



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(3/7/2014 4:01 PM)

2014-2237

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Dog Dies After Animal Attack in Founder's Park

Wheat Ridge Colorado ~ At approximately 5:45 this morning, an elderly woman was walking her Dachshund through Founder's Park in Wheat Ridge, located at 3705 Jay St. She was heading back to her residence at the nearby senior housing units when the small dog pulled away from her and escaped from his collar, running toward some bushes. The dog's owner saw some movement by the bushes and then heard a loud yelp. By the time she got to the area, her Dachshund was injured and unable to get up.

The owner, who has limited mobility, took the dog back to her apartment building. With a neighbors help, they placed the dog into the owner's vehicle and drove it to a Lakewood veterinarian clinic. The veterinarian who examined the dog said it was most likely attacked by a coyote or fox. The dog's injuries were fatal causing it to be euthanized.

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.

According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife coyotes are attracted to neighborhoods by the availability of garbage, pet food and pets. All pet food, trash, fallen fruit, birdseed, etc. should be removed to discourage coyotes from visiting your property.

All aggressive encounters with coyotes should be reported to local authorities.

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 www.wildlife.state.co.us.

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Wheat Ridge Police