by other animals, as well as garbage and pet food left outdoors.
- They will prey on unprotected pets, including house cats and small dogs.