



## **'Be Coyote Aware' - Safety Tips**

Coyotes are members of the dog family and common throughout all of North America. They are curious, vocal, adaptable and intelligent. Coyotes mate for life, are devoted parents, and may be more protective of dens/territories during pup rearing season (Apr-Aug). Coyotes eat large numbers of rodents and rabbits, as well as fruit, vegetation, insects and carrion. They help keep ecosystems vital, healthy and clean. Coyotes are naturally wary of people and attacks are rare, but coyotes can habituate to our presence and seek food wherever available. Hazing, or scaring off a coyote, is the best way to change this behavior. Please become familiar with these safety tips and share them with neighbors to help increase comfort and decrease conflicts with coyotes.

### **KEEP YOUR AREA COYOTE FREE**

- **Never feed a coyote – it's illegal!** One of the most important things we can do is to limit their food and water sources
- Ensure kitchen trash and food scraps are always secured in a bin where coyotes can't get into them; never leave a trash bag outside
- Do not feed pets outdoors, or if you must, remove uneaten food and water immediately afterwards
- Clean up under fruit trees and spilled seed under bird feeders: squirrels and other rodents congregating under bird feeders create attractive hunting grounds
- Close off crawl spaces under decks, porches and sheds to remove places for denning/raising pups
- Report roadkill to the VOM Public Works department for removal (914) 777-7745

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE**

- **Never run or turn your back on a coyote - haze it!**
- Yell and wave your arms while approaching the coyote: be "Big, Bad and Loud"
- Make loud noises with whistles, air horns, or "shaker" cans full of marbles or pennies
- Throw sticks, small rocks, tennis balls or rubber balls in the vicinity of the coyote, not directly at the coyote
- If the coyote stands and stares, or runs a short distance and stops, hazing should be continued until the coyote gets the message and finally leaves

- *Don't haze a coyote:*
  - if you think it's sick or injured, call the VOM police department (914) 777-1122
  - during pup rearing season if you might be near a den/pups, give them room and leave the area
  - if the coyote is at a safe distance away

### **CHILD AND PET SAFETY**

- **Small children and dogs should not be left outside unattended.** Keep cats indoors. When cats roam free their risk of injury or death is greatly increased
- Avoid walking dogs at dusk or dawn when coyotes are usually the most active. Dogs should be kept on a leash 6' or less in public; if you must be out at that time consider carrying hazing implements
- If you encounter a coyote while walking with your child or pet, maintain eye contact, do not turn your back on the coyote and do not run. Running away can trigger a coyote's prey drive and may cause it to chase you
- Coyotes jump and burrow. To keep them out of yards, 'coyote-proof' fences must be at least six feet tall with a roll bar on top and extend all the way into the ground

***Report all coyote sightings to the Village Manager's Office at: (914) 777-7703***

***For more information, go to:***

***<https://www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/coyote-ad-hoc-committee>***