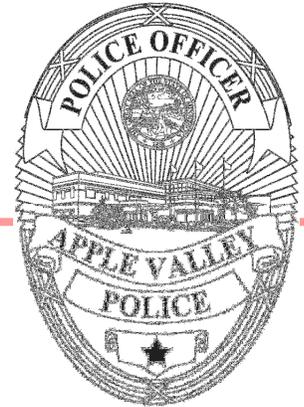


Valley View



Urban Coyotes—preventing coyote conflicts

Coyotes generally avoid humans, even when their home range encompasses largely urban or suburban habitat. However, the presence of a free buffet in the form of pet food, compost or trash can lure coyotes into yards and create the impression that these places are bountiful feeding areas. Without the lure of food or other attractants, their visits will be brief and rare. But a coyote who finds food in one yard may learn to search for food in others.

What attracts coyotes to urban and residential areas?

FOOD: Deliberately feeding coyotes is a mistake. You may enjoy hand-feeding animals, but this is a surefire way to get them accustomed to people and will ultimately lead to their demise. Here are some other general rules to follow:

- Avoid feeding pets outside. If you must, feed them only for a set time during the day (for no more than one hour) and remove the food bowl as soon as your pet has finished his/her meal.
- In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans available.
- If you compost, use enclosed bins and never compost meat or fish scraps.
- Good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, can also help discourage coyote activity near residences.
- Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Keep trash in high-quality containers

with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave them out overnight, they are more likely to be tipped and broken into.

SHELTER: Coyotes are secretive animals, and studies have shown they can live for a long time in close proximity to dense human settlements without ever being noticed. Such coyotes are abiding by the rules we set for minimal conflicts, and should be left alone.

In the spring when the coyotes give birth and begin to raise litters, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which the young are sheltered. At these times, they may become highly defensive and territorial, and challenge any other coyote or dog that comes close to the pups. People walking their dogs in parks and wooded areas may run into these situations and even be challenged by parent coyotes to back off. Fights occur rarely and most often when dogs are off leash. It's important to recognize such incidents for what they are, defense of space, not random attacks. If you encounter a coyote when walking your pet, do NOT run away; haze the coyote with the techniques described in our HAZING GUIDELINES.

FREE-ROAMING PETS: Free-roaming pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into certain neighborhoods. Although coyotes are primarily nocturnal, the best way to minimize risk to pets is not to

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Mark Your Calendars

- ♦ *May 12—Mother's Day*
- ♦ *June 7—Last Day of School*
- ♦ *June 14—Flag Day*
- ♦ *June 16—Father's Day*
- ♦ *July 4—Independence Day*
- ♦ *August 6—Night To Unite*
- ♦ *August 5-11—Dakota County Fair*
- ♦ *September 2—Labor Day*

Urban coyotes continued

leave them out unattended at any time. Don't allow your cat to roam freely. Ideally, cats should be kept indoors regardless of weather there is a coyote in the area or not—to keep cats safe and healthy as well as to keep them from killing birds and other wildlife.

RISKS TO DOGS: Dogs (especially small dogs) are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes who are either accustomed (habituated) to people (usually due to wildlife feeding), or coyotes who are protecting their territory and pups (usually during breeding season).

Dogs (especially small dogs) should not be left outside unattended and should always be kept on a leash in public areas. It is important to never let your dog interact or play with a coyote. Pet food and water should be kept indoors to avoid attracting coyotes to your yard.

Although attacks on larger dogs are rare, coyotes will sometimes go after a large dog when they feel that their territory is threatened. This generally occurs during the coyote breeding season, which takes place from January through March.

To further protect domestic animals, fencing can be used to keep coyotes out of residential yards. Fences must be at least 6 feet tall, extend underground at least 12 inches or include an L-shaped mesh apron extending outward at least 18 inches and secured with landscaping staples.

WHAT WORKS: A program containing both education and hazing offers the best method for handling and preventing conflicts with coyotes and is working already in a number of communities.

Education:

- **Food attractants:** Residents must be educated about feeding coyotes and how this is simply wrong, no matter how well-intentioned the feeder may be. Indirect sources of food—pet food, composted meat scraps and trash must be removed or properly secured.
- **Pets:** Residents should be made aware of the importance of keeping cats indoors and not leaving dogs outside unattended. Leash laws must be

enforced in open spaces and natural areas.

- **Educational campaigns:** Children must be instructed in how to recognize a coyote and what to do if they encounter one. Children should never run from a coyote; instead, they should stand up straight, wave their arms up in the air, and be as loud as possible while moving slowly toward the nearest adult. Unfounded fears about coyotes need to be dispelled, and good information provided on coyote behavior.

Hazing:

- **What is hazing:** When coyotes do not run away when approached or charged by a human, they have probably become habituated, or lost their fear of humans. They may even approach people, looking for food handouts.
- **Hazing is an activity or series of activities conducted to reinstall the natural fear of humans back into coyotes.** It includes simple actions such as yelling and arm waving, water house dousing, using noise makers like blow horns and whistles, and throwing objects such as sticks or toy balls.
- **Hazing techniques:** For many coyotes, making yourself loud (by yelling or using homemade noisemakers) and large (by standing tall and waving your arms) is all that is needed to scare them away. More aggressive methods (including banging pots and pans, throwing objects, squirting a hose, or using noisemakers like air horns) may be necessary for some coyotes. It is important to continue hazing until the coyote completely leaves the area. Employing a variety of hazing techniques is also helpful to prevent habituation.

The bottom line is that killing is not a solution for managing conflicts between people and coyotes. A combination of education and hazing can be more effective.

For more information and tips, visit the Humane Society of the United States website at www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes.

Information provided by the Humane Society of the United States.

Apple Valley's Night To Unite—Tuesday, August 6, 2013

Time to welcome the 4th annual **Night to Unite** to the City of Apple Valley. This year's date is Tuesday, August 6! **Night To Unite** centers around residents coming together through neighborhood gatherings to enhance connectedness which helps support safe communities. The theme will be to gather together outside on the evening of August 6, 2013 to get to know one another and visit with representatives from the Apple Valley Police Department, Fire Department and City Council.

Registration packets will be mailed to all past participants of **Night to Unite** in May. **Again this year we are offering online registration.** By simply going to the city's website at www.cityofapplevalley.org neighborhoods can register their event online.

We will continue to support our Business Community with a **Night To Unite** lunchtime picnic and we will again collect school supplies for kids in need in Independent School District 196.

In an effort to help support local neighborhood parties we have joined forces with our local Walmart Store

again to offer residents great opportunities to support their **Night to Unite** efforts. Walmart will be donating money towards **Night to Unite** which we will then offer as \$10 gift cards for every neighborhood that registers a gathering. The gift cards can be used to purchase items for your party, purchase school supplies for our school supply drive or offer as a prize to your neighbors at your party. You decide how it will be used!

We will continue to provide yard signs for neighborhoods registering for the first time. If you have registered in the past, remember to put your sign out at your party so we are able to find you easier.

For more details please contact

Pam Walter at 952-953-2706 or by email at pwalter@cityofapplevalley.org. To view registration and event materials, visit the City's website at www.cityofapplevalley.org

Building safe neighborhoods is everybody's business. Become a part of the solution by gathering with neighbors to help support the 5th annual **Night To Unite** on Tuesday, August 6, 2013!



Theft from Vehicle Risk Assessment Survey

In 2012, the Apple Valley Police Department responded to 250 reported incidents of theft from vehicle. In addition to those 250 calls, there were probably countless other incidents that didn't even get reported.

Thefts from vehicles are so common yet so preventable. Most of the reported cases that officers respond to involved vehicles that were unlocked and contained items inside in plain view. Some of the most common stolen items include purses, wallets, laptops, GPS devices, stereo equipment, and sports equipment.

In an effort to combat the occurrence of thefts from vehicles, the Apple Valley Police Department will be utilizing a new Theft from Auto prevention program which includes conducting risk assessments in

area parking lots. The risk assessment involves Police personnel surveying vehicles in parking lots and leaving an educational brochure on each vehicle indicating whether or not the vehicle might be susceptible to a would-be thief. The brochure addresses valuables openly displayed in the vehicle, unlocked vehicles, and vehicles parked in poorly lit or hard to observe locations. Each assessment will indicate which, if any, of the above issues were observed or congratulate you on securing your vehicle and removing all valuables. In addition, the brochure will contain a vinyl window cling which serves as a visual reminder to take two seconds to check inside your vehicle for any valuables. The cling is designed to be placed on the inside of the driver's side window in the lower front or rear corner, near your door handle.



**Apple Valley Police
Department Neighborhood
Watch Newsletter**

Apple Valley Police
Department
7100 147th Street West
Apple Valley, MN 55124



An informed public is a safe public. To better communicate and inform the residents and businesses it serves, the Apple Valley Police Department has expanded how it shares information. Citizens can now go to **Facebook** and like the Apple Valley Police page or they can follow the police department on **Twitter** @AppleValleyPD.

Panhandling in Apple Valley

Recently the Apple Valley Police Department has received numerous calls regarding individuals who have been seen standing on property around the downtown business district holding signs and sometimes asking for money. These people are commonly referred to as “panhandlers”.

Per Apple Valley Police policy, officers first response is to figure out where the person is located—public or private property. The location will dictate the City’s authority on how to handle it. If the panhandler is on private property, then it is a private issue for the property owner to address. If the property owner does not wish for the person to “panhandle” on his/her private property, then the owner has a right to ask the person to leave. If the person does not leave after being asked to then the person may be trespassing per Apple Valley City ordinance. Only after the person refuses to leave the private property does it become an issue of trespassing. At this time the police may be called to deal with the trespasser.

With regard to panhandlers on public property owned by the city and public rights-of-way the

panhandlers have the right to be there, including the right hold signs. In addition, the City cannot ban or prevent an individual from standing on a sidewalk at any intersection; the sidewalk is for the public and every person has a right to walk or stand there. The police may step in only if the person otherwise commits a crime while standing on that public

sidewalk. The City can prevent a person from standing in traffic lanes in the street including the center median not located at a crosswalk because it is a public safety issue.

If you see a panhandler who is blocking traffic or causing some other disturbance you are urged to call 911 and report it. If the person is standing at an intersection or on a corner, understand that

person has the right to be there unless you are the property owner and ask them to leave.

Please feel free to contact the Apple Valley Police Department at 952-953-2700 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. if you have any questions about panhandlers or their behavior.

