



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Small Dog Dies After Possible Coyote Attack

Wheat Ridge, CO ~ On the morning of September 24, 2014, the Wheat Ridge Police Department received a report of a small dog being killed following a possible coyote attack on the east side of the city near Founders Park in the 3700 block of Jay Street. While the animal was not seen, the evidence points to a coyote as the likely predator. Wheat Ridge Police Department Community Services Officers would like to remind citizens that foxes and coyotes live among us in our parks and neighborhoods. Precautions should be taken to minimize contact with these wild animals. All aggressive encounters with coyotes should be reported to local authorities.

Coyotes are attracted to neighborhoods by the availability of garbage, pet food, and pets. All pet food, trash, fallen fruit, birdseed, and other possible food sources should be removed to discourage coyotes from visiting your property.

Pets are a food source to coyotes; even large pets can be at risk of being injured or killed by coyotes. Dog owners should always supervise your pet outside, especially at dawn and dusk; keep your dog on a short leash; do not allow your dog to play with a coyote; if possible carry your dog when coyotes are visible and avoid known or potential den sites. Children should also be taught to stay away from all wild animals and strange dogs but if a coyote does approach, the child should wave their arms, stomp their feet and yell loudly to "Go away!"

More information about avoiding human-coyote conflicts can be found on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife web site at <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeCoyote.aspx>.

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Wheat Ridge Police