



CITY OF RYE FACT SHEET RE: COYOTES

Residents of Rye take great pride in the natural endowments of our community: one-fifth of the City's land is dedicated to recreation and conservation. It is important to remember that we share these areas with the animals that inhabit them; a variety of animals are found within our community, including deer, fox, rabbits, raccoons, and coyotes.

Coyotes are hunters, and primarily feed on rodents, insects, and small animals, including rabbits, squirrels, and small deer. They are normally timid around humans, but some coyotes in suburban areas have lost their fear of people, which can be dangerous. It is important to act aggressively to maintain that natural fear.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- If you encounter a coyote, be aggressive. Loud noises and forceful behavior will normally scare the animal away. Wave your arms and throw sticks or stones.
- Do not feed coyotes.
- Do not provide food sources that may attract them, such as outdoor pet food or bird seed. They may be attracted by the birds and rodents drawn to bird feeders.
- Make garbage inaccessible.
- Do not allow pets to run free. Coyotes can see cats or small dogs as prey (coyotes' average weight is 35 pounds; they will usually yield their territory to mid-sized or larger dogs). Conflicts are most frequent in March and April, when coyotes are establishing their dens.
- Small children should be supervised by an adult while outdoors.

Coyote attacks on humans can happen, although they are rare (for example, in an average year in New York State, 650 people are hospitalized and one killed in dog attacks, vs. a handful of coyote attacks nationwide). The mere presence of coyotes in our community is part of the ecology of the area, and not dangerous in itself; however, the animals' behavior should be monitored to ensure that they are not acting dangerously or aggressively, or exhibiting a lack of fear.

Unusual coyote behavior should be reported to the City of Rye Police Department at (914) 967-1234 so sightings can be recorded and officers dispatched if necessary. Attacks or emergency situations should be reported via 911.

Additional information on coyotes can be found on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6971.html>