

Arlington Heights Police Department

The Suburban Coyote



General reports of animal sightings do not require emergency calls to 911. Arlington Heights Animal Wardens can be contacted for coyote sightings and general information at 847-368-5415.

DESCRIPTION:

- 🐾 The coyote looks similar to a medium sized German Shepard from a distance.
- 🐾 They weigh between 20-40lbs, stand 15-20in tall and are 4-5ft long including the 14in tail.
- 🐾 Their upper body color is generally dull yellow to gray with white or cream colored fur on the throat and belly. They have erect pointed ears and dark tipped tails.

BEHAVIOR:

- 🐾 Coyotes are primarily nocturnal but it is not unusual to see one during the day.
- 🐾 They have become desensitized to the existence of humans and allow themselves to be seen.
- 🐾 Coyote attacks on humans are extremely rare and are usually caused by interaction initiated by the person, such as feeding them or investigating their dens.
- 🐾 They eat mice, squirrels, rabbits, birds and other small animals. Coyotes help balance the fox, raccoon and opossum population. They take advantage of human-associated foods like garbage, pet foods and birdseed. Unattended pets are also an easy food source.

REPRODUCTION:

- 🐾 Coyotes mate in February and March with pups born in April or May. They are territorial creatures and may view other animals, including dogs, as a threat.
- 🐾 They often utilize abandoned fox, skunk, and woodchuck burrows for dens. Areas under decks and around sheds are also used by coyotes.

LIVING WITH COYOTES:

- 🐾 Never approach, touch, or intentionally feed a coyote
- 🐾 Eliminate all outside food sources, especially pet food. Secure garbage cans.
- 🐾 Clear out wood and brush piles creating habitats for rats and mice which may attract coyotes.
- 🐾 Never allow pets to roam free while coyotes are in the area.
- 🐾 Never try to run away from a coyote; make loud noises and throw rocks or sticks at the coyote to frighten them away.
- 🐾 Residents can hire a private trapper licensed by the State of IL. for animal removal.

The Village of Arlington Heights does **NOT** provide removal services for coyotes.