

English Hills Update

June 18, 2012

Notice: Coyotes Spotted in English Hills

One of our neighbors has reported that she saw three coyotes in her backyard last night on Oakshire.

Coyote spottings are not unusual in North Carolina suburbs, and coyotes are known to be living in all 100 counties of our state.

According to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, "Often described as a 'mangy-looking dog,' coyotes weigh about 20-45 pounds (similar to a mid-sized dog) with, typically, reddish to dark gray thick fur. They have long slender snouts, a bushy tail and pointed ears."

Some NCWRC recommendations are:

- Secure garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids, and take them out in the morning of pick up, not the night before. Coyotes and other wildlife will scavenge trash.
- Don't feed or try to pet coyotes. Feeding a coyote rewards it for coming in close proximity to people. Once a coyote becomes habituated, it loses its natural wariness of people and may become bold and aggressive.
- Protect your pets by keeping them inside, in a shed, or inside a fenced area.
- Feed pets indoors or remove food when your pet is finished eating outside.

Coyotes and other wildlife are attracted to pet food left outdoors.

- Keep bird-feeder areas clean. Use bird feeders that keep seed off the ground. Coyotes are attracted to small animals congregating on the ground. If coyotes are frequently seen, remove all feeders.
- Close off crawl spaces under sheds and porches. Coyotes and other wildlife may use these spaces for resting and raising young.
- Cut back brushy edges in your yard, which provide cover for coyotes.

Download a 2-page FAQ sheet with more recommendations from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on "Coexisting with Coyotes" at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Learning/documents/Species/CoexistingWithCoyotes.pdf>.

