



The Urban Coyote

Events of Conflict:

- In most attacks, coyotes were believed to have been fed by humans prior to the confrontation.
 - By either intentional or unintentional human feeding.
 - This is when the greatest amount of conflict can occur.
- Research has shown that attacks increase during the coyote pup-rearing season.

Incident or Not?

- Observation:
 - Sign that a coyote was present.
 - But a coyote may not visually or physically be there.
- Sighting:
 - Coyote visually observed by an individual.
- Encounter:
 - A direct meeting between a human & a coyote.
 - But, no physical contact is made.
- Incident:
 - A conflict between a human & a coyote.
 - The human is not bitten.
 - The coyote demonstrates these threatening characteristics:
 - Growling; teeth baring; lunging; raised hackles/back fur; nipping; snarling; agitated backing (unprovoked); etc.



Categories of Coyote Attacks:

- Defensive:
 - Defending/protecting itself, den, or pups.
- Pet-Related:
 - Coyote attacked a person who was walking a pet;
 - Trying to save a pet from a coyote attack; or
 - Was near a pet at the time of an attack.
- Rabid:
 - Coyote was captured & tested positive for rabies.
- Investigative:
 - Coyote bit/attacked a resting, unthreatening person.
 - Testing it as a potential prey source.
- Predatory:
 - Direct & aggressive pursuit of an individual.



Human-Coyote Encounters:

Human Attack: A human is bitten by a coyote(s).

- Provoked:
 - Human involved encouraged coyote to engage.
 - Ex: hand-fed, approached coyote w/ pups, intervened in coyote-pet attack, etc.
- Unprovoked:
 - Human did not engage w/ coyote, or encourage a direct physical encounter.

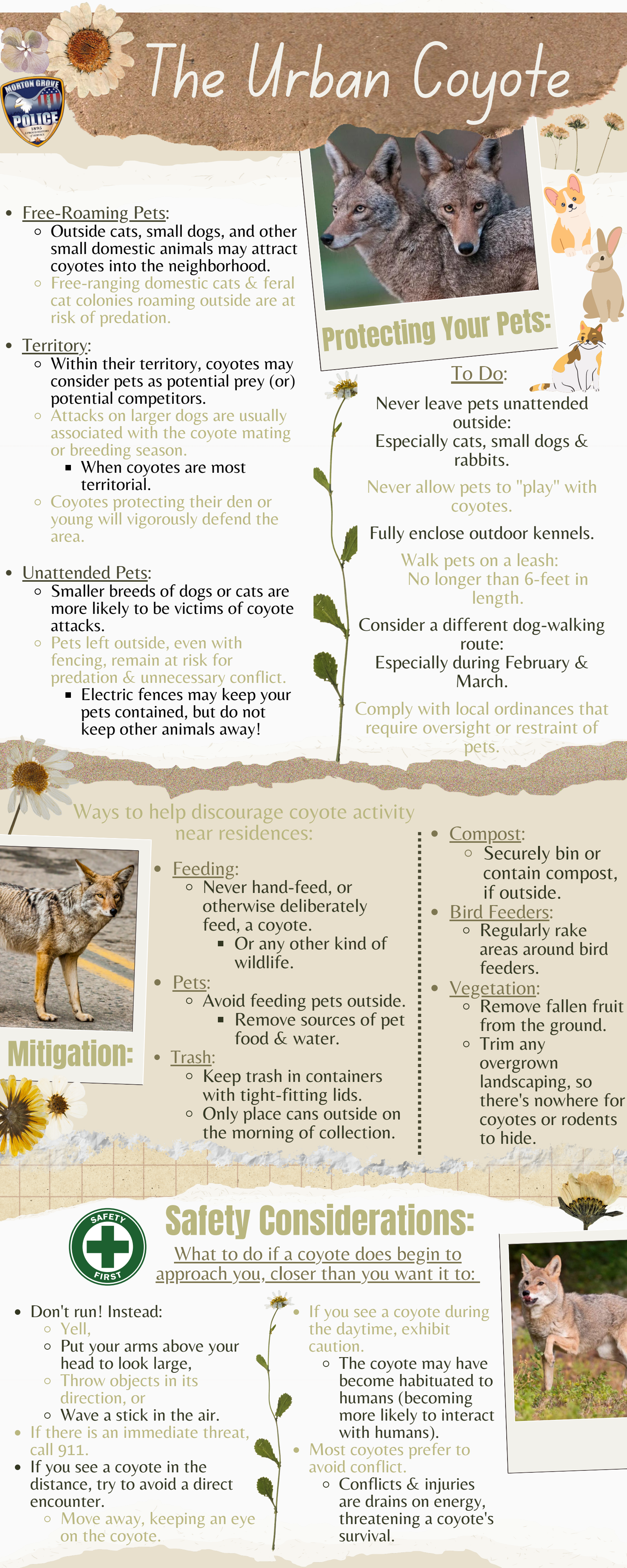


Pet-Coyote Encounters:

Pet Attack: A coyote injures or kills a domestic pet. The animal is either:

- Attended:
 - Pet is leashed & within 6-feet of a person.
- Unattended:
 - Pet is roaming free, off-leash, and/or more than 6-feet from a person.





The Urban Coyote

- Free-Roaming Pets:
 - Outside cats, small dogs, and other small domestic animals may attract coyotes into the neighborhood.
 - Free-ranging domestic cats & feral cat colonies roaming outside are at risk of predation.
- Territory:
 - Within their territory, coyotes may consider pets as potential prey (or) potential competitors.
 - Attacks on larger dogs are usually associated with the coyote mating or breeding season.
 - When coyotes are most territorial.
 - Coyotes protecting their den or young will vigorously defend the area.
- Unattended Pets:
 - Smaller breeds of dogs or cats are more likely to be victims of coyote attacks.
 - Pets left outside, even with fencing, remain at risk for predation & unnecessary conflict.
 - Electric fences may keep your pets contained, but do not keep other animals away!

Protecting Your Pets:

To Do:

- Never leave pets unattended outside:
Especially cats, small dogs & rabbits.
- Never allow pets to "play" with coyotes.
- Fully enclose outdoor kennels.
- Walk pets on a leash:
No longer than 6-feet in length.
- Consider a different dog-walking route:
Especially during February & March.
- Comply with local ordinances that require oversight or restraint of pets.

Ways to help discourage coyote activity near residences:

- Feeding:
 - Never hand-feed, or otherwise deliberately feed, a coyote.
 - Or any other kind of wildlife.
- Pets:
 - Avoid feeding pets outside.
 - Remove sources of pet food & water.
- Trash:
 - Keep trash in containers with tight-fitting lids.
 - Only place cans outside on the morning of collection.
- Compost:
 - Securely bin or contain compost, if outside.
- Bird Feeders:
 - Regularly rake areas around bird feeders.
- Vegetation:
 - Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
 - Trim any overgrown landscaping, so there's nowhere for coyotes or rodents to hide.



Mitigation:



Safety Considerations:

What to do if a coyote does begin to approach you, closer than you want it to:

- Don't run! Instead:
 - Yell,
 - Put your arms above your head to look large,
 - Throw objects in its direction, or
 - Wave a stick in the air.
- If there is an immediate threat, call 911.
- If you see a coyote in the distance, try to avoid a direct encounter.
 - Move away, keeping an eye on the coyote.
- If you see a coyote during the daytime, exhibit caution.
 - The coyote may have become habituated to humans (becoming more likely to interact with humans).
- Most coyotes prefer to avoid conflict.
 - Conflicts & injuries are drains on energy, threatening a coyote's survival.

