

# Midvale Park Homeowners Association



No matter how heavily populated with people our area may be, it doesn't always deter some wild animals from sharing the space with us. Coyotes seem particularly willing to venture into our community, and if left to roam freely, can cause damage such as tearing through garbage, become aggressive towards people and even attack and kill pets. While we don't want to harm the coyotes, we do need to make our surroundings as inhospitable to them as possible. Below-noted are some tips on how to do just that:

- Block off pet food, birdseed, fruits and vegetables from gardens, garbage and composts so coyotes can't access them.
- Block or remove all openings to areas that might make a good den for coyotes, such as bushes and shrubs and under decks or woodpiles.
- Keep a close eye on your pets. To ensure your cat will be safe, be sure to keep it indoors at all times. Always supervise your dog when he's outside, particularly at dawn or dusk, when coyotes are most active.
- If you are out with your dog and see a coyote, pick up your dog if possible and leave immediately.
- Do not let your dog play with coyotes—they are territorial animals and may turn on your dog if they feel threatened.
- If you have to leave your dog unattended outside, make sure he is kept in an enclosed kennel.
- Make sure your children (and you!) do not feed or try to play with coyotes. While they might look like a rugged version of Rover, coyotes are wild animals that can become aggressive and even bite. Though they are normally timid toward people, coyotes' natural fear is lessened and they are encouraged to stay in the area if you feed and try to play with them.
- If you run into a coyote while you're outside, be aggressive: Act big, yell, flail, and even throw small objects at him to let him know he is unwelcome in this area. Do not turn your back on the coyote or run from him, as this will only encourage him to be aggressive towards you.
- If you are bitten by a coyote, make sure you get rabies shots and also call animal control. A coyote that has attacked a human needs to be put down, and animal control can make sure that's done without putting you further in jeopardy.

To learn more on how to live safely near coyotes, be sure to visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department's section on coyotes: [http://www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/urban\\_coyote.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/urban_coyote.shtml)