



COYOTE INFORMATION PAMPHLET

This pamphlet is for information purposes only. The Information has been provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources

ABNORMAL BEHAVIOUR

If your home is near a wooded area, ravine or a new residential area where coyotes have been established, it is not unusual to see a coyote. However, if you see a coyote with any of the following behaviours you should call:

Ministry of Natural Resources Area Office - 1-905-562-4147

- Exploring a home or building far from their natural habitat.
- Entering a barn area where large animals are housed.
- Limping or staggering or with paralyzed hind legs.
- Acting confused.
- Injured or deceased.

In the event that a coyote, dog or other wild animal is presenting an **immediate threat to public safety**, residents are encouraged to call the police who can take care of the problem. Ministry of Natural Resources staff can offer information about wildlife and dealing with nuisance problems.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MY CHILDREN AND PETS?

- **Never leave children unattended.**
- **Educate children** not to approach or harass any wildlife or unfamiliar domestic pets. This will reduce the risk of bites or exposure to wildlife-transmitted diseases.
- **Keep cats indoors at all times and keep dogs on short leashes or enclosed in your yard.** Allowing pets to roam at large increases their risk of injury by wild animals, other domestic animals and traffic. The Town of Fort Erie by-laws prohibit dogs running at large.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COYOTES

- The Coyote is a small relative of the wolf averaging in weight between 30 and 40 lbs.
- The colours of coyotes vary from blonde to reds to browns.

Photograph by Michael S. Quinton



- Coyotes are very adaptable and can do well in any area that includes forest areas.
- They inhabit natural valley lands, ravines and parks of large urban centres.
- They provide benefits to agricultural, and urban areas by assisting in the control of small mammals such as mice, rabbits, groundhogs and woodchucks.
- Since the early 1990's there have been increased complaints regarding coyotes in agricultural and residential areas.
- Coyotes are very active at dusk, dawn and throughout the night.
- Coyotes do not hibernate and may be seen all year round.

- Coyotes are generally shy, cautious, and non-confrontational but can be curious and experimental.

Normally coyotes pose no danger to adults, but people should be aware there are potential risks to pets and small children. Coyotes, by nature, are fearful of humans. Attacks by coyotes on people are very rare (only a few documented cases in all of Ontario) – uncommon compared to dog attacks on people. In all known cases of coyote interactions with people the coyote had lost its fear of humans because people were feeding the animals.

COYOTES AND OUR COMMUNITY

The coyote is a natural part of rural and urban areas near ravine or wooded areas. Some residents welcome coyotes as part of the area wildlife, while others are concerned for the safety of their pets, children and families. In many cases, the concern stems simply from seeing the animals.

Coyotes cause problems in rural areas, as they are predators to livestock such as sheep, poultry and calves. In urban areas the concerns relate to damage in garden crops, raiding of garbage and the possibility of them preying on domestic pets such as cats and small dogs.

RABIES

Residents have also expressed concerns about coyotes carrying the rabies virus. All warm-blooded animals are potential carriers of the disease among wild animals. There is a 50% higher chance of a dog or cat exposing people to rabies than coyotes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

It is important to note that there are only a few documented cases of coyotes attacking people in Ontario.

If you are walking in an area known to have coyote activity here are some suggestions:

- Walk in small groups.

- Carry a personal audible alarm and flashlight or umbrella, which can be opened to scare them off.

If a coyote approaches you, stay calm and wait until they move on. You can make a loud noise to scare them off, but do not run.

PREVENTING COYOTE PROBLEMS

- **To prevent coyotes from entering your yard, enclose it with a solid fence preferably six feet high.**
- **Properly store and maintain garbage containers.** This will prevent raccoons, skunks, cats, dogs and coyotes from becoming a nuisance. It will also discourage the presence of small rodents, which are an important food source for coyotes.
- **Remove pet food left outside.** It will prevent coyotes and other wildlife animals from being attracted to your property.
- **Avoid composting meat products.** The smell of the meat composting will attract them to your property/area as a food source.
- **Do not approach or feed coyotes.** Coyotes are wild animals, but can become more comfortable with humans as a result of regular contact. The contact may be more frequent between coyotes and humans if they are fed or otherwise encouraged to stay near residential areas.
- **Remember that bird feeders attract birds, squirrels and rodents,** which may attract coyotes
- **Use motion-sensitive lights in yards or gardens.** Well-lit yards or the use of motion-sensitive lighting will make a property less attractive for coyotes and other nocturnal wildlife.
- **The use of whistles, yelling and personal alarm devices can be used to frighten an approaching or threatening animal.**

If you have a problem, visit our website at: town.forterrie.ca - COYOTE