

Announcement to: VNHPOA & CLUBCORP Members

From: Meade Gwinn, President of VNHPOA

Patrick Kelly, General Manager Nags Head Golf Links & Village Beach Club

Regarding: Coyote presence within the Village of Nags Head

Due to the increased sightings of coyotes within the Village of Nags Head, and the reported concerns of our members, it was decided that this concern should be investigated. It was our intent to understand the coyote presence, and the potential for any threat to those who live and visit our community.

Kelly Green, our association manager set up a meeting on May 8th, 2017, with Officer Chris Turner, NC Coastal Regional Wildlife Biologist, Patrick Kelly, and Meade Gwinn. During this meeting, Mr. Turner provided very useful information that enlightened us to this coyote issue.

Turner said that coyotes were first reported on the Outer Banks in 2009, and have now populated the entire strand from Carova to Hatteras. These animals are described in the literature as a “mangy -looking dog” weighing between 20 and 45 pounds; with reddish gray coats, long slender snouts, bushy tails and pointed ears. They are now established in all 100 counties in North Carolina. Because they are so adaptable and wary, they are very likely to remain within our community. Given that assessment, it is impractical to conduct any community wide effort to trap and remove them from within the Village. According to the Dare County Department of Health, that tracks attacks on humans by wildlife, there have been no reported coyote attacks on humans since it has kept records on coyotes during the last ten years. Essentially, our members and guests need to understand how better to co-exist, manage, and prevent contacts with coyotes.

Small animals including unleashed pets have been a food source to coyotes. Accessible garbage, pet food placed out of doors, and humans feeding wildlife are also significant food sources as well. All of this available food is what motivates the coyotes to remain in our area. Casual sightings, although frightening to humans, are often non-threatening and can be handled by throwing an object at the coyote to scare them away. According to the Wildlife Commission, coyotes rarely contract rabies; so they instinctively will not approach humans.

It was felt that through membership education, corrective measures, and access to experts in Wildlife management, we can keep the population to a minimum, while also reducing the number of human and coyote contacts. The following are specific steps we can take to manage this coyote issue:

- Don't feed wild animals; secure garbage and don't overload the cans; and take in any pet food if you feed your pets outdoors. If you have birdfeeders and notice wildlife feeding under your feeders, take in your birdfeeders for a while until the animals move on to other food sources. Encourage your neighbors to take similar action.

- Always have small pets on leashes or have a human present when not on leashes.
- Close off crawl spaces under decks or other out buildings where coyotes may rest or set up dens.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed and brush cut back to prevent cover for coyotes.
- Share this information with guests and renters who may not understand this concern and who may inadvertently create a problem.
- In the event that you have had any threatening coyotes on your property; or had any damage to your property caused by wildlife, please contact the NC Wildlife Biologist at 866-318-2401. This individual will advise you as to what steps to take to deal with your concern. This communication will also provide you with links to helpful resources provided by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Let's all work together to help control this issue.

Sincerely,

Meade Gwinn and Patrick Kelly