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**Sergeant First Class Steven Friedman
Officer-In-Charge**

September 5, 2013

Precautions to Take in an Unlikely Encounter with a Coyote

During the last few weeks, there have been several sightings of coyotes in Pennington Borough. While coyotes are native to our area, normally they are reclusive creatures that prefer to avoid human contact and are rarely seen. There is no problem with coyotes in open areas exhibiting typical behaviors, usually late at night or early in the mornings.

If you see a bold coyote coming near human activity during the day, police should be notified. If unusual behavior patterns are identified, we will be able to notify wildlife officials and have them take appropriate action. Experts encourage parents to show young children photos of coyotes to help them recognize the animals and to also explain to the children that coyotes have always lived in this area.

If you encounter a coyote, rather than run away, you should act aggressively by yelling, waving your arms, stamping your feet, or throwing stones until it leaves, this will let the coyote know it is unwelcome. Do not approach the animal, but slowly return indoors until it leaves.

Coyotes should never be fed, even inadvertently by allowing it access to pet food left outside or household refuse.

The above guidelines will discourage coyotes from becoming acclimated to unsuitable areas such as residential neighborhoods.

Additional information can be found by visiting the NJ Fish and Game website at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/coyote_info.htm

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