

## **OC Animal Care**

### **Dove Canyon – Recent Mountain Lion issue**

#### **Background:**

On Thursday, May 15, 2013, OC Animal Care received a call from a homeowner in Dove Canyon regarding their two 90 lb. Greyhounds that were attacked, possibly by a mountain lion, in their rear yard. The incident took place between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM and was not observed by the homeowner or any other resident. The homeowner found their dogs injured when they returned home. One dog's wounds were consistent with a mountain lion attack per the dog owner's veterinarian. The second dog may have come to the rescue of the other and was wounded on his leg, potentially by the mountain lion. It is believed that the mountain lion jumped the five foot wrought iron fence on the property following the attack and ran off. OC Animal Care field services staff patrolled the outside of the homeowner's property and found one paw print, consistent with that of a mountain lion, in the dirt near the wrought iron fence.

Upon OC Animal Care's visit, the more severely injured dog had already returned home with the owner from their vet. The second dog had one puncture on his leg and had not been treated. OC Animal Care placed both dogs under quarantine for 30 days, which is standard procedure when a domestic animal is involved in a confrontation with wildlife. Further patrols of the neighborhood were conducted though no additional evidence of a mountain lion was found. It should be noted that the neighborhood of the attack backs up to Bell Canyon, a nature area where mountain lions are known to be.

On Friday, July 5, 2013, Dove Canyon security reported two small deer that had been hit by a car at 2:40 AM. One was deceased and one was injured at the time of the call. They also reported that they witnessed a mountain lion circling one of the deer. OC Animal Care and the OC Sheriff department responded and were unable to observe a mountain lion in the area. Both deer were impounded by OC Animal Care deceased.

#### **Recent and planned actions:**

On Tuesday, July 2, 2013, OC Animal Care field services staff met with the President of the Dove Canyon Association to discuss the mountain lion incident and OC Animal Care's responsibility related to wildlife issues pertaining to the residents of Dove Canyon. We advised the association that OC Animal Care does not eradicate or relocate healthy wildlife. We provided information on "Hazing" wildlife out of the area, removing food and water sources, and ensuring residents are educated on not leaving pets outdoors unattended.

The Dove Canyon Association has requested Dr. Winston Vickers to conduct a presentation for Dove Canyon residents regarding mountain lions. Dr. Vickers has been permitted through the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct numerous scientific studies on mountain lions throughout Southern California. OC Animal Care will also be in attendance to answer any other animal related questions. There has been no date set for this presentation.

This afternoon, OC Animal Care will be meeting with the Dove Canyon Association, California Fish and Wildlife, OC Sheriff, and Dr. Vickers to discuss this situation and any potential actions moving forward.