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Animal Services Urges Damascus Area Residents to Be Mindful of Bears

Damascus, MD – Over the past few days, there have been sightings in the Damascus area of a black bear with what appears to be an injured paw. The Montgomery County Department of Police, Animal Services Division (ASD) reminds area residents to exercise caution should they come in close proximity to the bear. Although black bears tend to retreat from people, they are still incredibly strong animals that can cause injury.

During mating season in June or July, mother bears send their young males packing so that they can spend time with prospective suitors. In search of food and security, the young males will explore any food source, including bird feeders and garbage. A firm clap or shout usually sends bears running, and teaches them to avoid people.

To avoid inadvertently luring bears into inhabited areas, residents are encouraged to follow these steps.

- Lock garbage in a bear-proof trash container, or keep it inside until the day of pick-up.
- Rinse trash containers with ammonia to eliminate food odors.
- Store cooking grills inside or keep them clean of food residue.
- Remove birdfeeders from April through November – there are many wild food sources for birds during this time period.

The pattern of the Damascus sightings indicates that that the black bear may be making his way south until he finds a comfortable and safe habitat.



For more information regarding the bear sightings in the Damascus area, please contact the Western Region Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Service Center at (301)777-2136.

About the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center:

The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), operated by the Department of Police, Animal Services Division, provides high-standard sheltering and care to the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community and ensures the safety and welfare of the county's citizens. We are the County's only open-admission, municipal shelter. Through adoptions, education, outreach, and more, MCASAC serves as a critical community resource to promote and advocate for responsible pet care. Animal Services Officers are on duty seven days a week to investigate citizen complaints and respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/asd

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