



CITY OF MORGAN HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

16200 Vineyard Blvd. Morgan Hill CA 95037

Business Office: 408.776.7300
Business Fax: 408.776.7328

August 13, 2008

To: Residents of Holiday Lake Estates and Jackson Oaks;

Subject: Mountain Lion sightings

This notice is not to alarm you but to inform you of recent events that have occurred in your neighborhood and educate you of steps you can take to protect yourself and your family.

On August 11, 2008 our Animal Control Officer received an e-mail with a You Tube link showing a mountain lion in the vicinity of Jackson Oaks Drive and Live Oak Ct. In addition to the video, there have been other sightings in the area.

The police department is working with the Department of Fish and Game on how best to resolve this matter. Unfortunately, Fish and Game does not believe relocating the animal will have a positive outcome as this animal would end up migrating to a different neighborhood or return to Jackson Oaks. Additionally, since Mountain Lions are protected animals and because this particular lion has not posed an immediate risk to public safety, euthanasia is not an option.

Since the areas of Holiday Lakes and Jackson Oaks are Mountain Lion habitat it is important to recognize that there are steps everyone can take to keep themselves, their families, and their pets safe.

Please keep in mind the following advice about avoiding or responding to Mountain Lion interaction:

- Do not hike alone: Go in groups, with adults supervising children.
- Keep children close to you: Observations of captured wild mountain lions reveal that the animals seem especially drawn to children. Keep children within your sight at all times.
- Do not approach a lion: Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- Do not run from a lion: Running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact. If you have small children with you, pick them up if possible so they do not panic and run. Although it may be awkward, pick them up without bending over or turning away from the mountain lion.

- Do not crouch down or bend over: In Nepal, a researcher studying tigers and leopards watched the big cats kill cattle and domestic water buffalo while ignoring humans standing nearby. He surmised that a human standing up is just not the right shape for a cat's prey. On the other hand, a person squatting or bending over looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal. If you are in mountain lion country, avoid squatting, crouching or bending over, even when picking up children.
- Do all you can to appear larger: Raise your arms, open your jacket if wearing one. Again, pick up small children. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you are not prey and that you may be a danger to it.
- Fight back if attacked: A hiker in Southern California used a rock to fend off a mountain lion that was attacking his son. Others have fought back successfully with sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools and their bare hands. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the attacking animal.

Please report all sightings and encounters to the Morgan Hill Police Department immediately at 408/779-2101. If you have additional questions please contact Animal Control Officer Daniel Pina at 48/779-2101 or California Department of Fish and Game at (831) 649-2070.

Additional information is available at the following websites:

www.dfg.ca.gov

www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/docs/lionbrochure.pdf

www.dfg.ca.gov/news/news04/04009.html

Sincerely,

Morgan Hill Police Department
Animal Control