

When are coyote pups born? Do they make dens in the park?

The coyote (*Canis latrans*) is one of the most adaptable predators in the world. They can be found throughout most of Alaska, sub arctic Canada south through all of the United States (except Hawaii) into Central America to Panama.

We definitely have coyotes that live in Foothills Park, or that at least visit here almost every day. There is a strong possibility that coyotes would have a den in the park or somewhere fairly close by. We have not found a coyote den in the park, we have also not looked for one.

Coyotes begin mating in January and are generally done by the end of March. After a gestation period of about two months the female coyote will give birth to 3 – 9 puppies. The puppies are born blind but gain full eyesight by about two weeks of age. The pups will suckle for 5 – 7 weeks but begin eating semi solid food (regurgitated by the dad coyote) at around 3 weeks. At about two months, old the mother has begun teaching the pups to hunt and by fall they are usually hunting by themselves and by the following spring have moved out of the den and have established territories of their own.