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Coyotes convene in Anderson Parks

ANDERSON TWP. - They may look like shy dogs, but coyotes can pack a powerful punch.

A number of sightings have been reported around the township for a several years.

Ken Kushner, executive director of the Anderson Township Park District, said people have asked the park district to keep the deer and coyotes in the parks.

"Unfortunately, wild animals don't observe the property lines humans draw," he said. "If their migration includes the parks in Anderson, then that area will also include your yard."

Coyotes are generally reclusive and avoid exposure to humans, but have occasionally killed small dogs and cats left unattended. Kushner advised residents to not leave pet food out overnight.

Anyone visiting the Anderson Parks is encouraged to avoid contact with wildlife, including feeding or pursuing animals.

If park visitors or residents come across a coyote, they should walk away in the opposite direction.

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, coyotes look like medium-sized dogs with a bushy, black-tipped tail. They are generally gray, though some show rusty, brown or off-white coloring.

Males are larger than the female weighing anywhere between 20 pounds and 50 pounds, are 41 inches to 53 inches in length and stand roughly 2 feet in height.

Coyotes are nocturnal, but will move during the day when less threatened by man. They hunt in non-family

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pairs or large groups.

The species is extremely adaptable and can exploit most habitats to its advantage. Coyotes appear to thrive in developed areas.

* Latin name: *Canis latrans*; are related to dogs.

* Monogamous mating; male and female pair for life.

* Litter: 1 to 12 pups; one litter per year.

* Young: born in April or May and are helpless; begin leaving den with parents when three weeks old.

* Diet: Omnivorous; will eat what is available, including small livestock and vegetables.

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