

WILD HOGS

Unfortunately, we're not talking about the movie "Wild Hogs." We have a developing situation in Woodview of which we want to make you aware. It is estimated that there are more than 1.5 million feral hogs in Texas. Some of them have recently taken up residence in our greenbelt.

One theory poses that the hogs are moving northward away from the on-going construction at Loop 1604 and Bulverde Road. Whatever the motive, they have become part of our community.

The literature suggests that feral hogs virtually can't be eliminated. At best, they might be controlled somewhat. The HOA has contacted a company that will be trying to trap them. But, more will probably be taking their place. It is illegal to discharge a firearm within the city limits of San Antonio. Woodview is within the city limits. So, our efforts seem to be limited to trapping.

Feral hogs are omnivorous; they eat both plant and animal matter. Foods include grasses, roots and tubers, acorns, fruits, bulbs and mushrooms. Animal matter includes insects, snails, earthworms, reptiles, amphibians, and carrion (dead animals), as well as live mammals and birds if given the opportunity. Feral hogs are especially fond of acorns and corn. Oak trees offer up the acorns. In our case, the corn is being inadvertently made available by providing feed for the neighboring deer.

In general, diseases from wild hogs do not pose a significant threat to humans. Diseases of wild hogs include pseudorabies and swine brucellosis. Pseudorabies poses no threat to humans but may be fatal to domestic livestock and pets. Swine Brucellosis is an infectious disease. It is transmittable to humans as undulant fever, and causes flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, aches and pains. It is treatable with specific antibiotics.

All wild animals have the potential of being dangerous, especially when wounded or cornered. In a natural state, feral hogs prefer to run and escape danger, and are not considered dangerous. Extreme caution should be maintained though when tracking wounded animals, trapping animals or encountering females with young. Their sharp tusks combined with their lightning speed can bring about serious injury. With this in mind, children should be told not to venture out into the greenbelts without an adult.

The purpose of this notice is not to create panic. However, the Board feels that you should be made aware of the situation so you can be cautious when warranted. If you'd like additional information regarding feral hogs, go to the association's website at www.woodviewhoa.org. The website has a link to detailed information on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Your input is welcome as we set about trying to "get a handle" on this developing situation. You can email your thoughts and concerns to Lisa Dory, our association manager, at:

lisa@ams-sa.com

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Woodview at Bulverde Creek Homeowners' Association, Inc.`