

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE LOST DOGS GONE?



Being one of the NBGR main contacts for people to report lost dogs to, I see many sad cases. I often wonder what happens to the dogs that are never found. So very sad.

Recently I have received several lost dog reports where I highly suspect the dog was taken by a coyote, hawk, owl or eagle. They just disappeared out of the yard after living in that place for years. Yes, there are many cases of dogs truly being taken from a back yard, but these

cases just do not sound like a stolen dog.

In many parts of the country, we are experiencing very dry weather. This tends to draw the predators down to the communities in search of food or water. Your safe back yard is no longer off limits to the predators and you need to take the action needed to make your dog safe.

How do you do this? Check your fencing.

Can you add any height? If you can afford it how about the Coyote **Roller Fencing**

<http://www.coyoteroller.com/>

Purchase some bird netting from Home Depot and install it over the dog area. If the area is large, try to at least stop the bird from having a path to land and take off. Do not underestimate the power of a hawk. They can easily pick up your 15 pound dog. They may not get far, but they will get far enough to serious injury them with their talons before they drop them.



*Following is a paragraph from the webpage [Caesar's Way](#).*

As coyotes are moving into urban areas, attacks on domestic dogs are on the rise. A study conducted by a the Cook County, Illinois Coyote Project found that 60% of recent attacks were on smaller breeds such as Yorkshire terriers, Shih Tzus and Jack Russells.

While tinier breeds are the preferred targets, coyotes have also been known to attack larger breeds, such as Labradors and German shepherds, especially if traveling in a pack. This past January, a pack of three coyotes went after a Chicago area man's German Shepherd, Beagle, and Golden Retriever. The pack chased the dogs through the woods, leapt over the owner's backyard fence, and even broke the glass on the door of the house trying to get at the dogs. Read more: <http://www.cesarsway.com/dog-care/dog-health/Five-Ways-to-Keep-Your-Dogs-Safe-from-Coyotes#ixzz34eaLtNsg>





### Sequence of increasingly aggressive coyote behaviors.



1. Increase in coyotes on streets and in yards at night
2. Increase in coyotes approaching adults and/or taking pets at night
3. Coyotes on streets, and in parks and yards, in early morning/late afternoon
4. Coyotes chasing or taking pets in daytime
5. Coyotes attacking and taking pets on leash or near owners; chasing joggers, bicyclists, other adults
6. Coyotes seen in and around children's play areas, school grounds, and parks in midday
7. Coyotes acting aggressively toward adults in midday

### Pet Management

Cats and dogs should be fed indoors, or if fed outdoors, food dishes should be promptly emptied and removed after pets have eaten. Store pet food indoors or in sealed heavy-duty containers. Use refuse containers that have tight-fitting lids to prevent raccoons, dogs, or coyotes from having access to household garbage. Keep small pets such as cats, rabbits, and small dogs, indoors, or if outdoors, keep them within enclosed kennels. Large dogs should be brought inside after dark. Never allow cats or dogs to run free at any time, as they are easy prey. Because coyotes that come in contact with domestic animals may transmit diseases, vaccinate all pets for rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and other diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian.

When exercising your dog, always use a leash, and walk only in populated areas of high pedestrian traffic. You may want to carry a walking stick or cane that you can use to fend off an attack. Try not to establish a regular routine in terms of route or time of day, as coyotes can learn your schedule and have been known to lie in wait to attack. Avoid walking pets at dawn or dusk, and avoid areas of dense vegetation or cover. Coyotes are more likely to attack dogs during the pup-rearing season, if dogs come too near the den site. If coyotes establish a den site near a residential area, attempts should be made to harass the coyotes so that they move their pups to an alternative, more remote den site.

Never intentionally feed or provide water to coyotes, as this causes them to quickly lose their fear of people and become aggressive. Anyone who intentionally feeds coyotes is putting the entire neighborhood's pets and children at risk of coyote attack and serious injury.

In addition, ask your neighbors to also follow the described methods in order to reduce the potential for conflicts with coyotes.

## Habitat Management in Suburban Areas

Areas with lush landscaping provide ample food, water, and shelter for coyotes. Suburban coyotes can reach densities far greater than they do on rangeland or undeveloped wildlands. Homeowners can reduce the attractiveness of their property to coyotes by clearing or thinning thick vegetation and by removing brush and dense weeds from the landscape, thereby depriving coyotes and their prey of shelter and cover. In particular, prune back the lower limbs and branches of shrubs and small trees to a height of 2 feet, to deprive coyotes of cover where they can easily hide. Avoid using landscape plants that produce fruits and seeds, and pick fruit from trees before it falls to the ground to avoid attracting coyotes.

Coyotes are attracted to ripening fruits of many kinds, and they will also readily consume the fruits of some plants commonly used for landscaping (See Table Below ). Install quality fencing around garden plots to exclude coyotes, as they will eat many common garden fruits and vegetables. Compost piles should be managed carefully so they will not encourage rodents or other prey attractive to coyotes, and they should be fenced or contained to exclude coyotes from foraging for grubs and worms. Eliminate available water sources for coyotes and other wildlife; for example, remove ponds or fountains, or install net wire fences around their perimeter. Manage bird feeders carefully to avoid spillage that attracts rodents and rabbits, which are attractive coyote prey.



<http://scottsfencing.com/residential-coyote-fence/>

**Landscape plants having fruits or seeds often preferred by coyotes.**

Common name	Scientific name
Indian laurel fig	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> var. <i>nitida</i>
Ornamental strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensi</i>
Date palm	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>
Passion fruit, Passion vine	<i>Passiflora</i> spp.
Lychee	<i>Litchi chinensis</i>
Sugar bush	<i>Rhus ovata</i>
Strawberry bush	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>
Strawberry tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
Jujube, or Chinese date	<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i>
Brush cherries	<i>Eugenia</i> spp.
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i> spp.
Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>
Guava	<i>Psidium guajava</i>
Loquat	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>

