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Coyotes in the City of Airdrie

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA –Concerns are being raised by some Airdrie residents who have recently sighted coyotes within city limits. A regular coyote presence in one area is due to a variety of attractions.

“Coyotes are opportunistic feeders; they can take advantage of habitats created by urban growth and find food sources within the city,” says Darryl Poburan, Manager of Municipal Enforcement, RCMP and Building Inspections with the City of Airdrie.

“Residents can prevent the presence of coyotes and other wildlife in their back yards by securing garbage in animal proof receptacles and only taking out garbage on collection days,” adds Poburan.

Eliminate other attractants and common food sources by storing pet food indoors, pick up fallen fruit and ornamental fruit, clean around bird feeders and avoid hanging feeders containing lard or suet, make compost piles inaccessible and never compost meat products. These materials and tall grass in back yards attract mice and other rodents which are a natural food source for coyotes.

Frequently clean up after your pets; keeping an eye on pets in the backyard is a good idea. Secure fences will also help keep coyotes out of your yard. Closing in crawl spaces under porches, decks and sheds prevents coyotes using such areas for denning and raising young.

Coyotes are usually wary of humans and avoid people whenever possible. However they are wild animals and should not be approached. People should NOT feed coyotes. Feeding them makes the animal less fearful of humans and habituates them to foods provided by humans. Do not turn your back on, or run from, a coyote. Back away from the coyote while remaining calm. Use whistles and personal alarm devices to frighten an approaching or threatening animal.

For more information, non-emergency situations and to report coyote sightings: you can call Alberta Government’s Coyote Hotline at (403)297-7789. To report incidents or injured coyotes; residents should call Alberta Fish and Wildlife at (403)297-6423 or 1-800-642-3800 for after hours.

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