



Newsletter of the Eastham Dog Owners' Association



Great Turnout for Coyote Program

By Tracey Plantier, EDOA President

The March 5th Coexisting with Coyotes presentation at the Eastham library was a collaboration of the EDOA, the Eastham Natural Resources Department

which supports our Animal Control Officer, and our local wildlife rehabilitation clinic, Wild Care. Tracey Plantier (EDOA President), Stephanie Sykes (Animal Control Officer), and Stephanie Ellis (Wild Care Director) shared a presentation to 100 local residents interested in learning about the species and staying safe. We also had Steve Wright, biologist, from Mass Wildlife and a local resident in the audience ready to help with any questions.

(Continued below)

Rabies Clinic April 21st

Where: Eastham Veterinary
When: Cats—9 to 11 A.M.
Dogs—11 A.M.—1 P.M.
How: \$20 rabies vaccine
\$30 microchipping

Bow Wow Bash—Spring

Where: Campground Beach
When: May 18, 12—2 P.M.
Free to all well behaved humans and dogs. Refreshments.
All for fun and community.

Off-Leash Dog Walking – Best Practices

Part 1 of a series by Edward Daniels

Sharing our public spaces presents some challenges, but they can be overcome with understanding and education. We need to remember that all are using these special places for the same purpose, to enjoy a beautiful, safe and pleasurable time of reflection, exercise and community.

Part 1: Why?

There are many good reasons to have a dog trained to walk off-leash. There are probable just as many to have your dog leashed. Let's focus on one of the positives.

Freedom.

We humans have a saying, "seeing is believing". Our eyesight is so good compared to so much of the animal kingdom that it is our go-to sense for telling us



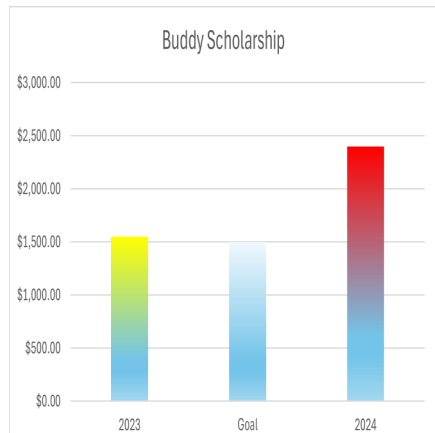
Hazel wearing her coyote vest

accurately about the world around us. The same thing happens for dogs, except the sense is olfactory.

Dogs smell to identify each other, tell what other dogs or other critters have been around, and more information than we can possibly appreciate. Sense of smell is so good that they do it for fun, perhaps the way we enjoy sightseeing.

A dog off-leash is free to explore. They are happier, engaged, exercised and safer.

Next: More reasons for the off-leash option.



EDOA Scholarship Excels

A final call to fund the scholarship exceeded our goal. Once again the generosity of dog owners outperforms. \$2400 will be awarded to further the education of an Eastham area student in the field of animal care.

[Link: more info— applications are open .](#)

This award is open to any person furthering their education in the broad field of animal care. It includes professional training as well as higher education.

- **(Coyotes—continuation from above)**

With the advent of home cameras and social media, residents are seeing coyotes more frequently and becoming more aware, and concerned.

The Eastern Coyote is a natural animal in our environment and it's important to learn about the species to understand, build comfort and respect, and practice very simple precautions that will ensure everyone's safety. The presentation consisted of the history of the Eastern Coyote, the biology of coyotes, the precautions to take with family and pets, and explanations of why no one should be feeding coyotes or trying to medicate them.

We had a special visitor, Hazel demonstrating her coyote vest, which is a vest that was invented to help owners have a moment to engage during a possible coyote encounter. The coyote vest interestingly made an appearance on Curb Your Enthusiasm this season.

With such knowledgeable folks in the room, we were happy to answer lots of audience questions - such as "Is there any fencing that is completely safe?", "How many coyotes are on the cape?", "Why are coyotes howling?". We were very humbled by the interest and the enthusiasm to answer questions until we really had to let the library close for the night. It was really a wonderful night for presenters and audience members alike.

Coexisting with Coyotes presentations are given on the cape a few times a year and virtual presentations are offered as well. We were requested to do a repeat presentation by residents that couldn't make the date or couldn't find parking. In the meantime, here are some additional resources available, and it really can take just 10 minutes to read up on the simple precautions that families need to take.

1. Lower Cape TV, Cape Coyotes 101, video with Meghan Crawford, Engagement Biologist at Mass Wildlife and Wild Care Director, Stephanie Ellis.

<https://www.lowercapenews.org/cape-s-coyotes-101>

2. Coexisting with Coyotes in Suburban Communities - Virtual Zoom Presentation that is scheduled for April 11th at 7 pm hosted by Dave Wattles, Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist with Mass Wildlife

(registrationrequired)

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rfd8Qyu4RAeFV6likb_-tQ#/registration

3. Link to article "Prevent Conflicts with Coyotes" on Mass Wildlife website -

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/prevent-conflicts-with-coyotes>

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Ed.Daniels@EasthamDog.org

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