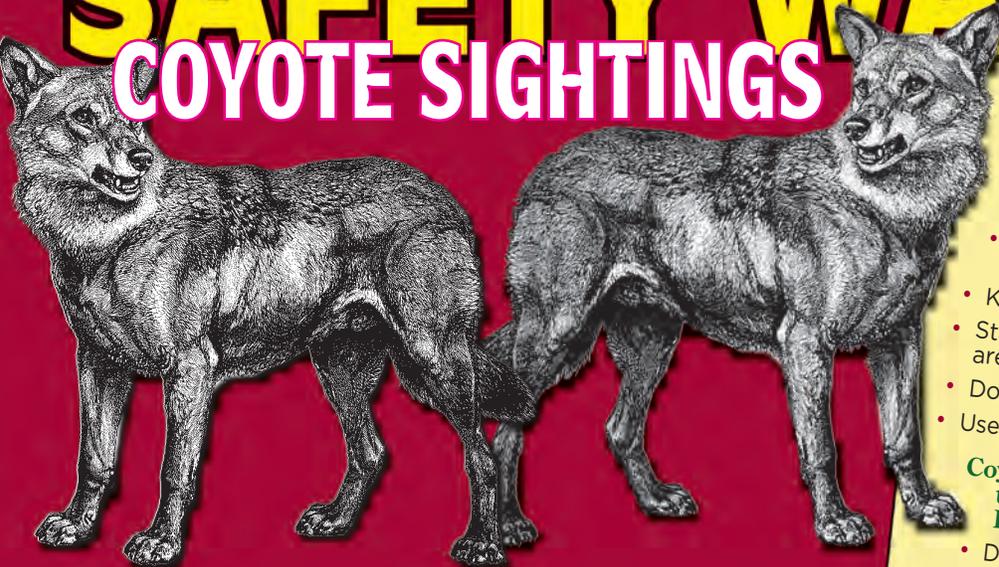


# SAFETY WARNING

## COYOTE SIGHTINGS



The Borough has received multiple calls recently about coyote sightings and encounters in the community. First, to clear up a myth...Coyotes are definitely not new to the area and have existed in our neighborhoods for some time. The following information is being provided to educate citizens about these animals, as well as provide some do's and don'ts when encountering a coyote.

The following are things you can do if you spot a coyote in your neighborhood or near your home:

- Frighten coyotes with loud noises.
- Fear of humans is important for coyote survival.
- Keep garbage in a tightly sealed container.
- In your yard, remove pet food, fallen fruit and spilled seed beneath bird feeders.
- Keep pets in fenced areas or covered kennels.
- Stay with your pets while outdoors, unless pets are in a secured, covered kennel.
- Do not allow pets to run loose. Keep pets on a leash.
- Use yard lights or motion detectors to frighten them away.

Coyotes are usually skittish around humans and typically try to avoid people whenever possible. If you encounter a coyote:

- Do not turn your back on or run away from a coyote.
  - If approached, make loud noises and make yourself look big. If this fails, throw rocks or other objects.
  - Don't feed other animals that coyotes prey upon. Birdseed often attracts these innocent animals to your backyard which in turn attracts a coyote that is hungry.
  - Although attacks on humans are extremely rare, parents need to speak to their children about what to do if they encounter a coyote.
  - Always keep yourself between the coyote and small children.
- If you see any coyotes who are behaving in a way that makes you concerned about your safety, call 412-884-1100 immediately.**

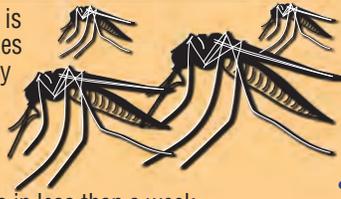
## DON'T

### GIVE Mosquitoes THE Edge

Accompanying the return of summer weather is the risk of West Nile Virus borne by mosquitoes hatched in pools of standing water. Improperly maintained backyard swimming pools, decorative landscape ponds, uncovered boats on trailers, even open truck beds and wheel barrels left upright in the back yard can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes in less than a week.

The Department of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University recommends eliminating breeding sites by removing and preventing the accumulation of standing water from the following sites typically found around most homes.

- Remove old tires, broken toys, buckets and containers open to the collection of rainfall in your yard.
- At least weekly flush bird baths to wash away mosquito larvae.
- Fill tree holes with sand or cement or drill holes to permit drainage of water.



- Examine rain gutters and remove leaves that may impede drainage.
- Check flower pots and window boxes and drain excessive water following heavy rains.
- Wading pools are excellent breeding places and should be replenished with fresh water before each use and emptied promptly afterwards to prevent mosquito infestation.

Remember, just one neglected open pool of water can result in a potential exposure to West Nile Virus for an entire neighborhood.

**If you witness any condition that you believe may become a source for mosquitoes, you are urged to call the Code Enforcement Office of Whitehall Borough at (412) 884-1368.**

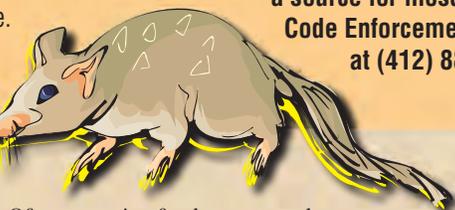
## RODENT & PEST CONTROL

RODENT

**"YOU DIRTY RAT."** In the old gangster movies, the legendary actor James Cagney stood in front of the "dirty rat" and gunned him down. We wish it were as easy when it comes to a real rat problem.

By taking the appropriate precautions and keeping your property clean, you will greatly reduce your chances of attracting pests and rodents. If you feel that you or someone in your neighborhood has a rat or pest problem, you should contact the Code Enforcement Office. The Code Enforcement Officer will respond to the complaint and assess the situation. If there is evidence that a rat problem is present or signs that a problem may occur, the Code Officer will advise the property owner to resolve the problem.

Solutions vary - some situations may just need a general cleaning of the area.



Often removing food sources such as pet feces, bird feeders, garbage cans with no lids, or other matter that attracts rodents will easily solve the problem. In other cases, the removal of rodent harboring areas such as piles of wood, grass clippings, compost piles and other locations where they may nest is the answer.

If there is evidence that rats are harboring on the property, the Code Enforcement Officer may direct the property owner to seek professional services to abate the problem.

Ultimately it is the property owner who remains responsible for the extermination and removal of the rat conditions; this may sometimes involve fines/penalties or liens against the property if the Code Enforcement Officer has to order action by an exterminatory contractor to resolve the issue.

## RED FOX



If you see a fox around your house, don't be concerned, he's hunting the rodents.