

Your Pets Are Not As Safe As You May Believe!



(Note: Coyotes have again been recently spotted **in Stony Brook.**)

There have been frequent reports of coyote aggression in the south metro area. One story describes an attack on a pug one night when the owner was taking his two dogs out for a walk, a large one on a leash and the small pug off leash. The owner indicated that the pug always stayed with them. When the owner walked back to the front door the pug was not with them. Three coyotes had grabbed the dog. After shouting and hazing, the coyotes dropped the dog and ran off. The pug survived.

This story indicates the necessity to keep your pets under your control and watchful eye at all times no matter how well trained and safe you may believe them to be. This is especially true in the early morning and evening. **January and February are breeding season for Coyotes.** They will be more active as they seek out mates and once the pups are born in the spring the adults may become more aggressive as they protect their dens.

Your Pets and Coyotes

- **Do not allow your pets to roam at large**, especially in early morning and evening or night. Coyotes will attack and kill cats and dogs.



- **Never allow dogs to “play” with coyotes.** Although it appears they are "playing", coyotes can turn on dogs to defend their territory. They may be leading your dog into an ambush.
- **Keep pets on a leash and close to you.** Dogs 15 feet away on retractable leashes are difficult to control. Coyotes must hunt to eat and your dog is easier prey than a wild animal.

Your Home and Coyotes - Do not become a “coyote attractant.”

- **Never feed coyotes**
- **Remove attractants** such as pet food, bird feeders and fallen fruit.
- **Secure trash** in a secure container, not a plastic bag. If possible, put trash out the morning of pick-up, not the night before.
- **Trim vegetation** to reduce places for dens and hiding places.
- **Enclose areas under decks** and porches with siding or lattice material. (Check with ARC first!)

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a silent killer. Even when not fatal, it can cause headaches, weakness, shortness of breath, nausea and confusion. Victims often mistake their symptoms for the flu and head to bed, failing to get out of the very building where dangerous CO levels are causing their sickness.

CO is an odorless, colorless gas that is released into the air whenever fuel is burned. Gas dryers, gas water heaters, gas stoves, fireplaces and kerosene space heaters are common CO producers.

The good news is that there are simple ways to help prevent CO from building up to harmful levels. Such actions include:

- Purchase of a CO detector

- Not idling a car in the garage, even with the garage door open
- Venting fumes from gas appliances to the outside
- Hiring a professional to inspect a gas furnace before winter starts
- Hiring a professional to install appliances
- Never using charcoal grills indoors
- Keeping chimneys clean
- Watching out for streaks of carbon or soot around the service door of fuel-burning appliances (sign of a potential problem)
- Watching for moisture collecting on the windows and walls of furnace rooms (sign of potential problem)