

bred by a wolf," notes Leigh Hann, a Biology student at Carleton University in Ottawa, "can only be determined by DNA analysis. Animals that result from two separate species are known as hybrids and I have never heard of a specific name as such that is used to describe the hybrids themselves."

Ian Murray of Topsy Farms claims their guard dogs have been attacked and intimidated by the coyotes. He suspects they're not regular coyotes. "I believe Ian in a sense is right about how a 'regular' coyote would not normally intimidate guard dogs," said Hann, "however, a 'regular' Amherst Island coyote has the ability to intimidate, as this is one of the strategies they have developed to access

the Island sheep. This is quite evident by the number of sheep kills at the three Island farms. The coyote has a fascinating mind in their ability to strategize on how to get their prey. All coyotes have similar characteristics on a biological and physical level but the environment they live in also shapes their character," she explained.

Amherst Island beef farmer, hunter and dog breeder Russell McGinn knows the coyote well:

"In the dead of winter, when the snow is deep with a crust on top, the coyote will take advantage of the deer. The weight of the deer will break through the snow's crusty surface enabling the coyote to out run them, jumping on their back, and bringing the deer down. I've seen many killed this way. Coyotes are fierce fighters! It would take three hounds to handle one coyote.

McGinn breeds, trains and runs Fox



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Walker Hounds. The canines are fast and for the most can keep up with coyotes. "I've seen coyotes run from the Head of the Island to the Foot in less than 15-minutes," explains



Chris Kennedy of Topsy Farms
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Russell McGinn with one of his dogs
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