

Removal

The question has been asked as to why the Police Department will not capture and remove these animals.

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, trying to reduce and control the coyote population will not work. The void created by a coyote's death or removal will be filled within three to four weeks. Unless an animal has demonstrated aggressiveness toward a human or a domestic pet, the coyote should be left alone. In the event of aggressiveness, the Western Springs Police Department would contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for a licensed trapper to address the problem animal.

If you observe any animal that appears to be injured, sick or displaying aggressive behavior, please call the Police Department at 708-246-8540.

Coexisting with Coyotes

- Do not feed any wild animals such as raccoon or deer, which encourages coyotes as well. Garbage should be stored in secure containers.
- Remove bird feeders and outside pet food containers. Coyotes will prey upon small mammals that are attracted to birdseed and pet food.
- Don't allow pets to run free and keep a watchful eye on them.
- Clear wood piles, brush piles and other potential cover for coyotes.
- Reinforce the coyotes' natural fear of humans by turning on outside lights, making loud noises, throwing rocks and so forth. Be aggressive in your actions. Although the response may not be immediate, eventually the coyotes will flee.
- Encourage your neighbors to follow the same advice.



Village of Western Springs

Department of Law Enforcement Services
Pamela Church, Director
740 Hillgrove
Western Springs, IL 60558

Phone: 708.246.8540
Fax: 708.246.3609
E-mail: pchurch@wsprings.com

Village of Western Springs



Living With Coyotes Information Pamphlet

*Department of Law
Enforcement Services*

www.wsprings.com

General Information

Over the past several years, coyote sightings have become more prevalent within the Village and surrounding communities. Although you may be shocked to see a coyote running through the Village it is not unusual.

Many wild animals, including the coyote, adapt very well to urbanization and can cohabit with humans. Some people have expressed concern about this animal attacking children and pets. Attacks by coyotes on humans are extremely rare. The animal is very skittish and tends to shy away from direct contact with humans. It is worth considering that no documented case of a coyote biting a human has been reported for Cook County. Contrast that result with domestic dogs, in which Cook County often records 2,000 to 3,000 dog bites each year.

Coyotes will be more active at dusk, dawn and throughout the night. They do not hibernate and are seen year round. A coyote eats natural foods such as mice and rabbits. Feeding coyotes completely breaks down their natural fear of humans and can cause them to become unusually aggressive. Food placed out for other wildlife such as birds and squirrels attracts coyotes who are seeking the small animals as a food source. Coyotes are opportunistic, bringing in a dog or cat in the evening will also eliminate a potential food source.

Cook County Coyote Project Facts

(a 2000-2006 study of urban coyotes in the Chicago metropolitan area)

- Coyotes are common throughout most of the Chicago region.
- As a top predator, coyotes are performing an important role in the Chicago region. Increasing evidence indicates that coyotes assist with controlling deer and Canada goose populations.
- Most coyotes are feeding on typical prey items, such as rodents and rabbits and generally avoid trash.
- Coyotes to date do not pose a serious human health risk. In general, the coyote population appears to be relatively healthy.
- Coyotes removed through control efforts or other causes are quickly replaced. Successful management programs also include public education and outside consulting.
- Some types of repellents, such as electronic devices employing lights and sound, may be useful for preventative control of coyotes.



Preventing Coyote Problems

- **Do not feed the coyotes.** Many people unintentionally feed coyotes by leaving pet food or garbage out at night or having large bird feeders. Coyotes are usually not interested in bird food, but bird feeders often attract rodents, especially squirrels, which then attract coyotes.
- **Do not let pets run loose.** If coyotes live nearby, do not let pets run loose, especially domestic cats. When hiking in urban parks, keep dogs on leashes.
- **Do not run from a coyote.** When you encounter a coyote, shout or throw something in its direction.
- **Repellents or fencing may help.**
- **Report aggressive, fearless coyotes immediately.** When a coyote fails to exhibit fear of humans or acts aggressive by barking or growling in the yard or playground, the animal must be reported as soon as possible to the Western Springs Police Department, 708-246-8540..

Village of Western Springs

Department of Law Enforcement Services
Pamela Church, Director
740 Hillgrove
Western Springs, IL 60558

Phone: 708.246.8540
Fax: 708.246.3609
E-mail: pchurch@wsprings.com