

COYOTE AWARENESS



RECOGNIZING COYOTES

Coyotes resemble dogs, and are often mistaken for German Shepards or wolves. They are recognized by their shaggy greyish-brown coats and 15-50 pound frame, coupled with a unique howl.

COYOTES ARE PREDATORS

They play a key role in the balance of the ecosystem: coyotes are top-level predators. Though they are omnivores, the majority of a coyote's diet consists of rodents and other small mammals. These nocturnal animals are wary and often driven by hunger.

THEY LIVE HERE

Native to North American, Eastern coyotes don't just appear in forests or fields. They are also present in suburbs and cities. Keeping garbage, fallen fruit, food waste, and pet feces cleaned up will deter close encounters in residential areas.

COYOTES OFTEN APPEAR

Vocalization and sightings increase between January and May, and then again in the fall. Be sure to keep an eye on pets and small children; rabies is rare in coyotes, but they can mistake small pets as prey and children as threats.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Never feed a coyote
- Clean up leftover food
- Keep pets leashed
- Respect their space

ENCOUNTER TIPS

- Never run or turn away
- Pick up pets/children
- Slowly walk backwards
- Wave arms/clothing
- Yell loudly
- Throw/shake objects

REMEMBER:

The coyote is likely scared of you, but it is a wild animal.

Act with caution.



Courtesy of Grand Island Town
Supervisor Nate McMurray

For more information,
call the DEC Regional
Wildlife Office at
716-372-0645 or visit
www.dec.gov