

POLICE DEPARTMENT

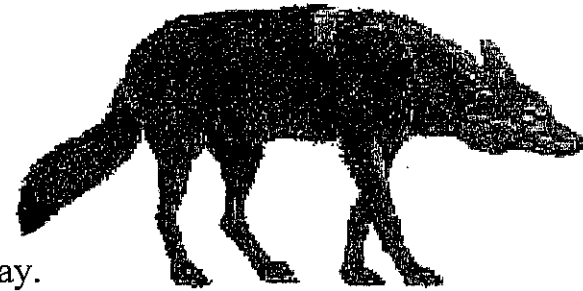
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The Westlake Police Department wants Citizens to be educated about coyote sighting and encounters. Coyotes as well as many other fur bearing animals are common in Westlake. Coyotes are territorial and regularly roam in a large area, usually at night, but can be seen occasionally in the day. Coyotes usually live in family groups of 4 to 8 and the average size is around 35 pounds. Coyotes usually feed on small animals, insects, and fruit, although they prefer rodents and rabbits. Coyotes are important helpers to the over population of deer, geese and other small nuisance wildlife.

The following are things you can do if you spot a coyote in your neighborhood or near your home.

- Frighten coyotes with loud noise.
- Keep garbage in a tightly sealed container.
- Use yard lights and motion detectors to frighten them away.
- Keep pets in fenced areas and covered kennels.
- In your yard, remove pet food, fallen fruit and spilled seed beneath bird feeders.
- Stay with your pets while outdoors, unless pets are in secured covered kennels.
- Do not allow pets to run loose. Keep pets on a leash.
- Keep landscape from becoming overgrown. Enclose under decks and out buildings.



Fear of humans is important for coyote survival. Coyotes are usually skittish around humans and typically try to avoid people whenever possible. If you encounter a coyote:

- Never feed or attempt to tame a coyote.
- Do not turn your back on a coyote or run away from a coyote.
- If approached, make loud noises and make yourself look big. If this fails throw rocks or other objects.
- Always keep yourself between the coyote and small children or pets.
- Don't feed other animals that coyote prey upon. Bird seed often attracts these innocent animals to your backyard which in turn attracts a coyote that is hungry.

Although attacks on humans are extremely rare, parents need to speak to their children about what to do if they encounter a coyote.

Contact Animal Control Officer Jim Wang at 440-871-3311 with any questions or concerns.