



TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

The Town of Sullivan's Island has received reports regarding encounters and incidents with coyotes. By and large the encounters include coyote(s) coming near people, approaching dogs, chasing dogs, and roaming on the beach path and beach. There have been five reported (5) incidents where dogs have been attacked by coyotes.

Coyotes exist in every county in South Carolina as well as in 49 of the 50 states. The peak in reported coyote complaints often occurs in mid-summer and fall as young coyotes disperse from their home ranges and establish new territories. Coyotes are most active at night and in early morning hours during the hot summer weather. They are opportunistic feeders, preying upon rabbits, rodents, and other small mammals, supporting their diet with berries, insects and carrion. On occasion, coyotes will prey on domestic pets. Pet predation is usually due to the territorial nature of the coyote and lack of an alternative prey base in suburban areas. Coyotes are very adaptable and can do well in urban areas. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has indicated that recent research has demonstrated that coyotes are compensatory breeders, meaning that they increase reproduction and immigration in response to human-induced killing of coyotes.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to exercise caution at dawn and dusk when coyotes are most active. Pets should remain leashed until arriving on the beach. Do not leave your pet unattended at night. Visit www.sullivanisland.sc.gov or www.dnr.sc.gov for additional coyote information.

Finally, in the event of a sighting, encounter or interaction with a coyote, please contact the Sullivan's Island Police Department at 843-743-7200 so that the information can be properly documented.