



COYOTE ADVISORY

June 13, 2013

Please be advised that there have been coyote sightings within the County of Monmouth. Most recently, sightings have occurred in the central coastal areas of the county. These sightings have not been localized within any specific neighborhood.

Coyotes are naturally wary of humans. However, their behavior changes if given access to human food and garbage. They will lose their natural fear of humans, which may threaten human safety, endanger domestic pets and cause property damage.

COYOTE DESCRIPTION

The coyote is a wild member of the dog family and closely resembles a small German Shepherd; the coyote, however, differs from the German Shepherd in that the coyote has a long snout and a bushy, black-tipped tail. In addition, the coyote has a habit of holding its tail below a horizontal position while standing, walking and running. In New Jersey, adult coyotes range in weight from 20-50 lbs., with exceptionally large ones weighing up to 55 lbs. Eastern coyotes, seen in our area, are generally larger than their western counterparts, and are more varied in their color, i.e. may be blonde, red and black in addition to gray.



COYOTE



FOX



GERMAN SHEPHERD



COYOTE PRECAUTIONS

- Never feed a coyote. This puts pets and other residents in the neighborhood at risk.
- Do not feed pet cats and/or feral cats outside. This can attract coyotes, which will eat the cat food AND prey upon the cats.
- Put away bird feeders at night, and remove seed which has fallen to the ground without delay.
- Do not place or throw food on the ground in an attempt to feed birds.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles; Keep garbage in tightly closed containers.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry and other farm animals.
- Do not leave pets outside unattended, especially at night. Walk your dog on a leash.
- Clear brush and dense weeds from around dwellings. This will reduce protective cover for coyotes and make the area less attractive to rodents and rabbits (natural coyote prey).
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the exterior property.
- Although extremely rare, coyotes have been known to attack humans. Parents should monitor their children at all times, even in familiar settings, such as backyards.
- If coyotes are present, make sure they know they're not welcome. Make loud noises, blast a canned air siren/horn, throw rocks, spray them with a garden hose.
- When going outside to walk or jog, make sure you have something on your person that can be used to scare a coyote away, should one be encountered...i.e. air horn, whistle, etc.

*** If a coyote is observed in the daytime that shows no fear of humans, is exhibiting aggressive or rabid-like behavior, or if a coyote attacks a person, contact the police department immediately.