Living with wildlife: Coyote-proofing your property

What you can do

People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario. Preventing a problem is a far better solution than dealing with wildlife after a conflict.

As a property owner, you have a role in making sure you are not attracting unwanted wildlife to your property.

Preventing encounters

Limit attractants:

· Keep pet food indoors.
· Use secure garbage containers with locking lids and store in an enclosed structure.
· Put garbage out the morning of a scheduled pickup.
· Use enclosed composting bins rather than exposed piles.
· Pick ripe fruit and seed from trees and remove fallen fruit from the ground.
· Protect vegetable gardens with heavy-duty garden fences or place vegetable plants in a greenhouse.

Discourage coyotes from entering your property:

· Clear away bushes and dense weeds near your home where coyotes may find cover and small animals.
· Use motion sensor lights.
· Close off spaces under porches, decks and sheds. Coyotes use these areas for denning and raising young.
· If you fence your property, install a two-meter-high fence that extends at least 20 centimeters underground as coyotes may dig under a barrier.

Keeping your pet safe:

· Do not leave small dogs unattended.
· Keep dogs inside at night.
· Keep your dog on a leash.
· Clean up after your dog – coyotes are attracted to dog feces.
· Carry a flashlight when walking your dog at night to scare off coyotes.

For more information and fact sheets on what you can do, visit ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife