

RACCOON!

On Saturday, January 23rd, a situation occurred involving a raccoon in the area of Anchorage Lane and Portside Passage. Residents nearby noticed that the raccoon was very ill, emaciated, disoriented and was aggressive toward anyone in the vicinity.

Local authorities, i.e. Sheriff, Animal Control, and Florida Wildlife were contacted to seek help with this animal to no avail. Animal Control indicated they would come out on Monday! Not very likely that the animal would still be alive, or how many people it would have attacked by then. Also, if the animal was still alive on Monday, it would need to be caged for them to pick it up.

After learning of this incident on Wednesday, January 27th, I contacted Animal Control and they indicated that they dealt with dogs and cats, and that the SPCA would be the agency to contact with regard to wild animals. Who knew?

I called them and was told they are open **7 days a week, from 7:00 am to 6:30 pm.** During my conversation regarding the raccoon's behavior, I was told it was highly unlikely that the raccoon had rabies, even though it displayed some of the same physical characteristics. It was more likely that it had distemper or was poisoned.

Thankfully, but sadly, one of our neighbors took care of the situation. However, if you see a wild animal in distress, appears to be sick, etc., please call the:

SPCA AT 727-586-3592

Do not approach any wild animal, especially one that behaves abnormally, and do not encourage wild animals to feed at your house. Keep garbage cans tightly closed, and don't put them out the night before garbage pickup.

As a side note: *Raccoons have been known to unscrew jars, undo locks, and untie knots. The combination of a bright mind and dexterous paws is highly effective, and the raccoon has a reputation as a master thief and garbage can ransacker. They somehow manage to get into sheds, feed bins, dumpsters, and doggie doors, to name a few, defying all manner of bungee cords, twist ties, latches, and ropes.*

Barb Kanehl, Chair
Neighborhood Watch

1/27/21