



Public Service Announcement

For Immediate Release
Friday, May 23, 2014

Coyote Sightings in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville *Tips to help keep you and your pet safe*

Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON – The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is asking residents to be vigilant and monitor their pets while outside, as coyote sightings have been reported in the community.

While Coyotes, by nature, are wary of humans, they have been known to become aggressive and view small dogs as prey and injure large dogs in a confrontation. In the country, coyotes are commonly found in open, agricultural land (such as woodlots and areas covered with brush). In urban areas, coyotes prefer natural green space, such as parks, ravines and stream banks.

Residents with questions or concerns about coyotes are encouraged to contact the Greater Toronto Area Regional Office of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at (905) 713-7400. The Ministry has provided a number of helpful tips on staying safe.

Tips to Coyote-Proof Your Property:

- Never feed coyotes and do not leave any type of food outdoors, including pet food.
- Store garbage and compost material in secure containers with locking lids and store in a secure location until the morning of scheduled waste pickup.
- Clean up after your dog, as coyotes are attracted to dog feces.

If you are approached by a coyote:

- Do not turn your back on, or run from, a coyote.
- Back away from the coyote while remaining calm. Stand tall, wave your hands and make lots of noise.
- Do not let your pet chase a coyote as it could result in injury.
- Carry a personal audible alarm, as this will deter a coyote and bring attention to yourself in case you need help.
- Carry a bright flashlight, as bright light has been known to deter coyotes.
- Keep any pets leashed at all times.

If a coyote poses an immediate threat of danger to public safety, call 911.

For more information on avoiding coyote conflicts, visit www.townofws.ca

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Media contact:

Corporate Communications

905-640-1910 or 1-855-642-8697 ext. 2223