

## ***EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOL***

### **Dangerous Animal Encounters**

<b>Depending on Assistance Needed, Call:</b>	
311 City Services	311
DC Animal Control	202-576-6664
Other	

#### **Situation Description**

Wild animals live in the District of Columbia and the possibility of faculty, staff, or students spotting or coming into contact with one is possible. Animals in the District range in size from small rodents like squirrels, opossums, and raccoons to larger animals like coyotes, foxes, and deer; including rare spotting's of bear and mountain lion.

Animals typically leave people alone, and should be given their space, though there are times when animal and human conflicts can occur. Animals can sometimes attack people because they feel threatened, especially if the animal is a mother with her young. Occasionally they can become aggressive when in search for food.

The best way to deal with an encounter is to try and prevent it in the first place. There are several steps that can be taken that will go a long way in assisting in that endeavor. Preventative measures would be such things as: daily removal of trash from outside receptacles, removal of any fruits or vegetables from surrounding plants, and securing gates and perimeter fencing.

#### **Procedures**

In the event that a potentially dangerous animal is spotted, or reported in the area, pay attention and stay calm.

Assess the environment around the building to determine whether an animal is in the vicinity. If so, determine the condition of the animal from a distance by observing their behavior and moving cautiously and calmly away from the animal, being sure to apprise children and other adults of its presence. If the animal appears to be injured, sick, in distress, agitated, or aggressive, immediately suspend all outdoor activity and move all students and faculty into the building, ensuring that doors are closed once everyone is in and accounted for.

Notify all staff that outside activities are suspended until further notice and if deemed appropriate by the Incident Commander, declare an **Alert Status** (*reference Section 4, Page 15*).

Call 311 with information as to what the animal is and where it was last seen.

Wait for authorized personnel to give notice that the animal has been removed or no longer poses a threat to the school's occupants.

In the event that someone is injured by the animal:

Follow the actions above, immediately call 911, and follow **Medical Emergencies Response Protocol** (*reference Section 4, Page 41*) with the following additions:

- Have a staff member attempt to locate and maintain surveillance, from a safe distance, of the animal so that it may be captured by responders.
- Contact DC Animal Control immediately at 202-576-6664 for advice about testing the wild animal for rabies or other infectious diseases.