

# Coyote



## Coyotes in Yellowstone National Park

Coyotes are often mistaken for wolves, but they are smaller. They are about 25 to 35 pounds and 16 to 20 inches tall at the shoulder. They live an average of six years, but can live up to 13. Their diet includes rodents, birds, insects and sometimes elk calves. In April, they hibernate in dens. Coyotes are intelligent and adaptable. They are known as “song dogs” because they communicate with each other using long-range howls and barks.

Coyotes in Yellowstone are found in meadows, fields, grasslands, and along roadways. They are not safe to feed, as they may attack people. For a while after wolves were poached to near extinction, coyotes were the main predators in Yellowstone.

### What did you learn about the coyotes of Yellowstone?

1. Which is larger, a wolf or a coyote?

2. Why are coyotes sometimes called “song dogs”?

3. Where in Yellowstone can you see coyotes? Can you feed them?

