

## **COYOTE ENCOUNTERS IN SANDYCOVE**

This message is not intended to scare, but to educate all our new residents who may not be aware or were not told we have Coyotes in Sandycove. With Covid-19, our ability as a community to reach out to new residents has been limited. Due to a recent incident, the HOA felt it prudent to repeat a message on what to do/not do if you encounter a coyote.

Due to the construction around our community, coyotes, foxes and other small animals are making it into Sandycove. The purpose of the following outlines what you should do **IF** you see or encounter wild animals.

### **How to prevent conflicts with dogs**

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- Do not under any circumstances leave your animals outside tied up or unsupervised. Coyotes then have easy access. They don't know it's your pet, they do know it's food
  - When walking your dog keep them close
  - Be vigilant, keep your eyes on your surroundings & listen for unusual noises
  - Take a cane/stick/air horn or something you can use to defend, if necessary
  - If you are dog walking at night, (reconsider if possible) & carry a flashlight. Change up your schedule
  - Your dog is your "first line of defence" to let you know something is wrong and are acting strangely. They have much better senses than humans in "smelling out" and warning of danger
  - Spay/neuter - coyotes are attracted to and can lure for mating domestic "intact" dogs
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### **What to do if you encounter a coyote, wolf or fox:**

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- If you see a coyote, wolf or fox, keep your distance, the animal will most likely avoid you
  - Never approach or touch a wild animal. They are wild; NOT tame.
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### **If you encounter an aggressive animal:**

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- Do not turn your back or run from a wild animal - back away while remaining calm
  - Stand tall, wave your hands, make lots of noise
  - If a wild animal poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety — call 911
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### **How to make your property uninviting:**

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- Do not feed wild animals. Coyotes are drawn in because of the abundance of wildlife that come to bird feeders and food thrown out for rabbits and squirrels
  - Do not leave fecal matter around your home as they are attracted to the smell. Dispose of your pet's waste (Simcoe County now accept pet waste in green bins in certified compostable bags)
  - Installing motion sensors may help distract them coming around your house
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These are some steps you can take to protect you and your pets. Further information - contact Coyote Watch Canada <https://coyotewatchcanada.com>

HOA 2/20 (Rev 8/21)-Source: "Coyote Watch Canada" & other

resources

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