



Urban Coyotes



Coyotes are certainly not new to Minnetrista. However, in recent years, it seems coyote sightings have become more common, especially in the more populated residential areas. The primary reason for this is that Coyotes are one of the most adaptable animals in the United States. Their ability to adapt to change is what allows them to live almost anywhere and in almost any condition. Coyotes are true scavengers and will eat just about anything. Some examples include live stock, poultry, deer, snakes, fox, rodents, rabbits, birds, frogs, grass, insects, small domestic pets, pet food, fruits, vegetables, and garbage.

While it can be frightening to those who are not familiar with coyotes, it is important to understand that coyotes are rarely dangerous to pets or humans by themselves. Coyotes are much more effective hunters in groups or packs. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there has never been a coyote attack on a human being in Minnesota.

The good news is that there are many steps you can take to reduce human-coyote conflicts:

- Do not feed coyotes or their prey.
- Do not leave pets outside unattended, especially at night.
- Feed pets indoors.
- Secure your garbage containers and other food sources.
- Keep landscaping trimmed to reduce cover for coyotes and their prey.
- Harass (by chasing, shouting, etc.) any coyotes that do not immediately run away from people.

For more information about urban coyotes, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website at

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/coyotes/index.html.

