

How many rodents does a coyote eat in a day? I saw one catch 4 in the field (gophers I think) and keep hunting.

AND

We saw a red tailed hawk swoop down to the grass and grab a rodent, not sure if it was a gopher or a mole. How many rodents do they eat in a day?

These two questions arrived at the same time and are in very similar handwriting; so, I'm going to treat them as one.

From a book called "Hunting the Hunters" a coyote needs about 2 – 3 pounds of food per day (let's just call it 2.5 pounds per day).

According to Wikipedia a Red Tailed Hawk will eat about 4.5 ounces of food per day.

According to the websiteofeverything.com an adult Bottas Pocket Gopher (the ones we have here in Foothills Park) weighs about 4.16 ounces.

After doing a little math I can tell you that:

A Red Tailed Hawk will need to eat one (maybe two if they are small) gophers each day.

A Coyote will need to eat about 9 or 10 gophers each day (I watched a coyote one afternoon in the field near the interpretive center catch four gophers over the course of about 20 minutes).

And since they also live here in the park:

A rattlesnake will need to eat about one gopher a week.

A California King Snake will need to eat about the same amount as a rattlesnake.

A bobcat will need to eat about two to three gophers a day.

A mountain Lion will need to eat about 90 – 100 gophers to fill up.

A full grown human will need to eat about 24 gophers a day (yuck).

And just because I think it's an interesting exercise to go through:

A gray wolf will need to eat about 19 gophers a day.

An anaconda will need to eat around 500 gophers all at once, every couple of months or so.

An African Lion will need to eat about 60 gophers every day.

A tiger will need to eat about 1.75 tons of gophers in a year (about 37 gophers a day)

A Great White Shark will need to eat about 3,000 gophers every few days.

The winner of the prize for being the biggest gopher eater ever the African elephant which would need to eat about 1,100 gophers everyday (yes I know elephants don't really eat gophers).