

PET SAFETY TIPS: WILDLIFE

One of the great appeals of our area is that we're rich with beautiful landscapes and wildlife, though there are times when this can pose a danger to our furry friends.

Learn more about the wildlife risks in our area and tips on how you can keep your pet safe from the less cuddly animals with whom we cohabitate.



SNAKES

In the spring and summer months, snake sightings begin to increase, but even when the weather starts to cool in the fall they can still be encountered. Snake venom can be very toxic to pets and almost always requires the use of antivenin to counteract the poisons. While bites to dogs are often defensive, cats can be seen as prey to snakes and are often delivered a more dangerous attack. Common venomous snakes found in the tri-state areas include copperheads, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes. **If your pet is bitten by a snake, seek medical attention immediately.**



FOXES

While foxes will typically avoid human contact, they sometimes are unintentionally attracted to homes due to garbage cans, barbeque grills and fruit trees. Typical adult cats and dogs are not at risk, but foxes may prey on small or very young pets. **If your pet is bitten by a fox, seek immediate medical attention for examination and assessment of any need for vaccination.**



COYOTES

Though canines themselves, coyotes aren't always so friendly to their distant cousins. Coyote attacks occur most often at dawn or dusk and are usually directed toward smaller dogs or cats running free in a fenced yard. Injuries from these attacks are usually substantial and often require surgery. Coyotes are also a possible rabies reservoir species, so **if your pet is bitten by a coyote, he or she is considered at risk for rabies. ***

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ⊕ Keep your pet on a short leash or observe closely when walking, especially at dusk and dawn.
- ⊕ Clear your yard of any potential snake or coyote hiding places: untrimmed bushes, wood, scrap metal, leaf piles, open sheds or crawl spaces.
- ⊕ Eliminate any rodent (snake bait) infestations from your backyard.
- ⊕ Do not allow your pet to play with dead snakes.
- ⊕ Do not allow your pet to roam the yard freely without your presence, especially at dusk and dawn.
- ⊕ Avoid dense grass, and large rocks or caves.
- ⊕ If a coyote acts aggressively towards you or your pet, make yourself appear larger using a jacket or by raising your arms, make loud noises, and slowly back away. Never turn your back to an aggressive animal.

If your pet has aggressive contact with any wild animal, be sure to seek emergency medical attention as soon as possible.

*A rabies reservoir species is one that is considered the source for a unique strain of rabies. All previously vaccinated pets that are attacked by a reservoir species should have a booster vaccine given by their family veterinarian within 4 days of the attack and should be observed for 45 days for signs of illness. Any pet that has not been previously vaccinated for rabies or has no documentation of vaccination should be given a rabies vaccine by their family veterinarian within 4 days and quarantined for 120 days while being observed for signs of illness.



SAVES
South Asheville Veterinary
Emergency & Specialty

1836 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, NC 28803
P: 828-210-8285 | SouthAshevilleVets.com