

# Coyote



- member of the dog family Canidae
- often described as having a "German shepherd-like" appearance
- fur ranges in color from a dull yellow to gray with the throat and belly area light gray or white
- Adult male typically 4 feet long including the tail; weight range, 25 – 42 pounds. Females typically smaller in size and weight.

**Population:** Coyotes are present in every county in Wisconsin, but today the majority of the estimated population of **17,000-20,000** is found in the northern half of the state.

**Habits:** In Wisconsin, coyote home ranges are generally **5-10 square miles** in size. Coyotes are very sociable animals and frequently play with each other. Besides hunting in small packs, they will gather to feed on carrion (dead animals) or just to play.

Although coyotes are primarily nocturnal, it's not uncommon to observe them during the day. As a survival instinct, coyotes became nocturnal when Wisconsin settlers pursued them as game.

**Diet:** Primarily rabbits, small rodents and animal carcasses, but will also eat birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains and other plants.

White-tailed deer carcasses are a principal food source for the coyote in Wisconsin. Coyotes do not commonly prey upon deer, although they are capable of taking fawns and weakened adults.



**Mating:** Mating usually occurs, in Wisconsin, between **February and March**, and although pairs may breed for many years in a row, coyotes do not mate for life. They are fully mature and able to reproduce at age one. A litter of 5-7 pups is born usually in April, after a gestation period of 60-63 days.

Information from: <https://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/html/stories/1999/dec99/coyote.htm>