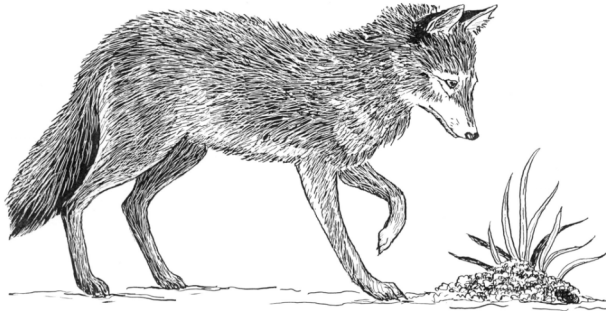


COYOTE

Canis latrans



The coyote belongs to the dog family and resembles a small, slightly built German shepherd, 3 to 4 feet long. The hair and ears of the coyote are longer, and its tracks show that the claws toe-in more than those of a domestic dog. The coyote's shaggy coat is gray or tawny colored, dark on top and paler underneath.

Coyotes have earned their reputation as wily tenacious predators. Their habitat is shrinking due to increasing development in their traditional range in the foothill woodlands and grasslands. However, they have adjusted to life in suburban areas and are surviving on the fringes of well-populated areas.

Coyotes will occasionally attack young sheep or newborn calves, but a coyote is also a valuable predator of rodents and rabbits. Coyotes usually hunt alone or in pairs and generally capture injured or weak animals. Because coyotes also eat carrion, they are sometimes accused of killing animals when they are really performing a useful scavenging job.

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