



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Community Update



Coyotes – an urban reality

Ramsey County Sheriff's Patrol Unit provides animal control services for the seven contract communities. These services are focused on domestic animal issues. While Animal Control does not remove wild animals simply because they are on your property, we do provide education on coexisting with urban wildlife.

There have been coyote sightings throughout Ramsey County, with increased reports during the January and February mating season. While typically harmless to humans, coyotes are wild animals – employ caution in the case of a possible encounter.

The coyote is Minnesota's most abundant large wild predator, intermediate in size between red foxes and wolves. In Minnesota, coyotes average 30 lbs., and stand about 18" high at the shoulders. However, they may appear much larger due to their heavy fur coat, especially in winter. They are gray/brown in color, and somewhat resemble a small German Shepherd dog in appearance. Coyotes in Minnesota are loners, except when families are raising pups. Their primary foods are rabbits and mice, but they are very opportunistic, and will feed on other small mammals, deer, birds, carrion, and even melons.

Coyotes are an extremely adaptable wildlife species that can survive well in an urban environment. With our parks and unspoiled natural areas there is habitat. They may also raid garbage cans, compost bins, and kill domestic cats and small dogs. Contrary to popular belief, coyotes are not nocturnal and will be active anytime—day or night. Coyotes mate in late winter and whelp (birthing) in April or early May. This may lead to increased activity and sightings as they hunt to feed their pups.

While healthy wild coyotes avoid people, incidents have been reported in Minnesota and other states. Experts believe these incidents are more likely after a coyote has become accustomed to humans, or after being fed by humans.

Children of all ages should be taught to stay away from any wild animal. In a coyote habitat, small children should be kept under constant supervision. Cats should be kept indoors, and small dogs should be on a short leash when outside. When walking your dog keep it leashed and in sight.

Things to remember:

- Never feed a coyote
- Never run from a coyote
- Never leave small children or pets alone in a coyote habitat
- Keep your yard free of fallen fruit, vegetables and pet food
- Clean up brush piles before rodents move in
- Vaccinate all pets for rabies, distemper, parvo, and other diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian
- If you encounter a coyote that does not immediately run from people, harass it by:
 - Shaking a noise maker, such as a soda can with pennies
 - Make yourself larger by standing and waving your arms
 - Shout in a deep aggressive voice
 - Throw rocks or sticks at the coyote
- If you see a coyote behaving in an abnormal manner call 9-1-1



These simple suggestions should prevent most coyote problems. However, if depredation occurs or aggressive coyote behavior is observed, removal of the problem coyote may be necessary.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does not trap, shoot, or relocate coyotes. Where necessary, removal of coyotes is the responsibility of the landowner or tenant. For information on pest control contractors or trapping techniques for coyote removal, contact your local DNR Wildlife office or Conservation Officer. In cities with ordinances

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prohibiting the use of certain traps and/or firearms, you may need a city permit, or assistance from the city police officers.

To learn more about living with and avoiding creating problems with coyotes, the Roseville Police Department held a "Coyote Clinic" and has a video available on their website (<https://webstreaming.ctv15.org/viewer.php?streamid=1130>). The MN DNR website is another resource.

Follow this link from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for more information about mitigating bears near homes and cabins: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/bears/homes.html

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
Public Safety Services Division
Animal Control Services
(651) 767-0640
www.RamseyCountySheriff.us