

DOGS SENT TO VET WITH BRUISES

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smart thing to do," Marschal said, who was wearing hiking boots and jeans at the time of the encounter. "If I got bit I'd have to go get a rabies shot."

The coyote moved in on Marschal's shih tzu three times as she retreated toward her yard.

"The dogs were shocked. They didn't know what to do," Marschal said.

Marschal, who has lived on Dawson Crescent for about nine years, said she's no stranger to coyotes, but after an encounter with a persistent canid, she said she wants people to take caution when walking in Hungry Hollow.

Marschal's dogs were cleared after a trip to the vet with only bruises.

According to Coyote Watch Canada, a not-for-profit, volunteer group dedicated to human-wildlife coexistence, coyotes aren't generally bold. While raising their young they may shadow visitors in their territory, but if they've been fed by people they may be more inclined to demand food.

A study, according to Coyote Watch Canada, suggests that less than two per cent of a coyote's food was domestic animals.

"It's not general behaviour to find aggressive coyotes," Emily Funnell, a

THE ISSUE:
COYOTE ATTACKS DOG ON LOCAL TRAIL

LOCAL IMPACT:
RESIDENTS SHOULD BE MINDFUL OF WILDLIFE THAT COULD POSE A THREAT TO THEIR PETS AND PERSON.

management biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources, said. "Coyotes are generally very wary of humans and avoid people whenever possible."

Though what humans might leave outside, like garbage, may attract canids. Funnell said this year, the ministry has only received one report of an aggressive coyote in Halton Hills.

"When coyotes become less wary of humans it's because there is something that's attracting them," Funnell said.

Residents can reduce coyote encounters by securing household garbage, eliminating potential denning sites on their property, and minimizing sources of water and food for coyotes.

"Coyotes will eat ber-



TorStar File Photo
A woman in Georgetown kicked a coyote when it grabbed her dog.

ries, nuts, and seeds," Funnell said. "They're not just carnivorous."

At this time of year, Funnell said, a female coyote may appear more aggressive while protecting her young pups.

Residents who encounter coyotes should contact the police (905-825-4747) if there is an immediate threat to safety. To report nuisance wildlife, residents can contact the Ministry of Natural Resources (905-713-7400).

"We work closely with municipalities, but we don't go out and respond to nuisance coyotes," Funnell said.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY:

We received a tip about the coyote attack on a popular walking trail in Georgetown, we followed up by talking to the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Town of Halton Hills, as well as Coyote Watch Canada, on the how to deal with a nuisance coyote.

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