

King resident warns of 'fearless' coyote

By Mark Pavilons

A King City area family is warning residents that some local coyotes appear to be quite brazen.

Christina von Buttlar, who's family owns an equestrian facility in the vicinity of Jane and the 400, is troubled by a recent coyote sighting on her property.

She said last Thursday evening a large coyote came onto their property and was not scared by two large family dogs or a human being. Christina's husband was brandishing a baseball bat and yelling at the animal but it didn't flinch. In fact, the animal kept advancing, forcing the family to retreat inside the home. It remained, undaunted, outside for a while.

Von Buttlar said the animal left patches of fur all over the yard. It was either losing its coat, or had mange. She also noted the animal had a tracking device.

She hasn't seen any coyotes in her area in several years, and she found this incident 'eerie' and 'scary.' She noted she's born and raised on a farm and has never seen a coyote act this way.

She made several phone calls the following day to various agencies, but none seemed to know exactly what to do.

She wants to let residents know about this, and be vigilant when it comes to keeping an eye on children and pets.

Concerns have been mounting recently over reports of coyote sightings. King residents have lost their pets to these opportunistic predators, creating fear and apprehension.

The coyotes have adapted well to urban areas and are most active during the evening. They have come to associate humans with a source of food. Feeding and improper outside storage of food have increased their presence in communities.

The Toronto Wildlife Centre responds to wild animal incidents in King. If you have an encounter with a coyote, call their emergency hotline at 416-631-0662.