



## Coyotes within Our Borders.

Over the past few years, Coon Rapids has experienced coyote sightings and related activity. With the proximity of pockets of undeveloped land, wooded areas like the Coon Rapids Dam, and many city parks, opportunistic coyotes have found locations to thrive in. Many

suburbs in Minnesota and even cities like Los Angeles and New York have coyotes co-existing among humans.

### Some facts about coyotes

Coyotes live in conditions ranging from deserts to dense forests. But they are highly adaptable to changing conditions and live just about anywhere they can find food. They hunt for rodents, birds, frogs, snakes and will eat foxes or small deer. If live prey is hard to find, they feed on berries, fruit, grass and even dead animals. As they edge toward human populations, they prey on livestock, attack pet dogs, cats and scavenge on garbage.

Mostly grey in color, the coyote resembles a small Collie or German Shepherd. It weighs between 25-35 pounds, has erect pointed ears, a slender muzzle and sports a bushy tail. In areas where they are hunted, they are wary of people. However, in urban and suburban areas, they associate people with an easy and dependable source of food.

### Some steps to take to reduce human-coyote conflict

- Do not feed Coyotes
- Do not leave pets outside unattended for long periods of time.
- Walk your dog with a leash and don't allow them to run free in recreational and wooded areas.
- Do not leave pet food or garbage outside. Secure your garbage cans and eliminate garbage odor.
- Bird feeders should be positioned so coyotes can't feed on them. They are attracted to bird seeds and birds feeding at bird feeders.
- Trim and clean shrubbery to reduce cover or hiding places for coyotes.
- If you see coyotes frequenting your yard, discourage them by shouting, making loud noises or chasing them away.

By making life more difficult for coyotes, you will increase the likelihood that they will leave your area.

## **Some important reminders**

Although coyotes are a threat to domestic pets, they are not a threat to humans. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there has never been a documented coyote attack on a human in Minnesota. If you enjoy seeing coyotes, use binoculars and don't provide a habitat that will lure them closer.

All wild animals are unpredictable and caution should be observed when they are around.

**Call 9-1-1 if you see a coyote acting aggressively.**

**City Code 7-205 prohibits discharging and use of dangerous weapons.**

This information is provided to you by the Coon Rapids Police Department to address coyote activity in Coon Rapids. We hope to provide you with awareness and education in dealing with coyotes. If you have further questions, please contact the Coon Rapids Police Department at 763-767-6481.