



VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Coyote Sighting in Wolverine Lake Watch your pets!



We have recently had a Coyote sighting on Wolverine Lake. Coyotes are most frequently seen and heard during mating season (January-March) and when juveniles start leaving the family pack (September-November). While normally fearful of people, they can sometimes be spotted crossing yards or streets (or in our case, Wolverine Lake!). This behavior is not unusual, especially in residential areas bordering on open space where coyotes find their natural prey. They may simply be taking a shortcut to their favorite hunting ground. This type of sighting generally requires no response—other than making sure that pets and children are secure and that there are no likely food attractants present in the area. (Outside Dog food, garbage left in cans uncovered, etc.)

In Partnership With Our Community

Coyotes are naturally timid animals and will usually flee at the sight of a human. If they linger or approach, it's time to begin "**hazing**." This is a term applied to the following actions that can be taken to scare coyotes and chase them away:

- Be as big and loud as possible. Do not run or turn your back.
- Wave your arms, clap your hands and shout in an authoritative voice.
- Make noise by banging pots and pans or using an air horn or whistle. These sounds can also alert the neighbors.
- Throw small stones, sticks, tennis balls or anything else you can lay your hands on. Remember the intent is **to scare and not to injure**.
- Spray with a hose, if available, or a squirt gun filled with water and vinegar.
- Shake or throw a "coyote shaker"—a soda can filled with pennies or pebbles and sealed with duct tape.

The effects of hazing may not last unless all food attractants are permanently removed. This information should be shared with neighbors, friends and homeowner's associations since hazing is most effective when the entire neighborhood is working together.

Hazing should **never** be attempted if the coyote is accompanied by pups or appears to be sick or injured. If it's the latter, make a report to the Wolverine Lake police or the Michigan DNR at 313-396-6890