

Coyotes

There have been several recent reports and incidents involving coyotes in the Village. There are no known incidents of these animals attacking humans in Illinois. Pets like dogs and cats are at risk though. Some diseases can be transferred to dogs from coyotes.

The animals may act more aggressively when they are guarding a den with their young. April and May are frequently the time when pups are born. Coyotes may be most protective then and in the following months as the pups grow.



Here are some basic safety guidelines to follow for your safety and the safety of your pets:

- Do not feed coyotes.
- Limit the availability of unintentional food sources on your property such as easily accessible bird food, pet food, ripe fruit, and trash.
- Use squirrel-proof bird feeders. In a suburban environment coyotes naturally feed on mice, voles, rabbits, and woodchucks. When natural prey populations decline, it has been shown that squirrels that visit bird-feeders become easy prey for coyotes.
- Off your property, dogs and cats must be on a leash. Do not leave small pets unattended when they are outside. Consider the use of fencing or kennel runs to protect small pets. Fences and kennel runs require Village permits and may be restricted or prohibited by homeowner's association rules.
- Keep your pets' shots up to date.
- Some coyotes become accustomed to human activity and may approach close to buildings, people, or pets. Cats and small dogs should be observed closely and placed in fenced areas (yards, kennels) when coyotes are known to be present.
- Safety procedures for dealing with coyotes are different than those for dealing with a strange dog. If a coyote approaches you, do not run. Yell, stand up straight and wave your arms (the goal is to make yourself appear larger), or throw something at the coyote to scare it away.

Recognize that coyotes are a permanent fixture in Illinois' rural, suburban and urban areas. Seeing a coyote(s) cross a field, backyard, golf course, road, etc. does not necessarily constitute a problem or a dangerous situation for humans or domestic animals.

Recognize that coyote population reduction (removing some or all of the coyotes in an area) is usually unrealistic and always temporary. Removal of coyotes also requires time, effort and funding. Removal can only be authorized by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) District Wildlife Biologist.

Where removal of a coyote is deemed necessary, only a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator who is licensed by the IDNR is authorized to handle the removal.

A more comprehensive listing of information including contacts for IDNR District Wildlife Biologists and Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators can be found at:

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/directory_show.cfm?species=coyote