



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

OCEAN CITY POLICE NOTICE INCREASE IN WILDLIFE COMPLAINTS

The Ocean City Police Department's Animal Control Officers have seen an increase in the amount of wildlife complaints generating from within Ocean City.

This past year Ocean City residents have been seeing a dramatic rise in wildlife which has been a cause for concern. Citizens should be aware that wild animals such as marine mammals, foxes, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, skunks, rabbits, snakes, and even whitetail deer have been seen throughout the Ocean City community.

While it is normal to see wildlife in Ocean City and in the waters surrounding the town, sometimes these animals will come into conflict with their human neighbors. Often they are discovered in trash cans, under houses, in attics and even inside homes. Baby opossums are often located in open pipes and holes that are present in almost every home.

According to Ocean City Police Department Animal Control Officer Barbara Wisniewski, "the increase in human and animal contact can be directly attributed to the amount of development that has occurred in Ocean City over the past two years. The animals have always been here, they were living in the undeveloped areas of the city, such as Sunset Island and some the coastal areas that have recently been developed. With the loss of the animal's natural habitats, they have now taken up residence with their human neighbors."

As a result of the increase in human and animal contacts, several concerned Ocean City residents have taken it upon themselves to contact commercial trappers to come into Ocean City and trap the animals. While using a licensed trapper is not illegal, residents and commercial trappers need to remember that the Town of Ocean City requires they be licensed to operate within its corporate limits.

The Ocean City Police Department reminds residents that contact with wild animals can result in injuries and the spreading of diseases. OCPD animal control officials would like residents to contact them if they believe or know of any sick or injured animals living near their homes. Animal control professionals remind citizens that injured animals potentially present a danger to not just them but their pets as well.

The OCPD has two fully qualified professional animal control officers. If you think you need the assistance of an OCPD Animal Control Officer, please call the OCPD at 410-723-6600. If you wish to speak to an OCPD Animal Control Officer, please contact either ACO Barbara Wisniewski at: 410-520-5360 and/or email Bwisniewski@ococean.com or ACO Donald Spence at: 410-520-5207 and/or email at dspence@ococean.com.

November 17, 2008

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococean.com