

# MNR issues coyote warning to local residents— family pets are at risk

With the chance of coyotes coming closer to humans at this time of year as they're looking for food or breeding the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) reminds area residents to keep their pets on a leash when they're out walking them.

MNR suggests residents take several steps to ensure coyotes aren't attracted to their property and to keep themselves and their pets safe.

- Don't approach or feed coyotes. Feeding them makes the animals less fearful of humans and habituates them to food provided by humans.

- Aggressive behaviour towards people is unusual for coyotes, but people should always exercise caution around wildlife. Never attempt to tame a coyote.

- Do not turn your back on or run from a coyote. Back away from the coyote while remaining calm. Use whistles and personal alarm devices to frighten an approaching or threatening animal.

- Properly store and maintain garbage containers to help prevent coyotes from

becoming a problem. Place trash bins inside an enclosed structure to discourage the presence of small rodents, which are important food source for coyotes. Put garbage at curbside the morning of the scheduled pickup, rather than the night before.

- Use enclosed composting bins rather than exposed piles. Coyotes are attracted to dog and cat waste, as well as products containing meat, milk and eggs.

- Pick ripe fruit from fruit trees and remove fallen fruit from the ground and keep bird feeders from overflowing.

- Fence your yard. Clear away bushes and dense weeds near your home, where coyotes may find cover. Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks and sheds

- Keep pets inside at night. Keep all pets on leashes or confined to a yard. Keep cats indoors. Always walk your dog on a leash.

- Spay and neuter your dogs as coyotes are attracted and can mate with dogs.

- Farmers should consider guard animals such as donkeys, llamas and dogs to



protect livestock from coyotes.

For more information visit <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/FW/2ColumnSubPage/271326.html>

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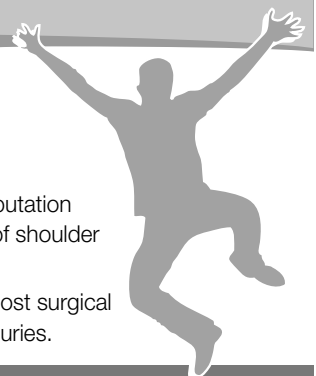
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