



Great Horned Owl photo by Kevin Holiday

Open Space and Natural Resources Division

We are Stewards of Natural Resources Essential to Aurora's Quality of Life

Natural Resource Bulletin

Protecting Pets from Wild Neighbors

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Quick Facts:

Leashes Save Lives

- Leashes help protect pets from chance encounters with wildlife.
- Leashes create a connection between you and your pet that potential predators like coyotes can see and respect.
- Leashes prevent your pet from chasing and injuring wildlife like deer and ground nesting birds.
- A leash allows you to pull your pet closer if and when you do encounter wildlife.

Aurora Municipal Code

Sec. 14-5. Running at large. (a) protects dogs by prohibiting dogs from running at large.

Voice Control Training for the Dog Park

Before you head for the off leash dog park (in any city or location), it is a good idea to make sure your dog is under voice control. If you identify a threat to your pet, you know your dog will come running back to you and to safety when called.

Housecats in the House

Cats at large are exposed to a variety of dangers including traffic, domestic dogs and wild predators such as red foxes, great horned owls and coyotes.

Aurora Municipal Code Sec. 14-101. Running at large protects cats by requiring they be supervised in yards or kept indoors.

Losing a pet to a wild animal is an uncommon and tragic event. In many cases, these attacks are preventable. Precaution, supervision, awareness, and prevention go a long way to protecting precious pets from opportunistic predators.

Precaution:

Easily the most effective way to keep pets safe is to keep them on a leash. In habitats where coyotes, foxes, rattlesnakes, or great horned owls have been seen, keep your lead length to a minimum. If you do encounter a coyote or other predator on the trail, bring your pet closer to you. Pick up smaller pets so they do not appear vulnerable. With the exception of designated off leash—also known as dog park areas—Aurora's leash law is enforced in all parks, natural areas, trails and open space properties. One of the many reasons this law exists, is to protect your pet from negative wildlife interactions.

Supervision:

While you may perceive your fence as a property line, a coyote, fox, or great horned owl does not. Pets left unattended in backyards, particularly in the evening, at night, or at dawn, can be perceived as easy prey by an opportunistic predator. Free-roaming cats can fall prey to coyotes, owls, and even foxes. If you live next to open space, a greenbelt, or a golf course, or if coyotes have been seen or heard in your neighborhood, you should never leave a pet unattended.

Awareness:

Many residents have no idea they share their urban and suburban neighborhoods with resourceful predators. Awareness is the key to keeping your pets safe, particularly during breeding season. Avoiding den sites and nesting areas while walking your pet is one way to minimize the chance of a negative encounter.

Prevention:

Immunize your pets. Never allow your pets to play with wildlife. It is not safe for your pet, no matter how large the breed.

For more information on protecting pets from wild neighbors, please visit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Living with Wildlife pages.

