

# Coyote likely jumped fence to kill family's beloved dog

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Tucker's ribs had punctured his lung and the vet told them they needed to rush him to the emergency hospital in Guelph.

They were just west of Georgetown when he died.

Buck wants to ensure that nobody else's pet is attacked like Tucker was.

"He did not deserve to die so violently," said Buck. "If we had known that a four-foot chain link fence was not enough to protect our dog we would never have let him out by himself. Tucker was eight and we have lived on the ravine for 18 years. We have never had any problems before."

They found large paw prints along the fence line and also in their yard, which they believe could belong to a coyote.

She said a friend saw a coyote chase a deer on Morden Neilson Way a few days after Christmas, she's heard a number of cats had gone missing near the ravine, and that someone had their puppy snatched by a coyote just 10 feet away.

"Something came over the fence. I don't want this to happen to someone else. Some of my neighbours don't have fenced yards."

She urges everyone to watch their dogs at night.

Jolanta Kowalski, a media relations

spokesperson with the Ministry of Natural Resources, said it could have been a coyote that killed the Buck's dog, but it's difficult to say because the MNR didn't investigate the incident.

"Cats and small dogs could be seen as small prey for coyotes," said Kowalski.

She said coyotes have adapted "really well" to urban areas across North America.

A coyote attack on a dog in a backyard is "not a regular occurrence, but it's not unusual."

She recommends people take steps to avoid having anything outside that could attract a coyote to a property, including garbage, pet food or fruit that has fallen from trees.

She said to protect pets, fencing should be at least six feet tall with the bottom extending six inches under the ground.

"Coyotes are primarily nocturnal. Keep pets inside at night, or go out with them."

Spay or neuter your dogs. Coyotes are attracted to, and can mate with, domestic dogs that have not been spayed or neutered.

For more information on coyotes living within urban areas visit the ministry website at [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/FW/2ColumnSubPage/271326.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/FW/2ColumnSubPage/271326.html) or go [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca) and search coyotes.

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