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As concerns mount, MSPCA launches “Coexist with Coyotes” campaign

By **MARIE SZANISZLO** | marie.szaniszlo@bostonherald.com | Boston Herald
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The MSPCA on Tuesday launched a public service campaign to help people and the state’s nearly 12,000 coyotes peacefully coexist — at a distance.

Summer brings the high point of activity for the state’s coyote population, which prompted the “Coexist with Coyotes” effort, the organization said.

“We do know there are certain communities that have had more human-coyote interactions, mostly because of certain human behaviors,” said Elizabeth Magner, an animal advocacy specialist at MSPCA-Angell in Jamaica Plain.

The primary thing not to do Magner said, is feed coyotes.

“Never, ever feed a coyote, be sure you’re not inadvertently leaving food outside, and don’t feed your animals outside,” she said. “Spilled bird seed can also be a food source for them.”

It’s no secret that cats and even small dogs occasionally fall prey to coyotes, Magner said. Moreover, there have been 25 attacks on humans since the first documented case 25 years ago. But killing coyotes runs counter to every conservationist’s ambition to keep our wild spaces wild.

Having this many coyotes in such populated areas is relatively new in our state—but they’re here and they’re not going anywhere, she said. We have to coexist and modify our behaviors. If we do, then we will be safe—and the coyotes will be, too.

Just as important, says Magner, is to do everything possible to avoid these encounters altogether.

“Coyotes are omnivores, and they learn very quickly which backyards might have the most food, which puts them at risk because if they lose their fear of people, they might have a negative interaction with someone, which might lead to their being euthanized,” she said.



Tags: [Jamaica Plain](#), [MSPCA](#), [MSPCA Angell](#)



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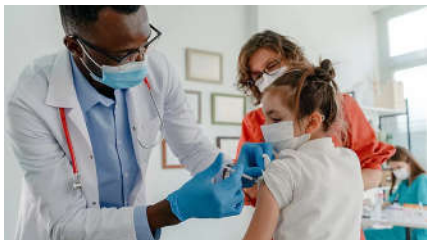
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