

Beware of coyotes this winter

Posted: Jan. 9, 2023

It's that time of year again when coyotes are gearing up for winter and mating season. They're becoming more and more comfortable in neighborhoods, which means residents have to be more diligent with their small pets.

Simply yelling at a coyote isn't effective because they know nothing will happen to them from it, said Tinley Park Animal Control Officer Karen Schutt.

"I encourage everyone to have a small arsenal of items that you can harass them with," Schutt said. "Walk with a walking stick, a strobe light, an air horn, a whistle or a can with pennies. Use different items on different days. Keep the coyotes on their toes so they don't know what to expect."

Doing this will make them become uncomfortable and not want to be in the area, Schutt said. If using a sound item, please get your dogs used to that item before taking it out on the street so they don't panic. A few other things to consider:

- Alternate your walking routes. Coyotes are smart and learn our behaviors quickly.
- Remember, you are the deterrent! Don't leave your small dogs unattended at any time, day or night.
- Coyotes can scale large fences.
- Seeing coyotes in the daytime during the winter is not unusual. As the temperatures get colder at night, coyotes take advantage of the warmer daytime temperatures to hunt for food. Overcast days will draw them out even more.
- Please remember that it's against Village ordinance to ground-feed any wild animals. This is to deter the gathering of larger animals, such as coyotes.

Please contact Animal Control at (708) 444-5300 or kschutt@tinleypark.org with any sightings of sick or injured coyotes.