

COYOTE PRECAUTIONS

There have been more coyote sightings in and around our neighborhood. I know they are living in the park next door and are always on the prowl, but it's when we actually see them, that we become aware. We need to be diligent and take precautions to protect our pets, even when we don't see coyotes. They are on the prowl 24/7, and are NOT nocturnal.

Just recently, a resident shared with me that a coyote was in their yard apparently looking for a feral cat that frequents their home. The coyote took off, most likely chasing the cat, but quickly returned. It seems it wasn't successful in its quest the first time. But with the cat nowhere to be found, the coyote ran off and wasn't seen again, at least for that night.

When walking your pets in the evenings, no matter how big or small they are, be aware of your surroundings, and be sure your pet is leashed. I read that mixing vinegar and water in a spray bottle may deter a coyote if one is encountered on your evening walk. And, of course, there are many other coyote deterrents available at pet stores, Amazon, etc.

If your yard isn't fenced, be sure to walk your best friend on a leash, day or night. Even if your dog or cat stays by your side while outside a coyote could quickly catch you off guard, snatch its prey and be gone before you know it.

Don't leave food outside for feral cats, or any other wild animals. It's an invitation for coyotes to visit your yard. They may be looking for food themselves, or waiting for prey that is accustomed to eating food that is left outside for them.

I have also read that banging pots and pans, waving your arms, bull horns, or yelling can frighten the coyote and it will take off. However, once the noise making has ceased, and you return inside, the coyote may come back, especially if there is, or was, prey around your home.

Coyotes are predators, always looking for prey, whether it's our pets, animals living in the park, or resting on our lawns at night. Just be cautiously aware of your surroundings at all times.

Hope this helps.

*Submitted by Barb Kanehl
Neighborhood Watch
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