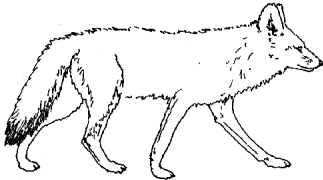


Canine Confusion: Was That a Coyote, Fox, Wolf or Dog?

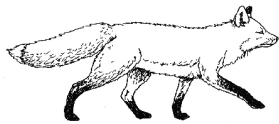
Coyotes, foxes and wolves are all members of the dog family *Canidae*. Coyotes can be found throughout the United States and are quite common in Utah. Several species of fox, such as the red fox, gray fox and kit fox are also found in the state. Coyotes and foxes are mainly solitary and are adapted to a wide range of habitats, including urban areas such as inner cities and suburban neighborhoods. The gray wolf once inhabited much of North America, Asia, and Europe. Currently they can be found in some areas of Alaska, Canada, northern Mexico, the northern United States, and Asia. The gray wolf was once common in Utah, but early settlers exterminated it from the state. Recent reintroductions of the gray wolf have occurred in Idaho and Yellowstone National Park, but reintroductions are not currently planned for Utah. Recent reports, however, suggest that gray wolves may move to Utah from surrounding states in the near future. Wolves mainly travel and hunt in packs.



2 ½ - 3 inches

COYOTE

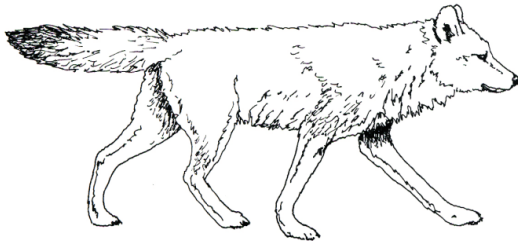
- 4-5 feet long, 1 ½ feet tall
- Medium sized, 25-45 lbs.
- Brownish-gray or light gray to reddish coat
- Long, slender muzzle, bushy tail and triangular ears
- Carries the tail low when running, black gland spot on back of tail
- Tracks single track (back paws, are placed in the front paws tracks)
- Vocalizations are loud yipping or short bark howls
- Scat: less than 1" diameter, and often contains hair



1 ½-2 inches

RED FOX

- 18-30 inches long, 14-20 inches tall
- Small sized, 6 ½ -24 lbs.
- Reddish brown, black or gray coat, with characteristic white tip on the end of the tail
- Elongated body with short limbs
- Tracks single track (back paws, are placed in the front paws tracks)
- Vocalizations are barks, whines, and shrill screams
- Scat: 3/8 to 5/8 inches in diameter and 3 to 6 inches long often contains hair



4-5 inches

GRAY WOLF

- 5-6 feet long, 2 ½ feet tall
- Large sized, 70-120 lbs.
- Gray, black or white coat, with longer hair on neck and shoulders.
- Broad face with wide muzzle, rounded, short triangular ears and long legs
- Carries the tail high when running, black gland spot on back of tail
- Tracks single track (back paws, are placed in the front paws tracks)
- Vocalizations are barks, whines and howls
- Scat: Distinct, cylindrical with tapered fringes of hair, over 1" in diameter, 4-7" long.



Track size varies,
wider center

DOMESTIC DOG

- 5-150 lbs. Vary in size and coloration, coats usually flat & short
- Eyes may be brown or blue
- Most dog breeds have floppy ears that lack fur inside the ears, and short snouts with high foreheads
- Wider hips and chest, shorter legs in comparison to the body,
- When running, a dog's back appears to bob up and down
- Most dog breeds have tails that curve at the tip, especially when walking. Lack black gland spot on back of tail
- Tracks are wide, staggered, not a single track like wild canids
- Vocalizations barks and whines
- Scat: lack hair, contains more cereal matter, varies in size

Drawings Jay Weston
and Sedillo