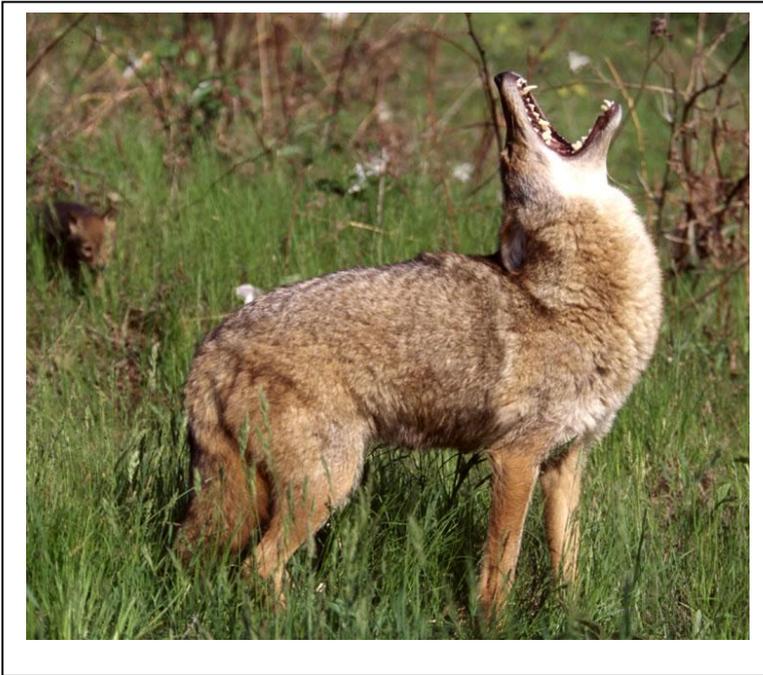


WARNING! COYOTES ABOUND IN OUR AREA!



Most residents of Beaux Arts Village and other Eastside cities are aware that coyotes have adapted easily to living among humans in close quarters. In doing so, they have lost much of their natural fear of humans and can be found roaming our neighborhoods (even in broad daylight) looking for their next meal – perhaps the food you leave out for your pet or the pet itself.

A Beaux Arts resident has reported **RECENT SIGHTINGS in Beaux Arts**. While the risk of attack is greater for your cat or small dog than for you or your children, please take a moment to read information prepared by the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and presented on their website at:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/coyotes.html#where>.

Coyotes Too Close for Comfort

Coyotes are curious but timid animals and will generally run away if challenged. However, remember that any wild animal will protect itself or its young. Never instigate a close encounter.

If a coyote ever approaches too closely, pick up small children immediately and act aggressively toward the animal. Wave your arms, throw stones, and shout at the coyote. If necessary, make yourself appear larger by standing up (if sitting) or stepping up onto a rock, stump, or stair. The idea is to convince the coyote that you are not prey, but a potential danger.

Where coyote encounters occur regularly, keep noisemaking and other scare devices nearby. A starter pistol can be effective; so can a vinegar-filled super soaker or a powerful spray of water from a hose. Where pyrotechnics are out of the question, construct a “clapper” (Fig. 5). A solid walking stick, pepper spray, or paintball gun are powerful deterrents at close range.

If a coyote continues to act in an aggressive or unusual way, call your local wildlife office or state patrol.



Figure 5. Construct a clapper by hinging together two, 24-inch 2 x 4s. Smack the two sides together. (Drawing by Jenifer Rees.)