



DEERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Commander Brian Budny (847) 945-8636

On May 7, 2018, this department took a report from a Deerfield resident advising their pet was attacked by a coyote in their backyard on the night of May 6. The pet dog was attacked at approximately 10:30 p.m. and subsequently died from its injuries. The Deerfield Police Department would like to remind residents to remain diligent with small pets as coyotes are common in this area of Illinois. Coyotes in Illinois are protected under the Illinois Wildlife Code and can only be removed if the animal appears to be sick or injured or a risk to human health or safety exists.

Coyotes and all other predatory mammals are opportunistic hunters. While the coyotes' principal diet may be small rodents, rabbits and fruit, they will not hesitate to prey on small domestic animals if the opportunity provides for such. The following tips can help minimize the coyote population in your area and protect your pet:

- Keep small pets (cats, rabbits, small dogs) indoors, allowing them outside only under supervision.
- Dogs should be brought inside after dark and never allowed to run loose. This is especially important during mating season, which is February through April.
- Feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meal outside. Store bags of pet food indoors.
- Clear brush and dense weeds from around property. This deprives rodents of shelter and reduces protective cover for coyotes.
- Do not feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife. This practice abnormally attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds, snakes and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.