

**Office of the Mayor**  
**Carlo DeMaria, Jr.**  
**484 Broadway**  
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149  
PHONE 617-394-2270 Fax 617-381-1150



**July 20, 2010**  
**Press Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**A WILD NEIGHBOR, COYOTES SIGHTINGS RISE IN SUMMER MONTHS**  
*Common sense precautions to help keep neighborhoods safe*

Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr., Police Chief Steven Mazzie, and Public Health Director Heidi Porter remind residents that a few simple precautions will keep the coyote population at bay and keep the neighborhoods safe. For a full list of recommendations from the State's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife visit [www.cityofeverett.com](http://www.cityofeverett.com).

The eastern coyote, *Canis latrans*, is well-established throughout most of Massachusetts except on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. A medium sized predator, it is an opportunistic feeder and extraordinarily adaptable to a wide range of habitats. Coyotes thrive in suburban/urban as well as rural areas, and will utilize whatever food is naturally available, including small animals, birds, insects and fruits, as well as artificial sources such as garbage, pet food, birdseed and compost. Take precautions to eliminate any food sources in your yard and neighborhood to avoid creating problems with coyotes.

**\*Never deliberately provide food for coyotes!**

- The eastern coyote resembles a medium-sized dog in body size and shape, but has longer, denser fur and pointed, erect ears. The tail is long, black-tipped, and bushy. Typical coat color is a grizzled gray but can vary from creamy blonde to red or nearly solid black. Typical weights for females are 33-40 pounds, while males typically range between 34-47 pounds. A very large male may weigh in the neighborhood of 60 pounds, but such an animal is exceptional. Coyotes often look heavier than they are because of their thick fur.
- **Secure Your Garbage**

- Coyotes raid open trash materials and compost piles. Secure your garbage in tough plastic containers with tight fitting lids and keep them in secure buildings when possible. Take out trash when the morning pick up is scheduled, not the previous night. Keep compost in secure, vented containers, and keep barbecue grilles clean to reduce attractive odors.
- **Feed Pets Indoors**  
Outdoor feeding attracts many wild animals to your door!
- Eastern coyotes are an important and valuable natural resource in Massachusetts. They are classified as a furbearer species, for which a regulated hunting season and management program have been established. If you are experiencing problems with coyotes, or have any questions regarding them, contact your nearest MassWild- life District Office. Further information on coyotes and other native furbearers is also available on our website: [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife).

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For additional press information please contact Matt Laidlaw, Director of Communications, City of Everett.

Contact:  
Matt Laidlaw  
Director of Communications  
City of Everett  
484 Broadway  
Everett, MA 02149  
617-394-2270  
[matt.laidlaw@ci.everett.ma.us](mailto:matt.laidlaw@ci.everett.ma.us)  
<http://www.cityofeverett.com>