

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)



Coyote in the Wild



Description

Similar to a small German Shepherd and weighs 25-40 pounds. Long, slender legs, a bushy tail with a black tip, and large ears. The coat is usually gray or buff-colored. Yellow eyes and black, round pupils. A strong swimmer. Characteristically runs with its tail down instead of horizontally like foxes, or up like wolves and dogs.



Life History

Intelligent animal with keen senses of hearing, sight and smell. Primarily nocturnal and opportunistic. Feeds primarily on rabbits, rodents and insects, but also eats carrion, lizards, snakes, fruit, vegetable matter and even fish.

Considered monogamous, with pairs remaining together for several years, although not necessarily for life. Breeds from mid-January to early March. After a gestation period of 63-65 days, a litter of five to seven pups is born.

Habitat

Great adaptability and an acute sense of survival. Its opportunistic nature has provided environmental advantage.

Distribution

Extensive local countywide range. County government has typically paid a \$10 bounty upon bringing in two ears.

