

Coyotes in Arcadia!



Recently, there have been reports of coyotes seen in our area; they have been seen before and probably will be again. ACMNA President Richard Rea spoke with Darren Julian who is an Urban Wildlife Specialist with the Arizona Department of Fish and Game about this issue.

Coyotes are attracted by actions of people. And, as the coyote returns again it will become acclimated to humans and lose the basic fear. Coyotes are attracted by food that is left out for pets and for unattended animals. The normal prey for a coyote will be about the size of a rabbit. Large dogs are not at risk and may act as a major deterrent to a coyote presence. Coyotes are attracted to food; citrus (principally oranges), dog or cat food, small animals, roof rats and birds. Our larger lots leave open space for a lot of different animals to live and that attracts the coyotes.

Coyotes need to be discouraged from being around. One method Darren mentioned was to have one of those Super Soaker squirt guns with an ammonia solution of 10-20%. This seems to be a strong deterrent for coyotes and much better than spraying them with water.

There have also been occasion when humans have felt it nice or good to feed coyotes. This is, for obvious reasons, to be discouraged. The more comfortable the coyote is with the area then more the population will grow. Clearly, it is not good to encourage coyotes.

If you observe an aggressive coyote (one that does not fear approaching humans and does not shy away when it sees dogs or humans) then the Arizona Fish and Game Department will come out and attempt to trap or eliminate the coyote. This should be the last response to the problem since it has been found that the coyotes will continue to come to the area unless discouraged or if they cannot find food.

The web site for the Arizona Department of Fish and Game is: www.azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife. Click on the coyote section and you can download the department's material on solving the problem.