

Living with Coyotes:

Separating Fact from Fiction

Wonder what coyotes are doing in our community?

Have you spotted one near your home or workplace?

Want to know how to keep your pets and livestock safe?

Have questions...need answers...



Place: Ohio University-Lancaster Campus

Room 211

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2009

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Cost: FREE and open to the community

Refreshments provided.

This will be a panel discussion by various wildlife professionals.

Join us for this information sharing program.

Reservations aren't necessary but appreciated.

Contact us at: FairfieldCountyCARES@columbus.rr.com



Living with Coyotes

Few animals evoke such passion as coyotes. Surrounded in mystery, coyotes foster widespread prejudice and misunderstanding. Tales abound about coyotes. A recent program sponsored by Fairfield County CARES sought to address these issues and to gain a better understanding of them.

Coyotes are clever, resourceful and cunning. Not native to Ohio, most coyotes were only seen west of the Mississippi River until about 1919. Today, the coyotes range has expanded throughout all 88 Ohio counties and most of the United States. Recent concerns from the Fairfield County community over companion animals, livestock and human safety brought the Fairfield County C.A.R.E.S. (citizens for animal rights and ethical standards) group to take action. Education about coyotes and making the public aware are key ways to help avoid and prevent human-coyote conflicts.

Fairfield County CARES is a tax-exempt non-profit group addressing animal education and awareness efforts for Fairfield County and the Central Ohio area. On Thursday, July 16, the CARES group offered a 2-hour panel discussion with wildlife experts at Ohio University's Lancaster Campus to answer questions from the community. About 50 people attended the program entitled, "**Living with Coyotes: Separating Fact from Fiction.**" The panel included **Eric Householder** (USDA Biological Technician), **Mitch Overton** (Lancaster City Parks & Recreation Superintendent) and **Tony Zerkle** (Fairfield County Wildlife Officer).

Considered the most persecuted native carnivore in North America, coyotes have been targeted and hundreds of thousands are killed each year by hunters, trappers, ranchers and government agents. Coyotes are killed most often because they are considered a threat to livestock. Today, they are also targeted as they move into more urban communities. According to the wildlife experts, conflicts with coyotes are extremely rare. The panel offered ways to deter and ward off coyotes when spotted. Suggestions included making yourself look large and loud noises often scare them off.

The panel recommended not leaving food or water sources for the coyotes around the home. For example, don't feed dogs or cats outside. Bird feeders also attract prey and provide food for coyotes. Dogs and cats are often seen as competitors to coyotes. It's advised people not leave dogs chained or tied outside. They can't get away and can be attacked. Cats and small dogs should be kept inside or never left alone. They are also drawn by compost piles and garbage not secured. Experts recommend trash not be placed out overnight but put out in the morning. Other suggestions were given at the program. A follow-up program will be set later this year and open to the community.

For more information, see our listing of resources on coyotes.

Additional information:

Coyotes are nocturnal animals, mostly active at night. The coyote is an omnivore, eating a varied diet of mostly small mammals like shrews, voles, rodents and rabbits. They will also eat vegetables, fruits, grasses and carrion.

Coyotes are monogamous (male and females pair for life)