



# URBAN COYOTES

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*City of Apple Valley*

## **COYOTE FACTS & GUIDELINES**

Most coyote encounters are sightings only, with non-aggressive behavior. It's not considered unusual to see coyotes in residential areas, day or night.

Coyotes exist in virtually every type of habitat, they can even flourish in urban areas because of their adaptable behavior and social system.

Adult females range from 22 – 35 lbs., males from 25 – 42 lbs. Coyotes resemble size and mixed coloring to that of a German Shepherd, but may appear much larger with a heavy winter coat.

Breeding season is January thru February, with generally a litter size of 5 – 7 pups. Mother coyotes may travel together while teaching hunting skills to their pups, which usually occurs in late summer months. Sightings may increase during these times.

Coyotes are extremely intelligent and highly adaptable, they are an asset to urban ecosystems hunting rabbits, rodents, raccoon, poultry, and other nuisance critters (dead or alive). When prey is not readily available, fruit, fallen ripe berries, and corn, are a food source.

Most sightings occur at dusk and early to mid-morning hours.

Coyotes have several dens, which are used only to give birth and nurse their young. Coyotes will aggressively defend their pups if threatened.

In areas where there have been recent sightings, all pets should be accompanied by an adult, never leashed and left alone. Remember to keep your pets current with vaccinations.

Coyotes are more active at night and rely on vocal communication. They use howls to let pack members know their location. They use short barks to warn others of danger. Yips are sounded to welcome a new member into their pack.

Ordinance requires all pets to be leashed while walking off an owners property. Coyotes will stalk prey first, if one approaches you should stand your ground, never run. Yell! use whatever item you have to create loud noise, and throw an object at the coyote to scare it off if necessary.

If a coyote is on your property you should make noise unfamiliar to the animal; blow a whistle, bang pie tins, bang pan lids, sound an air horn, etc.

Do not intentionally feed coyotes.

Do not leave pet food or trash not secured in an airtight garbage container outside.

Do not turn your back or run from a coyote; attempt to leave calmly.

**THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY AND THE MINNESOTA DNR DO NOT TRAP, SHOOT, OR RELOCATE COYOTES.**

➤ **PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS TO APPLE VALLEY CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT: (952) 953-2570**